

BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE

I N C O R P O R A T E D

Winter 2017

www.BlueMountainWildlife.com

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ANNUAL BANQUET

UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR MISSION

THE PRESERVATION AND
CONSERVATION OF THE
WILDLIFE AND WETLANDS
ALONG THE SCENIC
SCHUYLKILL RIVER IN
NORTHERN BERKS AND
SOUTHERN SCHUYLKILL COUNTY



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TIME FOR A LITTLE SPRING CLEANING

Okay, it wasn't a terribly snowy winter, but I'm sure everyone's had enough of it anyway. So grab your jacket and meet us out at the Kerny on **Saturday April 22nd** to celebrate Earth Day and help with a little spring cleaning. We'll have all the tools available, with free pastries and coffee first thing in the morning and a free hot dog lunch at noon. Plus "Trash Easter Eggs" to be redeemed for free BMW gear and really great Earth Day T-Shirts!

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BANQUET

GREGG ADAMS

Blue Mountain Wildlife held its thirteenth annual Membership Banquet and Meeting on Friday January 27th at the Loft at C.J. Hummel's Restaurant in Lenhartsville. About thirty members and guests attended this year's festivities. Sue Fisher, Gregg Adams and Barry Shollenberger reported on finances, special events and fundraising, and projects and maintenance, respectively. Pat Adams, Donald Bullard and Kath-

erine Wells were inducted as Lifetime members. Don Waldron, Barry Shollenberger, Gregg Adams and Sue Fisher were elected as President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Jim Turner and Fred Herman were elected to the Board of Directors for three-year terms. Kevin Grim rounded out the evening with an interesting and informative presentation on dams and dam removal.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS—SPRING 2017

Saturday April 22, 2017...BMW TRS Bartram Breeze Trail Races 8:00 to 11:00am Kernsville Dam Recreation Area
Saturday April 22, 2017...Earth Day Clean-Up 8:00am to 4:00pm Kernsville Dam Recreation Area
Thursday May 11, 2017...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
Saturday May 20, 2017...BMW TRS Mad Dash 8:00 to 11:00am Hamburg Reservoir
Saturday May 20, 2017...Hamburg Arts Fest 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Downtown Hamburg
Sunday June 4, 2017...Bear Creek Festival 12:00 to 4:00pm Schuylkill County Fairgrounds
Thursday June 8, 2017...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00pm Hamburg Library
Saturday June 10, 2017...Get Outdoors Day 11:00 to 4:00pm Dry Brooks Day Use Area Pavillon, Blue Marsh
Saturday June 24, 2017...BMW TRS Run To The Rock 8:00 to 11:00am Hamburg Park

BMW'S SPRING EVENT CALENDAR

Blue Mountain Wildlife has a full schedule on tap for this spring!

Earth Day Clean-Up

**Kernsville Dam Monument Parking Lot
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM April 22, 2017**

Join Blue Mountain Wildlife in some spring cleaning. Help us get the Kerny cleaned up for summer. Clean-Up Central opens at 8 AM with hot coffee, pastries, and all the things needed for a good clean-up - gloves, vests, bags, trash-grabbing tools and a list of areas looking for a good cleaning. Dress appropriately for the weather. Some areas may be wet and muddy, so boots may be a good idea. BMW will be placing "Trash Easter Eggs" out - collect the "Eggs" for free BMW gear - hats, patches or T-shirts! Come out alone, with the family or with friends and help get the Kerny cleaned up. For the more energetic, start the day off with the **2017 BMW Trail Race Series Bartram Breeze 10K, 5K or 2K Trail Race** at 9 AM and cool down with a little clean-up work. Work projects will also be available for groups wanting to do more than collect trash. Participants arriving before 11 AM will receive a free hot dog lunch! Earth Day T-Shirts will be available.

BMW Trail Race Series

April 22, May 20 and June 24, 2017

Come run for the Kerny. BMW's main fundraiser kicks off with the Bartram Breeze 10K, 5K or 2K Trail Races on the Bartram Trail at the Monument Parking Lot at the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area on Saturday April 22nd. Bring out the family, pick your distance and run on one of the most scenic trails in Berks County. Afterward, enjoy a hot brunch from Cracker Barrel. Then stay for the Earth Day Clean-Up and help out the Kerny with a bit of spring cleaning.

The Trail Race Series continues with the famous run up the mountain - the Mad Dash 5-Mile, 5K or 2.5K Trail Races at the Hamburg Reservoir on Saturday May 22nd. Take on the TRS's most challenging courses, then enjoy a catered brunch from Red Robin.

Finally, cool down with the Run To The Rock 10K, 5K or 2.5K Trail Races at the Hamburg Park on Saturday June 24th—the only legal way to visit the Rock this year!

The 2017 BMW TRS features three courses each race, tons of prizes and goodies galore.

Check the BMW website and Facebook page for more details.

Hamburg ArtsFest Downtown Hamburg

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM May 14, 2016

Join Blue Mountain Wildlife at the Hamburg ArtsFest. It's a one day festival featuring fine art and craft displays, a beer garden, musical entertainment, children's activities, a silent art auction, an artists' contest featuring "Chairs," and a "rolling art exhibition" – a classic and antique car show. Visit www.hamburgpa.org for more information.

Bear Creek Festival Schuylkill County Fairgrounds

12:00 PM June 4, 2017

Join Blue Mountain Wildlife at the Bear Creek Festival. 16th Annual Bear Creek Festival will take place on Sunday, June 4, 2017, at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds in Summit Station from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. This family oriented event offers visitors free and fun activities related to all things environmental, outdoors, natural, and agricultural in Schuylkill County. It is free and open to the public. The Bear Creek Festival offers a multitude of free activities for all ages, such as Schuylkill Trout Unlimited's annual fishing derby, Hover Ball Archery by Schuylkill Sportsmen's Association & Sportsmen's Advisory Board, build your own bird house with Home Depot, paint your own flower pot, animals from Red Creek Wildlife Center, music by KJ, and much more. This year we will also have live performances by Van Wagner and Jay Smar.

Get Outdoors Day

Dry Brook Pavilion, Blue Marsh

11:00 AM to 4 PM June 10, 2017

Join BMW for Get Outdoors Day. Let's move and get outdoors by joining numerous participants for a great day of fun in the sun. Learn about recreational opportunities in Berks County and beyond by visiting the many displays. Try out some of the activities, and play the scavenger hunt. You can also sit back and enjoy the presentations or meet Smokey Bear and Bobber the Water Safety Dog. No admission charged!

Be sure to check the BMW website and Facebook page regularly for updates.

THE FUTURE OF THE KERNY

GREGG ADAMS

On February 3rd, Kerny stakeholders from PA Department of Environmental Protection (the owners of the Kernsville Dam property), Pennsylvania State Police, Tilden Township Police, Reading and Northern Railroad Police, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Hamburg Fire Company, State Senator Argall's office, Tilden Township, Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area and Blue Mountain Wildlife met at the Tilden Township Municipal Building to discuss plans for the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area. The focus of the meeting was on the coming summer; what PA DEP has done to date, what it could do to help local law enforcement prepare for the summer and what local law enforcement's plans are to head off the summer's crowds.

Representatives from PA DEP reviewed the efforts to date, including the closing of much of the Kerny to the general public in late August, the erection of the gate on Kernsville Dam Road and the installation of signage warning the public against trespassing. They then reported that they had included \$10.8 million dollars in their proposed budget for the removal of the Kernsville Dam, but quickly noted that the funding for the removal was subject to the Governor's agreement and the approval of the budget by the State Legislature and the Governor. They noted that

the removal process could be a lengthy one but expressed hope that the dewatering of the reservoir could be accomplished as quickly as possible to remove the attractiveness of The Rock and the Kernsville Dam for thrill-seekers. It was mentioned that PA DCNR may be interested in taking over the property after the dam is removed.

In the short-term, the representatives of PA DEP, with the advice of local law enforcement, planned to add more signage in the area, including locations along the Bartram Trail that are currently being used to access Kernsville Dam Road to the north of the desilting basin.

Local law enforcement representatives noted that foot traffic in the "No Trespassing" zone has been much lighter since September, but that there are still individuals and groups unknowingly or intentionally trespassing to get to the Dam or the Rock. Representatives from the law enforcement agencies plan to increase awareness of the "No Trespassing" areas through their websites and social media, hoping to prevent the crowds from arriving in the first place.

Representatives from PA DEP noted that they are still working on a new lease agreement for the property but expressed that it was not their intention to adversely impact Blue Mountain Wildlife's traditional activities at the Kerny.

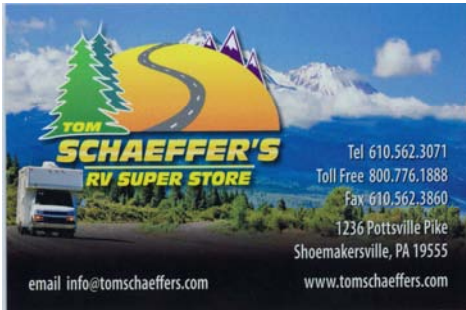
THE WARRIOR

JOE SWIDER

Sitting in the kitchen, feeling the first twinges of tired blanket me with their presence, I lower my head in reverence. Many battles were fought today and I was victorious. My adversaries were formidable and relentless in their pursuit of my destruction. Keep in mind that I was dealing the physical, mental, psychological, and spiritual demons that plague all of mankind. My first demon made its presence known the moment I woke up in bed and I didn't even want to move my head, let alone resurrect myself. Ever so slowly one leg, one breath at a time, I was standing fully erect and the first of my battles was won. Barely recovered from my first confrontation I stumbled into the kitchen. Another deep breath and demon, are you ready to meet your death. Very good so far but this war was taking its toll. Quite the mess from this confrontation I stumbled into the bathroom to face the ungodly creature of hot

water and soap. I moaned and cried in pain as my monster was laughing, but in the end it was me who was laughing as another demon was defeated. I was thinking ahead of myself and I believed that the carnage was over. I let my guard down. Unbeknown to me, an unholy alliance was made with that malignant entity from hell we will call the arthritis monster. My clothes all laid out I prepared to don my uniform of the day when I was tripped and thrown to the ground. For one brief moment I was floundering on the floor like a fish out of water. I would win this my greatest of battles or die trying. I remembered all the great heroes of the past; their magnificent acts of courage would give me strength. Slowly, ever so slowly, I pulled myself up and cursed this evil thing. I win, I win, I win. The day was wonderful, the adventures many, and once again I had bested boredom.

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