

BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE
P.O. BOX 389
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BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE

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www.bluemountainwildlife.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP

2017 TRAIL RACE SERIES

FESTIVALS

THE FISHERMAN SPEAKS

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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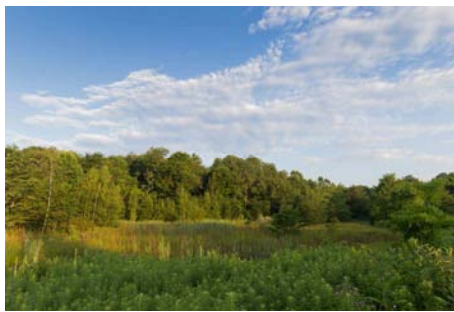
INTO THE FUTURE UNKNOWN

With the start of the New Year, Blue Mountain Wildlife was truly moving into uncharted territory. The closing of a sizeable part of the property to the public in August of 2016 was not really felt by BMW, as the bulk of our events had been completed by then. But with the New Year, the uncertainty of how BMW's event schedule would shake out started to hit home. Fortunately, working with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and local law enforcement, we were able to ensure that our traditional events, such as the Earth Day Clean-Up and the Trail Race Series, were able to go off for the most part without a hitch.

The spring of 2017 was a bit of a transition for Blue Mountain Wildlife. Spring is traditionally our busiest season, with the Clean-Up, the races, and festivals dominating the schedule into June or July. Then, as the summer wears on, our attention turns toward maintenance and projects. This year, we pared back on

the festivals to free up extra time to adjust to the "new normal" under which our core events are to function. And it paid off. Our core events went off unhindered and BMW learned the ropes for getting things done in the "new normal".

So open up the Spring newsletter and read about what BMW accomplished earlier this year. As you may have already guessed, this issue is running a little later than normal. That's, in part, due to the work going on behind the scenes that will become very visible at the Keryn in the next year or so.



The Summer issue, due out soon, will detail the new projects that Blue

Mountain Wildlife has planned for the Keryn and what's been keeping us busy over the summer. There's plenty of good news in store and we are happy to tell you that the summer of 2017 was nothing like the summer of 2016.

So, although it is technically fall, get out to the Keryn and enjoy the summer weather as long as it lasts.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—FALL 2017

- Thursday October 12, 2017...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
- Thursday November 9, 2017...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
- Thursday December 14, 2017...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
- Thursday January 11, 2018...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
- Friday January 26, 2018...BMW Annual Banquet and Membership Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm TBD

EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP

GREGG ADAMS

For the 217 Earth Day Clean-Up, Blue Mountain Wildlife tried an experiment. Traditionally, the Earth Day Clean-Up has been held a weekend before the first race of the season, the Bartram Breeze. Both events are hosted at the same location and generally use the same volunteers at both events. This year, we thought it may be worthwhile to try hosting both events on the same day, using the same volunteers and perhaps gaining additional participants from those attending the races. Unfortunately for the Clean-Up, it didn't quite work out that way.

While the Bartram Breeze was up and run-

ning on the west side of Kernsville Dam Road, Kay Greenawalt and her girl scouts were on the east side of Kernsville Dam Road manning the Clean-Up stand. While they did attract interest from a number of runners, only a handful of people showed up to collect trash. Whether it was because it was the first Clean-Up after the closing of the Kerny or the chilly and threatening weather or Tilden Township's commitment to their new "Adopt a Road" program, the low turnout is making Blue Mountain Wildlife look for new ideas to boost participation at next year's Clean-Up.



THE BMW TRAIL RACE SERIES COMPLETES ITS THIRD YEAR

AMY BROWDER

Blue Mountain Wildlife wrapped up another successful season of fun racing and fund raising with the 2017 The Northern Berks Trail Race Series. This was the third year for the trail race series, which replaced the long-running Northern Berks Quad Games. This year the race committee decided to pair the first race of the year, the Bartram Breeze, with the annual Earth Day clean-up in hopes of increasing attendance at both events. The two events were held on Saturday April 22 at the monument parking lot on April 22nd. Unfortunately, Yeungling decided to move their Lager Jogger to the same day, so the plans for boosting attendance were thwarted. Nonetheless, the weather was great for the 54 runners who enjoyed the flat out-and-back course, the music of DJ Steele Thunder and the delicious post-race breakfast provided by Cracker Barrell. Tim Schuler and Deirdre Anchorstar were the top male and female winners of the 10k, Andrew Brown and Meghan Cook were winners in the 5K, and in the family race Kodi Ireland and Lizzie "Batman" Schwinger took top honors.

It was only a short three weeks until runners were back for the Mad Dash which occurred on Saturday May 20th at the Hamburg Reservoir. This time Mother Nature wasn't quite as accommodating and participants did have to contend with a few showers. However, the competition and the beauty of spring on the mountain were well worth braving a little rain. A total of thirty-nine runners participated in the event which consisted of three different courses. Twelve-year-old Timothy Rodin was the overall male winner of the 5mile race while Christa Selby was the female winner. Ricky Cooper and Stephanie Kersher were the winners of the 5k, while the family race honors went to Carter Winand and Mikaela Johnson. After the Race Red Robin provided a wonderful lunch of wraps and fruit salad and DJ Brett Kearcher kept the music flowing.

The last race of the series was the Run to the Rock on Saturday June 24th. This popular race starts and ends at the Hamburg Park and uses all of trails that make up the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area. Preparation for this race was a little different this year due to the closure of much of most of the area past the monument parking lot.

While there was a lot less trash to pick up on the course, volunteers did have to do more clearing of the trails, since they had not gotten much public use. In addition, a series of rainy days leading up the event interfered with course marking, so that much of the course had to be re-marked on the morning of the race. The day of the race turned out to be beautiful, sunny and perfect for a nice muddy trail run to the Rock. The glorious weather and the chance to get a photo on the Rock brought out a slew of participants. A total of 100 runners participated in the 10k, 5k and 2.5k races. This was the second biggest turn-out in Blue Mountain Wildlife race history, second only to the first Bartram Breeze in 2006! Everyone seemed to love the course and many participants sought out volunteers after the race to express how much they enjoyed the event. Siblings Kyle and Kelsey Patrick were the top male and female winners in the 10k. Travis Anderson and Melissa Armstrong took top honors in the 5k, while Jordan Waslesyan and Lizzie "Batman" Schwinger were the winners of the 2.5k. Cracker Barrel returned with their amazing breakfast, much to the delight of the participants. Steel Thunder was also back spinning the hits. After all of the race activities were wrapped up, runners who had participated in all three events of the trail race series were invited to The Westy for a free drink and appetizers compliments of Blue Mountain Wildlife.

The BMW Race Committee would like to thank Elaine Cook for her service with the Committee. After seven years of sharing her energy and experience, she's retiring from the Committee. She, and her supportive family, will be missed. Thanks for everything, Elaine.



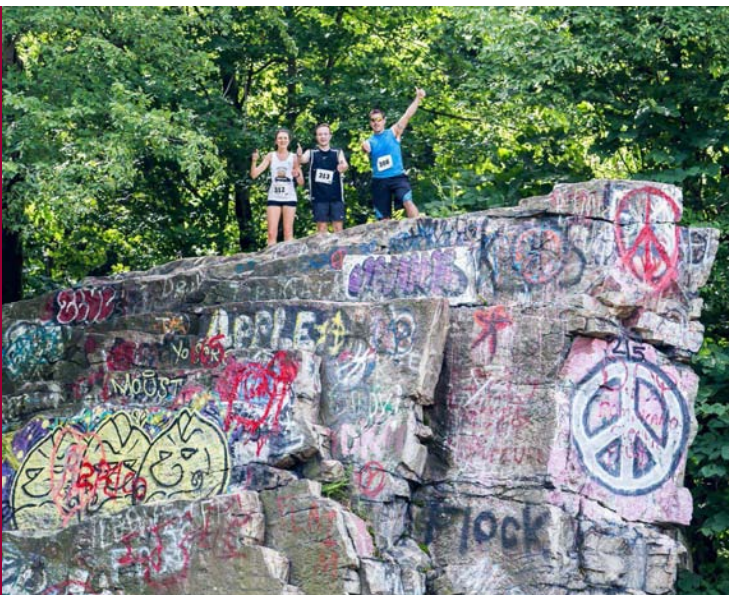
BARTRAM BREEZE



MAD DASH



RUN TO THE ROCK





Photos by: Gregg Adams, Alan Cook, Jayde Dries, Neven Dries, Kerry Grim, Lori Moyer, Steve Ostrowski, Barry Shollenberger,

TAKING THE BMW STAND ON THE ROAD

GREGG ADAMS

After a pretty grueling festival schedule in the spring and summer in 2016, Blue Mountain Wildlife committed to fewer festivals in 2017. Fortunately, that allowed BMW to bring their “A” game to those on the schedule.

The first was the May 20th Hamburg Artsfest and Car Show. BMW set up the stand at the corner of Third and State and beckoned festival goers with BMW merchandise and a coloring contest for the kids (it is Artsfest, after all). Although rain threatened for much of the day, more than twenty kids stopped by to color and submit

their art for the contest.

The next festival on the schedule was the ever-popular Bear Creek Festival at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds on Sunday June 4th. The weather was a little more cooperative and the crowds were more enthusiastic. Once again, the BMW coloring contest was a hit with the kids (and the parents wanting a break). More than thirty entries were submitted before the end of the day and the competition was pretty heated for the first prize \$20 Cabela’s gift cards in each of the four age categories.



Finally, the last festival on the schedule was the Get Outdoors Day on Saturday June 10th at the Dry Brooks Day Use Area at Blue Marsh. The festival was revamped last year and has taken off in popularity. The weather was warm and sunny and people came out in droves. The BMW stand participated in the Scavenger Hunt this year and that kept a steady stream of visitors coming through the stand, checking out the

BMW information, trading stories about the Kerny or just admiring the pictures.

As with all of the festivals, we were able to catch up with our friends from the other organizations attending, update them on what's been happening at the Kerny and hear what they've been up to as well, trading stories and ideas along the way. We're already looking forward to next year's festival season.



THE FISHERMAN—THE REAL DIRT

JOE SWIDER

Most every morning around 5am I'm in the park cleaning up after some of the more hardcore trolls who make it their job to disgrace our beautiful park. I can't even begin to comprehend what motivates these individuals to disrespect this wonderful gift we have been given. With our unyielding attitude to addressing the problem of park maintenance we as a group of warriors are winning the battle. In comparison to the absolute carnage that took place last year we are making some pretty significant progress. At times last year after a long weekend it was not unusual to collect fifty or more large 50 gal bags of absolute filth. Drug and alcohol abuse was a rampant reality. The number of underage participants in these illegal activities was astonishing. Because of the problem of law enforcement regulations and restrictions for the park the local authorities did not have the ability to address the

situation. One of the comments I would hear on a regular basis was "This is the way things are today" Well my friends not in my back yard it's not. At the moment we are getting some very good help from the local police. Although the police are somewhat understaffed they are a great aid to our cause. We are blessed with a group of people who really love and care about our wonderful resource of a park. Our park still needs to be cared for every day but at least for now it's under control. In my opinion we are winning this battle to reclaim our park. As a group we are relentless in our desire overcome every obstacle put in our path. Surrender is not an option for our magnificent warriors. We will have our park back the way it was intended to be. Remember my friends " That which we can conceive we can accomplish. Now that's the real dirt.



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