



## Annual Meeting in Person Once More!

***OLC Annual Meeting was back as in-person event in April.***

We were fortunate to have Phil Witmer, local resident and past Board member of state and regional birding organizations address various aspects of birding: their conservation, the current decline, and what we need to do to save them. Phil is currently vice president of Bird Town Pennsylvania which is helping build bird friendly habitats in Pennsylvania at municipalities – including Tredyffrin.



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## Stream Restoration in the George Lorimer Preserve!

***Visitors to the Preserve have learned to take special care when walking on the trail “cross-roads” near the small pond.***

The run-off from intense rainstorms of recent years has eroded the pond by-pass channel so widely and deeply that we have had to move and fence the trails, and that the pond berm is threatened. Not only that, the pond itself requires increasing maintenance.

We have been considering options with professional advice from our land trust, engineering and government agency friends, and we have decided that the best course of action is to remove the pond and restore the original stream channel. We are extremely grateful to the experts at the National Resource Conservation Service who developed a design based on a similar project at Natural Lands Trust’s Crow’s Nest Preserve. This design was used to bid the project and apply for grant funding, and we’re delighted and thankful to announce that the Valley Creek Trustee Council and the Chester County Preservation Partnership program have generously agreed to provide the significant funds that the project requires. Our selected contractor, Flyway Excavating, has extensive experience with this type of work, and we expect work to start in August.

**Stay tuned for possible access restrictions during the project.**



Lorimer small pond



Looking across ditch to pond



# Volunteer Appreciation



**Many thanks to the staff at Resolution Life for their volunteer efforts on Wednesday, May 24.**

New George Lorimer Preserve neighbor and Resolution Life executive David Simmons organized a company-sponsored service day in the George Lorimer Preserve on May 24th. Dave provided event shirts, work gloves, pruning tools and provided a very appetizing box lunch for the volunteers. Twenty two volunteers arrived at 9 am ready and anxious to help out at George Lorimer Preserve. Armed with pruners, loppers, hedge trimmers and even a chain saw, they went to work to widen three trails and remove brush growth around new trees. The group was friendly, good natured and intent on improving the appearance of trails at the Preserve. Their hard work made a noticeable improvement at the Preserve and is much appreciated by the OLC Board and Preserve Managers. In addition, Dave donated the left-over work gloves and pruners to the Preserve for future use.

Hopefully, Resolution Life will schedule another Service Day at the Lorimer Preserve sometime in the future. OLC will welcome their return.

*Message from Resolution Life...*

***“Thank you for hosting the group of Resolution Life US Volunteers on our Day of Service, May 24, 2023. We love partnering with you and hope we made a difference. We’d like to continue our support of your work with a \$500 corporate donation. Thank you for all you do within our community.”***

Eagle Scout Jack Akins and his team from the Paoli 1 troop built a sturdy bridge across a Valley Creek tributary in OLC’s Minden Lane Conservation Easement. The photographer forgot the “Say Cheese!” instruction for the group shot!”



Long time heroic volunteers Steve, Bruce and Carol Schock with piles of trash picked up from Cedar Hollow Preserve along St Johns Road.





# Our New Preserve Signs!

**OLC has installed signs to help navigate and inform visitors at six of our Nature Preserves: Airdrie Forest, Valley Creek, Cool Valley, Cedar Hollow, Diamond Rock and George Lorimer.**

## SIGN TYPES

### AWARENESS

Placed at a Preserve entrance or in Preserve alongside a high traffic road. These two-sided signs are seen and read by motorists.



### TRAIL HEAD

Placed at Preserve public access points. Signs contain two boards. A top board that provides the OLC brand and message, accreditation seal and a QR code linking to the OLC website, and bottom board that identifies the Preserve.



This project was majority-funded by a generous \$21,170 grant from the Marshall-Reynolds Foundation and completed in June 2023.

OLC Community Engagement Committee partnered with Miller Designworks from Berwyn, PA. Committee work focused on sign aesthetics and content, while Miller Designworks led product design, fabrication and installation.

### DIRECTIONAL POSTS

This sign points the way along a Summerhill HOA trail from Hawkweed Way to the George Lorimer Preserve.

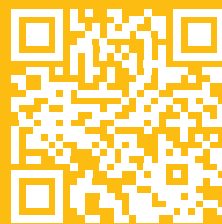


### EDUCATIONAL

Consists of two panels showcased by our indispensable partners, Steve Miller and Mason Miller of Miller Designworks. One panel which educates visitors about OLC and one custom for each Preserve that describes the history and features of that Preserve.



**Our Preserves are marked and open.  
Come Explore one today!**



**Visit  
[openlandconservancy.org](https://openlandconservancy.org)  
for more information**


**610-647-5380**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Volunteers Needed for Fall Tree Planting!*

We are undertaking a major restoration project in Valley Creek Preserve to replace an acre of invasive Phragmites Australis (Giant Reed) with native trees. We have been really fortunate to receive grants and commitments from the Foundation of long-time friends Art and Marjorie Miller, from the PECO Green Region program and from the TreeVitalize program. These grants fund the site preparation and the purchase of 550 trees and shrubs and the associated protection supplies. Thanks to long time partners at Weeds Inc. and All Seasons Landscaping much of the site preparation is already complete. Now we are beginning planning the material order and are asking our stalwart volunteer corps to pencil in some time to help with the planting - **likely the first week-end in October - October 7th and 8th.**

**Please mark your calendars...**  
**Many hands make light work!**

## GEORGE LORIMER PRESERVE IS VENUE FOR COUPLE'S ENGAGEMENT



***On a late afternoon in November, Mike Nickels was investigating the area around OLC's gatehouse at the Le Boutillier Road entrance to the George Lorimer Preserve.***

His goal was to find someone with knowledge of the Preserve, and found the best resource in Greg Sprissler, dedicated Preserve co-manager. Mike told Greg that he and his girlfriend, Victoria Mazzola, really enjoy walking in the Preserve, and he wanted to use the large pond dam, with its spectacular views, as the location to propose to Victoria. He wanted to know if

it would be OK to park cars at the gatehouse and have family members in attendance. **Of course!!** On December 11th family members arrived and stayed out of sight, waiting for Mike and Victoria to arrive and have the special private moment where Mike asked Victoria to marry him. Mike got the answer he wanted and then motioned for family members to come out of hiding. In spite of the day's nasty weather, there were many happy faces - none more so than Mike and Victoria, who tied the knot five months later.