



WELCOME
To the
Reserves!

Volume 29 Issue 3 July 2020

Observing Earth Day in a COVID-19 World

Our original date to observe Earth Day was April 25th at the Flinn Reserve. Then the COVID pandemic changed everyone's plans! A small group still got together and removed trash, planted trees, and installed new boundary markers around the original parcel! All this while wearing masks & gloves and observing distancing! A few days later we planted about 30 trees in the restoration area on School Road South, again observing CDC guidelines.



Most of Western PA moved into the yellow phase of reopening May 15th, so we kept our plans to hold to the rescheduled date of May 16! With some new faces attending (behind masks!) we were able to put up boundary markers around the new 84-acre parcel, clean up trash along Boxcartown Road, and clear the site for the new kiosk at the trailhead. Getting outside in the fresh air never felt so good!

Elections & Change of Meeting Venue



Because the April meeting was held via Zoom, we were unprepared to hold our annual elections. They were rescheduled to the meeting of May 27.

Jim Zimmerman stepped down following two 3-year terms, and Howard Weigold stepped down at the completion of one term. Thank you both for your hard work and dedication!

Graham (Chip) Brown, Joann Reisch, and Robert Sloboda were elected to the Board during the annual Member's Meeting, the Board then held the Organizational Meeting, at which time the 2020-21 Officers were elected.

President: Shelly Tichy; Vice President: Rob Malley; Secretary: Robert Sloboda; Treasurers: Joann Reisch & Nicole Smith.

Meetings are held at the Delmont Public Library, located at 77 Greensburg Street, Delmont, PA 15626 at 7PM on the 4th Wednesday monthly.

The Enchanted Forest at the Morosini Reserve

What happens when magic wands and fairies get together for a walk in the woods? One discovers all sorts of cool things! Things like “Do fairies like root beer?” (Yes!)



Our guests came dressed in their magical finery and made magic wands before setting out on their quest! They searched out fairy houses, gnome homes, and troll huts. We discussed what sort of magical folks would live in what sort of abode, and what legends might be rooted in Nature. We had such a great response that we’ve decided to ask the fairies to come back in Autumn and visit with us again when the leaves are showing their beautiful colors!

Firefly Walk July 11

Firefly or Lightning Bug? Whatever you call them, they help make summer memories light up for people of ALL ages!

Join us at the main parking lot of the Morosini Reserve at 8PM Saturday, July 11th. Reserve a parking space, as we're limited to 28.



We'll see how many fireflies we can count as we walk up to the Universal Pedestrian Trail and down toward the pond. Where will we see the most? Let's find out together.

Westmoreland Conservancy invites you to join us. We still recommend observing social responsibility ... masks are not required, but recommended. We want everyone to stay safe, and recommend distancing between family groups.

Geocaching at Morosini July 18 (CWTC2020)

Be at the main parking lot of the Morosini Reserve at 9:30AM Saturday, July 18 to seek out the NEW cache series. The wonderful WHERIGO feature is available, too.



We'll take a group photo at 9:30AM, and then the fun begins! “Welcome to Geocaching 101” will begin at 9:45AM for those that are new to the adventure. Bring a handheld gps, or a smart phone with a similar app.

Just one hint: Bring a tape measure..... and a calculator! Be ready to get some exercise as you get to know this 183-acre treasure! Can you find all twelve by 2PM?

The New “Welcome” Sign



As we continue to address projects that further the Morosini Reserve development plan, you will see larger areas of habitat integrated with the trails and features of the property. One such project came together for us BECAUSE of the COVID shut-down. As many projects for other companies were postponed, it opened up the calendar for local artists Sharon & Jeannie from S&J Decor of Greensburg. They were able to work in a job for us that we are excited to share with everyone. They have created a version of our logo that has the appearance of having been part of the surroundings for a very long time, and we **LOVE** it! Now, as you go up Morosini Farm Court toward the Universal Pedestrian Trail (UPT) you will see that the silo closest to the road showcases this project. Our heartfelt thanks for the wonderful job!



Our logo stands 7.5' tall on both sides of the silo and is visible not only from the road, but from spots all around the reserve. The S&J logo resides at eye level, as does the logo for Sunbelt Rental Equipment. The Irwin location of this company helped support the project by giving Westmoreland Conservancy a generous donation, and we wanted to acknowledge and show our gratitude for their help. Thank you very much, Sunbelt Rentals!

ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

We are pleased to announce that the King Reserve has been expanded by approximately 25 acres. The acquisition allows us to protect a larger portion of the stream and floodplain. Join us at 6PM Thursday, July 9 at the parking area on Crowfoot Road for an introductory walk!

Our Promise to You

All Westmoreland Conservancy Reserves will remain open to the public. Many families will be looking for activities to burn off some energy. Being out of doors, away from closed up homes, is the best place to be. Sunshine and fresh air do not aid viral transmission. Go take a hike. **PLEASE** observe **Leave No Trace** sensibilities and **take out anything you take in**. Do not congregate and take unnecessary chances with your health or that of your family.

It's Okay to Go Outside! Please observe the recommendations!

Stay Home when Sick!

Volume 29 Issue 3, Page 3

2019-20 President's Report

What a Roller Coaster!! The year was a period of major accomplishments punctuated by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The realization of our **Universal Pedestrian Trail** at the Morosini Reserve was challenged by extreme weather; specifically, violent rain events. The creation of a trail designed specifically to allow those with strollers or mobility issues to enjoy the outdoors was something that held great significance. The contractors shared that vision and persevered in spite of the issues. We were able to celebrate the public reveal in September with an accessible parking area at the trailhead and benches are being installed along the trail for everyone to enjoy.

The construction of the **Boxcartown Road parking area** opened up the original 20-acre **Flinn Reserve** for its initial trail. This was the location of our First Day hike January 1st, which brought out some well-bundled folks (and pups!) to explore the reserve.

"**Earth Day at Flinn**" was originally scheduled for April 25th but was optimistically rescheduled to May 16th due to the COVID shut-down. A handful of members observing social distancing guidelines planted trees at the parking area, picked up trash and put up new boundary markers along the road. This allowed the teams to focus on marking boundaries around the new 84-acre parcel of the reserve and clearing the brush in preparation for the construction of the new kiosk at the trailhead May 16th. Western PA had by then entered the "yellow" stage and was permitted to gather in groups of 25 or less.



Westmoreland Conservancy also decided to move ahead with our May 30th "**Enchanted Forest at the Morosini Reserve**" but took extra precautions to remain compliant with CDC guidelines. Masks were prevalent, and social distancing was observed in familiar groups.

I believe that one of the most vital lessons to be learned from this global pandemic should be the importance of having a safe, healthy environment in which to recreate and restore ourselves. We received many inquiries as to whether or not our reserves were open for use during the "shut-down". Our answer was and is **YES**. Being outside is healthy, just as it has ALWAYS been. Our reserves have been open throughout so that you can go out and enjoy a walk in the woods with your families. We only ask that, as per our normal guidelines, you take out whatever you take in.

Now is not the time to rest on past accomplishments. Now is the time to ensure that special places are not lost so that our children and our children's children can experience the same wonder at a flower, bird or butterfly that we have. Understanding the value of Nature and that our lives are richer for it is something that we should all embrace!

~ Shelly Tichy, President

Membership Renewal

It's that time of year again! Your donations and support are **ALWAYS** welcome, however, **Renewal** is June 1st annually! 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



Payments for membership and any donations 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.

2020-21 Officers

Shelly Tichy – President
Rob Malley – Vice President
Bob Sloboda - Secretary
Joann Reisch – Treasurer
Nicole Smith - Recording Treasurer

2020-21 Board of Governors

Alan Halperin - Board
Lindsey Praksti – Board, Steward
Coordinator
Steve Shotts - Board
Graham (Chip) Brown - Board

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.

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Westmoreland Conservancy

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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 cancelled in case of Extreme Weather.

7/09: Explore the King Addition with Lindsey Praksti, 6PM, King/Potter lot Crowfoot Road

7/11: Firefly Hike, Morosini Reserve, 8PM (Please reserve a parking space in advance)

7/18: Geocaching at Morosini/CWTC2020. 9:30AM – 2PM

7/22: Monthly Meeting, 7PM, Delmont Public Library

7/25: Walter Reserve hike with Friends of Murrysville Parks/Loree Speedy, 10AM

8/26: Monthly Meeting, 7PM, Delmont Public Library

9/23: Monthly Meeting, 7PM, Delmont Public Library

10/17: Enchanted Forest in Autumn, 1PM, Morosini Reserve

10/28: Monthly Meeting, 7PM, Delmont Public Library

*** Watch our facebook page for August & September events!**

Westmoreland Conservancy Online

Membership: <http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/donate>

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

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

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