



Volume 33
Issue 4



Autumn 2024

Upcoming Events

10/05: Autumn Excursion, McConnell's Mill, 10AM at Point Parking Area To join us, meet at 10AM at the Point Parking Area (or email us to arrange carpooling by Monday, September 30) We'll explore the historic gristmill and follow the Kildoo Trail along Slippery Rock Creek to Eckert Bridge and back. Then we'll enjoy a nice lunch at a local restaurant. Please register in advance at:

<http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration>



10/17: Supermoon/Hunter's Moon Thursday evening walk at Morosini, 6:30PM The full moon will reach peak illumination around 7:30. It will be below the horizon at the official moonrise at 6:30PM. We will leave the UPT kiosk at that time to walk up the trail to the observation platform and wait until after sunset to watch it rise and take its place in the sky.

<http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration>

10/19: Witch Hazel Hike, McGinnis Reserve 10AM

The McGinnis Reserve on Hunter Drive is home to all sorts of interesting flora. It boasts large colonies of the autumn-blooming Witch Hazel, a native shrub known for its medicinal qualities.

The group will leave the parking lot at 10AM and follow the blue trail to the meadow and into the woods. The delicate yellow blooms are a lovely addition to the colors of the autumn leaves!



<http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration>

11/29: Opt-Outside DHCT hike 11AM, 4100 Sardis Rd., Murrysville

Municipal Lot. Opt to go outside with us and walk off some of that turkey dinner! **We**



will meet at the Murrysville Municipal Building and set out at 11AM along Haymaker Run. The King/Potter lot on Crowfoot Road will allow us to re-group before setting off into the next segment of the trail. The Caywood lot (Hills Church Rd) is just over 1.75 miles from the King lot, and

the trailhead at the Walter Reserve lot on Weistertown Road is roughly 4.25 miles from the starting point. Allow 3+ hours depending on group size. **Please plan accordingly:** bring walking sticks, sturdy hiking shoes and protective clothing. **Carpool with friends**, leave a vehicle at your chosen destination and another at the municipal lot.

<http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration>

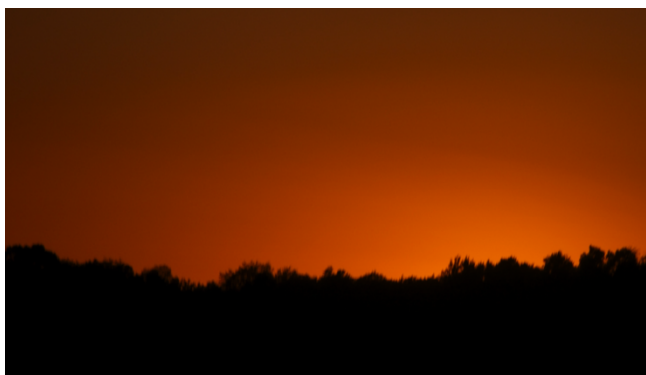
12/14: Hot Chocolate Hike at McGinnis 10AM

Hike at the McGinnis Reserve with Murrysville Recreation. We'll be leaving the parking lot on Hunter Drive at 10AM to hike up the yellow trail to the blue loop and see what birds might overwinter locally. This reserve is a favorite stopover for migrating birds and local residents alike, so there should be plenty of activity in the branches.

We'll enjoy some hot chocolate back at the parking lot!



<http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration>



12/20: Winter Solstice Walk at the

Morosini Reserve, 4:15PM. Park at the upper lot at the end of Morosini Farm Road. This is the shortest day and longest night of the year, with sunset at 4:56PM. Each day from this point will gain a few minutes of sun! (Winter officially arrives at 4:20AM on the 21st.) We'll leave the UPT kiosk at 4:15, working our way around the

trails to watch the sun set from our observation platform in the eastern field!

Register at <http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration>

01/01/25: 1st Day Hike at Walter Reserve 11AM

Welcome 2025 ! Meet at the Walter Reserve parking lot on Weistertown Road and be ready to set out on the trail at 11AM. Shake off the celebratory woozies and breathe in the fresh air of the New Year. We'll take in the entire 1.25 miles of this diverse trail system. If we're lucky we may see evidence of the owls! Let's explore!



<http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration>



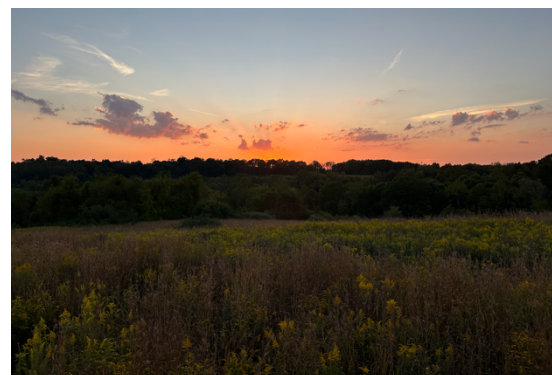
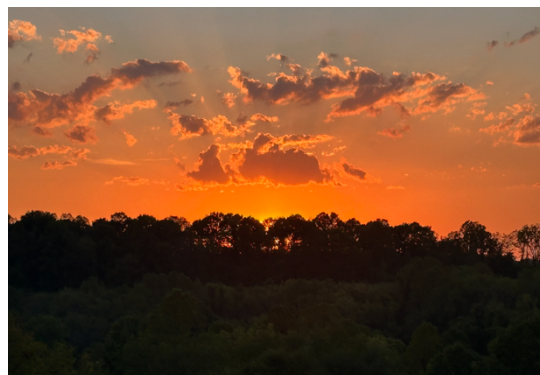
Third Quarter Activities

July 27: Enchanted Evening & Firefly Walk



*August 17: Export
Ethnic Food & Music
Festival*

September 21: Autumn Equinox Walk



**Westmoreland Conservancy Reserves are privately owned lands that are open to the public for permitted use. Dogs are to be on-leash.
NO motorized vehicles aside from mobility aids.**

PLEASE observe **Leave No Trace** sensibilities and **take out anything you take in**. Do **NOT** leave trash at the reserves. <https://lnt.org/why/7-principles/>

Westmoreland Conservancy Online:

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

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

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/westmoreland_conservancy/



Donations and support are ALWAYS welcome. Your donations help to support our projects and events. They help us achieve our goals and continue to grow, making nature available to EVERYONE!



Student (under 18):	\$10
News Recipient.....	\$25
Conservation Ally.....	\$50
Steward Supporter.....	\$100
Resource Partner.....	\$500



Your commitment to making an annual donation helps us plan our operating budget, knowing what amount we can expect to receive every year. Any tax-deductible donation of \$25 or more qualifies for free membership. You can renew your annual donation through the site or support us with a new donation. Any donation can be easily managed through our website: <http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/donate> or mailed directly to: Westmoreland Conservancy, 1 Priority Lane, Unit 446, Murrysville, PA 15668.

Westmoreland Conservancy's mission is to preserve, enhance, and connect land, habitat, and green space through acquisition, stewardship, and cooperation with local communities and other organizations.

80% of the Conservancy's current 600+ acres have been donated by folks wishing their land and legacy be protected in a natural, undeveloped state.

Should you have property that you would like to preserve for nature and future generations, we would like to talk with you. We have the resources to assist you.

Call us at 724-325-5523 or email contact@westmorelandconservancy.org



Westmoreland Conservancy is interested in protecting your special places. What's special to **YOU**? The woods? The fields? The streams and ponds? Birds & wildlife?

We save the open spaces where wildlife has a place to thrive and birds twitter and go about their busy lives. We protect the streams and ponds from the pollution and runoff created by dense development. We want to ensure a healthy environment for salamanders, frogs and turtles. Remember that a healthy environment for them is a healthy environment for us and our future.

Westmoreland Conservancy has protected more than 600 acres to date. The vast majority of that land is open to the public for walking and hiking, meditation and observing nature. We welcome pets on leash and ask only that you clean up after them and take out everything you bring in. Our trails are generally rustic, creating minimal impact on the environment.

We **DO NOT** allow recreational vehicles such as quads, dirt bikes or bicycles, as they damage the very habitat areas we seek to protect.

Westmoreland Conservancy invites you to visit our reserves, either by attending our events or by solo exploration. We encourage you to contact us with suggestions. We would love to have you join forces with us to protect, manage and maintain these lands.

Please consider Westmoreland Conservancy when you plan for the future of your special places.



Westmoreland Conservancy
1 Priority Lane, Unit 446
Murrysville, PA 15668
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 the event of unsuitable weather.

10/05: Autumn Excursion, McConnell's Mill, 10AM at Point Parking Area

10/17: Supermoon/Hunter's Moon Thursday evening walk 6:30PM, Morosini UPT lot

10/19: Witch Hazel Hike, McGinnis Reserve 10AM Hunter Drive

10/23: Monthly Meeting, 7PM Delmont Public Library

11/20*: Monthly Meeting, 7PM Delmont Public Library **(*Holiday Schedule)**

11/29: OptOutside Hike the DHCT 10AM from the Murrysville Municipal Lot

12/14: Hot Chocolate Hike w/Murrysville Rec Dept 10AM McGinnis Reserve

12/18*: Monthly Meeting, 7PM Delmont Public Library **(*Holiday Schedule)**

12/20: Winter Solstice Walk, 4:15PM, Morosini UPT lot

01/01/2025: First Day Hike at the Walter Reserve 11AM Weistertown Rd

