

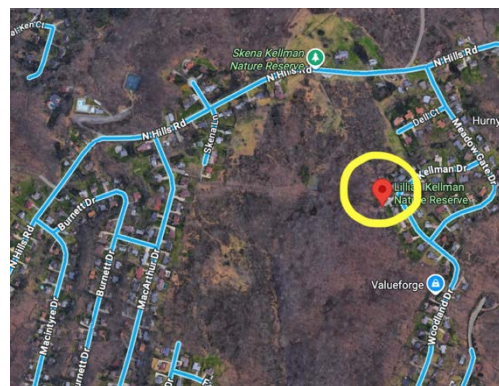


Volume 35  
Issue 2

## Upcoming Events

### 4/18: Earth Day at the Kellman Reserve

Join us at 9AM at the Lillian Kellman Reserve, **Kellman Drive parking lot** for a **special Earth Day project**. Westmoreland Conservancy will be partnering with the Municipality of Murrysville to do some trail maintenance and perhaps teach some sustainable trail restoration tips.



The Lillian Kellman Reserve is the Conservancy's legacy property. It is the property for which our organization was created in 1991 and we are excited to help the Municipality with a day of maintenance. We have high hopes for what may come next! Bring your loppers, work gloves and clippers!

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

### 4/22: Annual Members Meeting & Elections, Delmont Library,

**7PM** Each year at the April meeting Westmoreland Conservancy presents the opportunity to elect the 2026-27 Board members and then elect officers. Your vote is very important and **WE WANT YOU** to have a voice. The meeting will be at 7PM at the Delmont Public Library and on Zoom



(please email us at [contact@westmorelandconservancy.org](mailto:contact@westmorelandconservancy.org) for the Zoom link) The Members Meeting will open with a review of the proposed slate for the election to the Board of Governors, so please plan to attend.

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

## 5/10: 8AM Mother's Day Birdwatching Hike at the Morosini Reserve with Alex Busato

Join Alex for a Birdwatching Walk at 8AM

Mother's Day at the Morosini Reserve. Alex is an avid birder, talented photographer and excellent guide. He is also familiar with the various habitat areas present at the Morosini Reserve and knows where to look! This walk is limited to 20 participants, so register early to reserve your place! Park at the UPT Trailhead at the end of Morosini Farm Road.



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

## 5/16: Westmoreland Fayette Scouting America Council

### Camporee at Bushy Run Battlefield

Come by this beautifully protected historic site from 9AM-4PM and check out the buzz! There will be presentations, walks and all manner of interest for the entire family! Westmoreland Conservancy presentations will be at 10AM & 2PM in the Cub World area. We have a long and productive history with Scouting and are happy to be part of this celebration.



## 5/24: Seasons on the Land Educational Hike Series at the Walter Reserve with Lindsey Praksti -SPRING

Second in the 4-part 2026 series. Join Lindsey at the Walter Reserve on Weistertown Road Sunday, May 24th for the SPRING installment of the Seasons on the Land Hikes. Leaving the lot at 10AM sharp! Be prepared to learn neat things!



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



## 6/21: Summer Solstice Walk at the Morosini Reserve SUMMER



OFFICIALLY BEGINS at 4:24AM! The Summer Solstice is the longest night of the year. What better way to observe this than to enjoy a magical evening outside? Join us at 8:30PM at the Universal Pedestrian Trailhead for an evening walk to the pond and around to the field trails. We'll stop at the scenic view observation platform to watch what is often a spectacular sunset. The First Quarter Moon should give us some light, however flashlights may be needed by the end of this evening walk. Event

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

## 7/11: Enchanted Evening Firefly Walk at the Morosini Reserve

Another summer evening walk... A Family-Friendly Firefly walk. Who can resist a smile when seeing these magically glowing little bugs? We don't catch them, but marvel at their light show.

Join us at 8:30PM at the Universal Pedestrian Trailhead Kiosk for an evening walk along the trail to the pond and around to the fields. The longer you stay, the more fireflies you'll see.

We'll be walking in a single file line. The female firefly will be on the ground, so we need to make sure we don't step on her. We will use only red lens flashlights that are less distracting for the fireflies during their mating season.



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

**\*\* Keep in mind that there are all sorts of unpublished projects throughout the year. Seeding parties, trail maintenance, wood sealing and clean-ups name a few. If you're interested in lending a hand, please send us an email at [contact@westmorelandconservancy.org](mailto:contact@westmorelandconservancy.org) and tell us what you would like to do to help\*\***



## April 2025 – April 2026 President’s Report

Spring 2025 presented a major challenge to many in the area, this organization included. Several reserves sustained heavy damage in the late April/early May storms.

Restoration and repair took several months and incurred unforeseen expenses. The Don Harrison Community Trail (DHCT) through the King and Caywood Reserves saw the most severe damages. We are grateful to the volunteers that stepped up to help, and to Telford’s Tree Service for handling that which was a bit too much for us to manage.



Westmoreland Conservancy is actively working on acquiring lands that further our commitment to protect important wildlife and watershed corridors. There are multiple parcels of interest, and we hope to share progress soon.

Earth Day 2025 was the second year of seeding the Graft Pollinator Meadow at the Morosini Reserve. We had a wonderful group of individuals and families



putting down a seed mix for the first of two “Seeding Parties” in the field surrounding the beehive enclosure. 2026 will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> and last year of annual seeding, as we hope to finally have the switch grass under control in that field.

Earth Day 2026 (4/18) will be held at the Kellman Reserve. We invite everyone to join us at 9AM at the

Kellman Drive parking lot to trim out and manage trails.

Our Annual Members’ Meeting & Elections is the fourth Wednesday of April. Your annual donation of \$25 or more gives you a voice at our Members Meeting, and your voices are important to us!

The Morosini Reserve boasts several different types of habitat, so you can see meadow and grassland birds as well as forest and edge dwellers. Alex Busato leads a popular birdwatching hike, pointing out and identifying the migratory visitors as well as seasonal residents.

The Universal Pedestrian Trail (UPT) was completely rehabbed and extended in 2025. New



surface and new drainage has made the trail more resilient and beautiful. Our gratitude to Jim Lucas at Suburban Contracting for a wonderful job! There are also several additional projects planned for the Morosini Reserve. A wildflower meadow trail parallel to the Universal Pedestrian Trail (UPT) that will not only create visible beauty but attract more pollinators and provide food source. We are also planning to restore grassland habitat in the eastern fields. The plan is to eventually restore about 30 acres of this most critically endangered habitat. In keeping with the historic use of this land, we would like to create an Heirloom Apple Orchard exclusively featuring old varieties in the south field of the reserve. The Westmoreland Heritage Trail is making progress in their plans to close the gap between the Rangos parking area in Delmont and Downtown Export. The trail will border the Morosini Reserve along the southern property line and will bring more people in to explore the reserve.

Participating in community events is always a pleasure, and the August Export Ethnic Food & Music Festival is a great opportunity to meet people. Did you stop in at our tent for a visit last year? We'll be there again this year!



Westmoreland Conservancy schedules events throughout the year. Late summer, autumn and winter hikes serve to get out and enjoy the different reserves and seasons. We have another 4-Season hike series with Lindsey Praksti at the Walter Reserve that began in March and will continue through September.

The scions collected from the pawpaws at the King Reserve and other genetic samples were grafted into our Walter Reserve pawpaw population last year. Some appear to have taken and we look forward to monitoring their growth.



As our Annual Members' Meeting and Elections are just around the corner, I invite you to join us and see what's in store for the rest of 2026!

~Shelly Tichy



## First Quarter Events



**First Day Hike at the King Reserve**



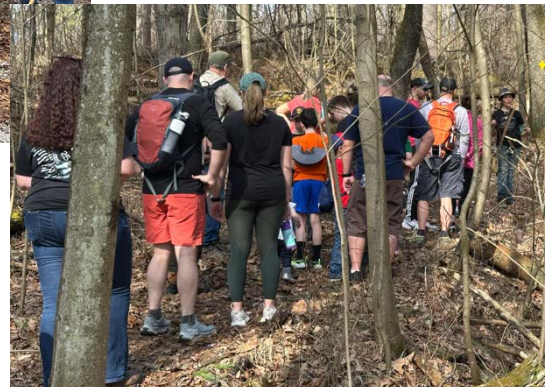
**Hot Chocolate Hike with Murrysville Recreation Dept at Morosini**



**Pruning Apple Trees at the Morosini Reserve**



**Seasons on the Land Hike w/Lindsey at the Walter Reserve**



## DONATIONS

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



Or: Any Monetary Donation

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, which gives you the right to vote at our Annual Members Meeting in April. 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 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 policies and take out anything you take in.

**Do NOT** leave trash at the reserves. <https://lnt.org/why/7-principles/>

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)



### **2025/26 Board of Governors**

Alan Halperin  
Rob Malley  
Ella Stewart (Student)

### **2025/26 Officers**

President: Shelly Tichy  
Secretary: Bob Sloboda  
Treasurer: Chip Brown

### **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.

04/18: Earth Day at Kellman Reserve, Kellman Drive Lot, 9AM

04/22: Annual Members Meeting & Elections Delmont Public Library 7PM

05/10: Mothers Day Birdwatching w/Alex Busato Morosini Reserve UPT lot,  
8AM

05/16: Westmoreland Fayette Scouting Camporee at Bushy Run Battlefield

05/24: Seasons on the Land Hike Series- SPRING- w/Lindsey Praksti, Walter  
Reserve, 10AM

05/27: Monthly Meeting Delmont Public Library 7PM

06/21: Summer Solstice Walk at Morosini Reserve UPT lot 8:30PM

06/24: Monthly Meeting Delmont Public Library 7PM

07/11: Firefly Walk Enchanted Evening at Morosini UPT lot 8:30PM