

WWIA News

Spring 2019



A History of Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association

By John Hilewick, WWIA President

On April 18, WWIA celebrated its 30th anniversary. The gala committee prepared a booklet of WWIA's history, which we're reprinting here.

WWIA's Earliest Times

In the spring of 1988, Tony Quadro and Tom Fitzgerald exchanged phone calls and letters with the Bradford/Sullivan county service forester, Jim Lacek, and Jane Bresee, executive director of the Bradford County Woodland Owners Association. They provided much pertinent information and advice about how to form the Westmoreland group.

On August 12, 1988, the fledgling Westmoreland County Woodland Owners' Association held an organizational committee meeting at Mountain View Inn. On October 15, 1988, an organizational meeting and luncheon was held at the Lord Ligonier Inn in Ligonier. On December 22, 1988, a steering committee meeting was held at

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A History of WWIA (cont.)

Mountain View Inn. The first official meeting of the Westmoreland Woodlands Association was held on February 9, 1989. The speaker was Jim Lacek. He discussed the benefits of an organization like ours. The first annual meeting was held February 22, 1990, at the McKenna Center in Greensburg.

October 15, 1988

Organizational Meeting Agenda
Welcome by Tony Quadro, Forester with Westmoreland Conservation District.

Presentations:

Jess Stairs, PA State Representative, on tax considerations for woodlands.

Tom Fitzgerald, Service Forester with PA Bureau of Forestry, Forbes District, on the current gypsy moth infestation.

Jim Finley, PSU Cooperative Extension, on federal tax laws. Lunch was served, followed by a tour of the Kinneer tree farm in eastern Westmoreland County.

December 22, 1988

WVOA (Westmoreland Woodland Owners Association) steering committee meeting at Mountain View Inn. The ten members attending were Bob Ackerman, Bill Baber, Tony Glasstetter, Neil Kinneer, A.C. Mann, Don Miller, Dr. Eleanor Morris, Mel Saltzman, and Don and Letitia Stitt.

February 9, 1989

Tony Quadro presented WVOA's first business meeting, at Mountain View Inn. Officers were elected: president Bill Baber; vice president Tony Glasstetter; secretary Don Stitt, and treasurer Bob Ackerman.

The purposes of the organization were agreed upon: 1) Promotion of conservation-oriented woodlot management, 2) Promotion of [increased use of local timber resources and forestry education programs], and 3) [recommending professional] solutions to various forestry management problems. A mission statement was later adopted; it is published in the WWIA brochure. Our first annual meeting was held on February 22, at the McKenna Center. The meeting presenter was Paul



Wiegman, a biologist with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. He spoke on “Wetlands Conservation and Its Impact on Woodland Ownership.”

Bylaws were developed in early 1989. In the spring of 1989, the Westmoreland County Cooperative Extension Service donated \$100 to WWOA for its startup.

WWIA in the 1990s

WWOA had 40 members by the end of 1990. Fred Lau became president in 1993.

Newsletter #1 was published in March 1994. The editor and production manager was Don Miller. Then Don Stitt volunteered to take on the duties of the newsletter editor. Later other folks were involved. Currently Celine Colbert is the editor in chief. John Hilewick and Judith Gallagher are the newsletter staff and Bob McBride and Neva Shields are newsletter contributors.

We were guided by legal counsel in 1995 through the process of obtaining IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax status. The group's name was changed to Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association to avoid conflict with another entity that already had the original name registered with the PA Department of State.

In the 1990s the association went through a period of leadership stability, program initiatives, and gradual but steady membership growth. Four leaders (Bob Ackerman, Bill Baber, Tony Glasstetter and Fed Lau) were the first WWIA members to be trained in the Forest Stewardship VIP Coverts program. Others received training later on.

Bob Ackerman became president in 2001. As we moved into the 2000s, other members stepped forward to assume various positions as elected leaders or voting directors on the board. The VIP program was renamed the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program. As in the 1990s, members were nominated and chose to be trained as PaFSers. We now have a total of 39 folks in Westmoreland County who are trained Pennsylvania Forest Stewards. Almost all of them are or have been WWIA members.

Past and Current Officers and Board Members

Many individuals have graciously held various positions as elected or appointed officers down through the years: Donald Miller, secretary and treasurer; Mel Saltzman, treasurer; Bob Ackerman, president and vice president; Joe Kalinowski, vice president and treasurer; Judith Gallagher, secretary and director of publicity; Tom Fitzgerald, vice president; Fred Lau, president

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2) Promotion of increased use of local timber resources and forestry education programs, and

3) recommending professional solutions to various forestry management problems.”

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A History of Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association (cont.)

and vice president; John Hilewick, president and vice president; Neva Shields, secretary; Tony Quadro, treasurer; and Terry Gates, secretary.

Many individuals have graciously served as voting members of the board of directors down through the years: Bill Baber, Tony Glasstetter, Neil Kinneer, Cynthia Walter, Don Stitt, Jeremiah O'Shea, Dr. Bill Courtney, Ernie Matson, Tony Quadro, John Hilewick, Neva Shields, Judith Gallagher, Tom Fitzgerald, Rus Davies, and Jeff Parobek, Individuals who have served as associate directors, either as technical advisors or as members, are Bill Baber, Margaret Baber, Raul Chiesa, Celine Colbert, Dr. Bill Courtney, Mike DiRinaldo, Bob McBride, Jessica Salter, Janet Sredy, Tim Troup, and Andy Zborovsky.

Note: If you were omitted from either the officers or the board members listing due to incomplete records, please accept our apologies and let us know when you served and in what role.

The Present and Our Future

As we have progressed into the 21st century, WWIA has continued to grow and evolve. We now have more than 56 current individual or family members. Since 2013 we've had 195 individual or family members.

We invite members and former members to renew for 2019 and beyond. Most of the founding individuals from thirty years ago and present leaders are now senior citizens; some are in their 80s. We need an infusion of younger blood into the leadership roles to keep WWIA viable over the long term. We hope some of you younger folks will come on board with us. The nominations committee will be seeking volunteers for both officers and board members for the 2021 election.

Much of this information was published in the Fall 2006 WWIA newsletter under the headline "A Happy 18th Anniversary: Looking Back at Our Roots," written by Bob Ackerman. Archival information was gleaned from Tony Quadro's files.

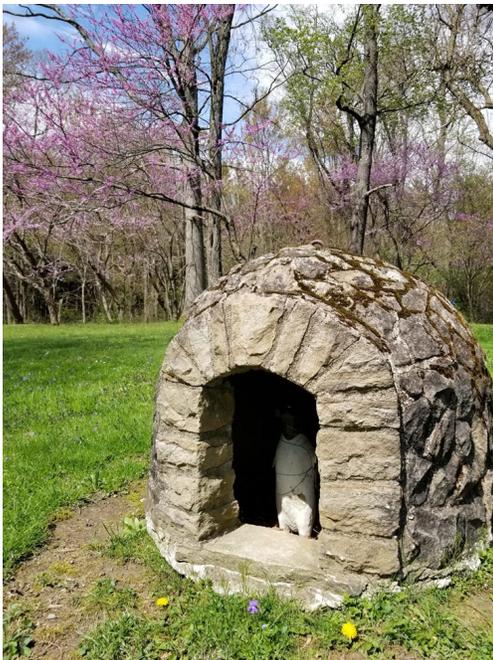


In this new section of the newsletter, we will meet different resources available in Westmoreland County.

Meet a Resource: Penguin Court

By Melissa Reckner, Program Manager, Penguin Court

Penguin Court is a 923-acre property in Laughlintown that was the country estate of Richard M. Scaife's family. Named for the ten penguins that once roamed the property, Penguin Court is a stunning preserve that is largely forested, though meadows, open space, a pond, a greenhouse, and a 7,000-square-foot conservatory are part of the preserve.



In 2015, Mr. Scaife bequeathed it to the Brandywine Conservancy, which is protecting the land and using its resources for community benefit. Four full-time employees care for the grounds, grow native plants for wildlife habitat, biodiversity, restoration and education projects, and offer programming to support education and conservation. Penguin Court is involved in awareness events such as Trout in the Classroom, Nature Works, Westmoreland Earth Day, and the new Westmoreland Pollinator Partnership. In April,

Penguin Court began hosting monthly workshops and walks or waddles, so named to honor its namesake, as a group of penguins on land is sometimes called a colony, rookery, or waddle! View the Brandywine Conservancy's "Events" tab on its website and Facebook page throughout the year to learn of these opportunities and stay tuned to learn more as programming evolves.



Species Spotlight: Serviceberry

By Celine Colbert, Service Forester

A plant of many names, serviceberry is also known as shadbush, shadblow, service-tree, Saskatoon berry, and juneberry. To complicate things farther, serviceberry isn't a specific species, but rather a genus of about 20 individual species with very similar characteristics that easily hybridize. These plants grow as small trees or multi-stemmed shrubs in every state but Hawaii. Their blooms are often white but can lean toward pink or yellow and are one of the first signs of spring throughout the Northeast.

As the name juneberry implies, berries ripen in June and are an excellent treat for birds and people alike. The fruits aren't the only benefit to wildlife, as serviceberries are known to support an impressive 119 native lepidoptera species.

Historically, serviceberry served as a valuable food source for Native Americans and early settlers. The fruit would be dried and made into cakes to be eaten over the winter or used to flavor jerky. It provided valuable vitamins such as B2, iron, and manganese to their diets.

This tree tends to be shorter than 25 feet (though in the wild it may max out at 40 feet). Nonetheless, it has substantial ecological value. Their five-petaled flowers, along with their bright fall leaves and smooth grey bark, have made serviceberries a popular landscaping plant. If you're considering planting an ornamental tree, a serviceberry would be a great fit for a site with moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soil in full sun to partial shade.



Reminder to WWIA Members

To renew your membership, please make your check out to WWIA and send your dues to Tony Quadro, Westmoreland Conservation District, 218 Donohoe Rd., Greensburg, PA 15601. Act now and you'll pay only \$10 for 2019. Member benefits include free entry to nearly all WWIA programs.

Thank you!

WWIA thanks all of the generous donors who helped make our 30th anniversary gala such a success. Most notably, WWIA member Tim Troup made a gorgeous countertop board with inlaid leaf pattern and a yellow pine bench with router-carved top to raffle off to raise money for WWIA programs. The Hempfield Home Depot donated a pair of Fiskar loppers. R. Brown Supply Co. donated hearing-protection mufflers and work gloves.

For door prizes, the Greensburg Agway store and Longhorn Steakhouse donated a \$25 gift certificate each. Eat 'n Park and Red Lobster donated a \$10 gift certificate each. Thank you so much for supporting our community organization!

WWIA 2019 Calendar

June 15, 9:00 a.m. to about 3:00 p.m. DCNR forestry staff working out of the Laughlintown office of the Bureau of Forestry, will lead our ninth annual Forbes State Forest field trip and skills day.

June 29, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Leslie Horner, Forest Stewardship Program associate at the Center for Private Forests at Penn State, will lead a workshop and field day focusing on woodland health and regeneration assessment at WWIA vice president Fred Lau's woodlot.

September 19, 6:30 p.m. Sandy Feather, an educator from the Penn State Extension Service, will discuss the spotted lanternfly and its spread.

October 6, 1:00 p.m to 3:00 p.m. 3rd Annual Walk in Penn's Woods event at the Otto and Magdalena Ackerman Preserve

October 17, 6:00 p.m. The annual WWIA potluck dinner and business meeting will be followed by a presentation on forest regeneration.

2019 Officers

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John Hilewick

Vice President

Fred Lau

Secretary

Terry Gates

Treasurer

Tony Quadro

Publicity, Newsletter Editor

Judith Gallagher

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Robert McBride

Janet Sredy

Tim Troup

Andy Zborovsky

Technical Advisor, Newsletter Editor

Celine Colbert

Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association

Membership Application and Renewal – Dues \$10 per year

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

New Member () or Renewal () Date: _____ Email Address: _____

Make check payable to

Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association

Mail to

Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association

c/o Westmoreland Conservation District

218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA 15601

Attention: Tony Quadro

www.westmorelandwoodlands.org

Westmoreland Woodlands
Improvement Association

c/o Westmoreland Conservation District
218 Donohoe Road,
Greensburg, PA 15601

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