

Turn Back 250

Celebrating 250 Years of the United States

May 30, 2026

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Donohoe Center, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA

Go back in time and learn about...

- ★ Gardens for Food & Textiles
- ★ Pioneer Food Foraging
- ★ Native American Hunting & Trapping
- ★ Colonial Woodworking
- ★ American Chestnut
- ★ History of Pennsylvania's Forests

Featuring Food for Purchase From:

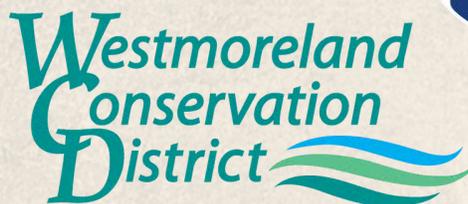
- ★ Millie's Ice Cream
- ★ Poullich Pit BBQ Express
- ★ Wanderbrew Coffee

Find our agenda here:

WESTMORELAND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Presented by:



PennState Extension



Turn Back 250



AGENDA

★ The Pennsylvania WoodMobile

Location: Outside Main Entrance of
Westmoreland Conservation District Barn

The WoodMobile is a traveling exhibit sponsored by the PA Department of Agriculture's Hardwoods Development Council - "An Educational Walk in Penn's Woods." Attendees will learn how the forests of PA have shaped the history of the state and nation along with how today's forests differ from 100 years ago.

*The WoodMobile will be open for viewing anytime
from 11am-3pm

 **Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement
Association (WWIA)**

Location: Outside Main Entrance of
Westmoreland Conservation District Barn

Presentation Times: 11:20am & 1:20pm

Pennsylvania's woods provided a variety of hardwoods for early settlers to use for homes, furniture, and transportation over land and water. John Hilewick and Tim Troup of WWIA will talk about woodworking methods and the tools of 250 years ago.

Presentation Times: 11:40am & 1:40pm

Historically, the American chestnut was one of the largest trees in eastern forests. It provided food and wood to early settlers. Unfortunately by the 1950s the tree was wiped out through its range. WWIA member Lewis Lobdell will talk about the history, importance, and present status of the American chestnut, and what he is doing to try to bring this tree back.



★ Dye and Kitchen Gardens

Location: Inside Westmoreland Conservation
District Barn

Presentation Times: 12pm & 2pm

Penn State Master Gardener Karen Banks and Westmoreland Historical Society's Joanna Moyar will talk about the Dye and Kitchen Gardens featured at Historic Hanna's Town. These gardens help interpret the daily life on Pennsylvania's frontier during the Revolutionary War Era. The presentation on the Dye Garden will demonstrate the historic uses of native and nonnative plants, the colors the plants produce, and the process of dyeing textiles. The Kitchen Garden presentation will show the plants used for food and medicine by the settlers, while the Three Sisters Garden illustrates the influence of Native American gardening techniques.



★ Learn to Forage Like A Pioneer

Location: Inside Donohoe Center

Presentation Times: 11am & 1pm

Join Penn State Master Gardener Barb McMillan as she talks about foraging during pioneer times. In addition to hunting, trapping and fishing, early pioneers in Western Pennsylvania depended on foraging for nuts, berries, wild fruits, mushrooms, roots and leafy plants as food sources. Like the pioneers, YOU can learn how to identify and safely incorporate what we might consider common “weeds” into your favorite recipes, and how to turn wild berries and fruits into nutritious beverages and desserts!



★ Native American Hunting and Trapping

Location: Under Pavilion

Presentation Times: 12pm & 2pm

Join Eastern Woodlands Co-Owner's Eric Reger and Angelo Testa as they talk about how animal populations supported people living here 250 years ago. What tools, weapons, and traps did Native Americans use to harvest animals and how do they compare to what we use today? Displays include Native American artifacts, animal pelts, and skulls.



Speakers Biographies



Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association
(WWIA)

JOHN HILEWICK

President of WWIA
Pennsylvania Forest Steward

John taught junior and senior high school classes in Industrial Arts, Metal Shop, Mechanical Drawing, Woodworking, and Drafting for over 36 years. In his retirement, John crafts woodworking projects and educates others on antique tools.

TIM TROUP

Board Member of WWIA
Pennsylvania Forest Steward

Tim has been a self-employed woodworker for over 58 years in addition to being a tree farmer for 30 years. He has been collecting and using antique wood-working tools for the past three decades.



**Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association
(WWIA)**

LEWIS LOBDELL

Member of WWIA, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Loyalhanna Watershed Association, Mountain Watershed Association, Conemaugh Valley Conservancy, Pennsylvania Forest Steward, Former Board Member of The American Chestnut Foundation.

For over twenty years, Lewis has planted hundreds of American chestnut hybrids with the hope that the trees would be resistant to the chestnut blight, a fungal disease that decimated Pennsylvania's native chestnut trees.



Westmoreland Historical Society (WHS)

JOANNA MOYAR

Director of Interpretation and Collections

Joanna is a native of Greensburg. She received her B.S. in Art and teaching certification from Millersville University of Pennsylvania, and a Master of Arts in Teaching in Museum Education from The George Washington University. She served as the education coordinator for Alexandria Archaeology, in Alexandria, VA for 10 years.

She began working with the WHS as the education coordinator in 1999, and served in that position for nearly 20 years. She now serves as their Director of Interpretation and Collections.

Joanna is also a Penn State Extension Master Gardener and a Pennsylvania Master Naturalist. She is interested in historic gardening practices and foodways, as well as the native environment and plants of Pennsylvania.



Penn State Extension

KAREN BANKS

Master Gardener

Karen is a Penn State Master Gardener of Westmoreland County, and the lead gardener of the Dyer's Garden at The Westmoreland Historical Society & Historic Hanna's Town.

The Penn State Extension allows her to demonstrate her love for native plants and historic horticulture, educating the public with plants used in the dye process of textiles, volunteering alongside her husband Matt...a fellow Penn State Master Gardener.

BARB MCMILLAN

Master Gardener

Associate Director of Westmoreland Conservation District

Barb has a passion for harvesting nature's bounty on her 95-acre organic farm in the Laurel Highlands, including fruits and berries, mushrooms, nuts, maple tree sap, and "weeds" for eating, drinking and making medicinal salves. She and her husband were named "Conservation Farmer of the Year" in 2014 in recognition of their dedication to environmental conservation of soil, air, and water on their farm.



Eastern Woodlands

ERIC REGER

Co-Owner
Outdoor Instructor

Eric has always been a student of nature. He keeps a journal of all fishing, trapping, and hunting trips noting variables such as water conditions, weather conditions, and species caught. As a science teacher, he relies heavily on data to optimize time spent afield.

ANGELO TESTA

Co-Owner
Outdoor Instructor

Angelo is an avid outdoorsman whose passion for nature, hunting, fishing, and trapping has been ingrained in him since childhood. With a deep love for the wilderness and wildlife, he finds joy in sharing his knowledge and expertise with others, serving as a dedicated teacher and mentor in outdoor pursuits.