

BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE

INCORPORATED

Fall 2018

www.bluemountainwildlife.com

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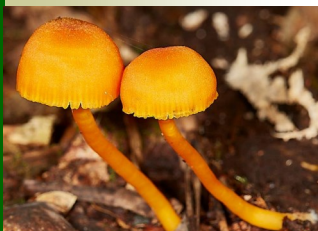
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OUR MISSION

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



CONTACT US

Don Waldron (President):
610.562.3199
Neven Dries (Vice-President)
610.858.1904
Gregg Adams (Secretary/Membership)
610.562.1428
Sue Fisher (Treasurer): 610.562.0720
P.O. Box 389 Hamburg, PA 19526
www.BlueMountainWildlife.com
info@BlueMountainWildlife.com

A LOOK BACK AND A PEEK AHEAD

As 2018 slides into history and 2019 moves front and center, Blue Mountain Wildlife will take a look back on the year that was and will sneak a peek at the year that to come.

Two Thousand and Eighteen saw the completion of the new Native Plant Garden at the Monument Parking Lot, overdue repairs to the Information Kiosk, a number of programs at the Kerny and afield, a fruitful Earth Day Clean-Up and successful fundraising efforts with the Trail Race Series and the Dine & Dash. 2018 was not without a few bumps in the road, but for the most part, things went well.



Things are a-brewing for 2019. The I-78 Mitigation Project is slated to begin in the northern basin,

bringing new wetlands to the area and improvements to the Monument Parking Lot. The plans to remove the Kernsville Dam are also to be moving forward, perhaps giving us a better understand of how the process is to be accomplished and what the area will look like when it complete.

Of course, Blue Mountain Wildlife has learned that plans are plans until they become reality. So the business of keeping up the Kerny will continue unabated. There are programs to be planned, funds to be raised, projects to be completed, and trash to be collected.

If you are interested in sharing in what we've done and hearing about what's to come, join us at our **Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet on Friday January 25th** at 6:00 p.m. at C.J. Hummel's in Lenhartsville. We've scheduled speakers from PA DEP to discuss the state of the dam removal plans and a speaker from PENNDOT to discuss the I-78 Mitigation Project. Of course, we'll also be electing officers and honoring those who have supported the Kerny over the past year. Details will be posted to the BMW website and Facebook pages as they become available. See you there!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—WINTER 2018

Thursday January 10, 2019...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
Friday January 25, 2019...Annual Membership Banquet and Meeting 6:00 p.m. C.J. Hummel's
Thursday February 14, 2019...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
Thursday March 14, 2019...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library

AN EVENING OF INDIAN CAMPFIRE STORIES

GREGG ADAMS

On Saturday, September 29th, a group of fifteen people gathered at the Monument Parking Lot to enjoy an evening of tales told around a campfire. Dave "Big Owl" McSurdy brought out his drum and told tales from many native American tribes, including how a Cicada tricked a Coyote, a race between a rabbit and a turtle, and how the chipmunk got his stripe. He also related other interesting facts and bits of wisdom from his decades of interactions with native Americans. The program was sponsored by Blue Mountain Wildlife and Berks Parks and Recreation.



TAKING A HIKE BACK IN TIME

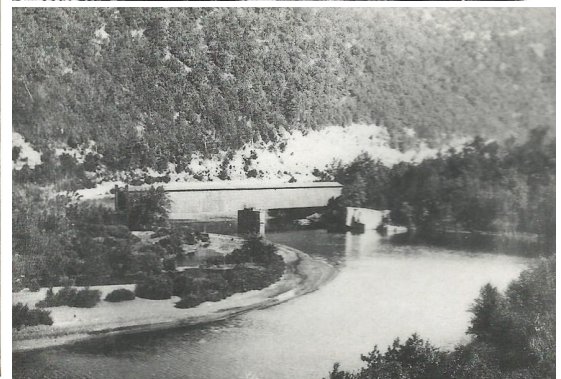
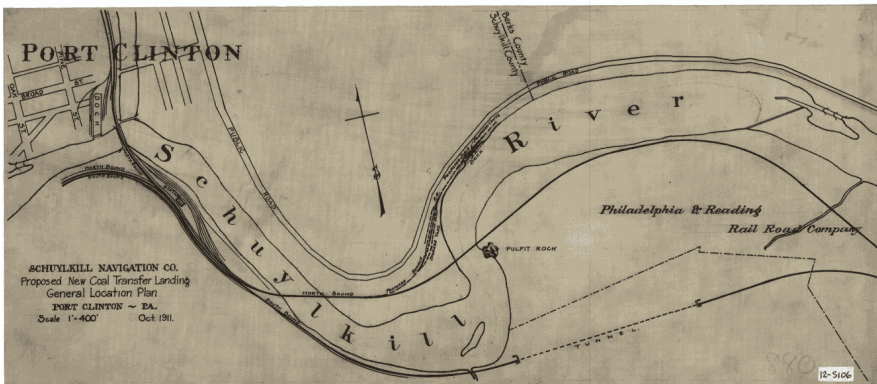
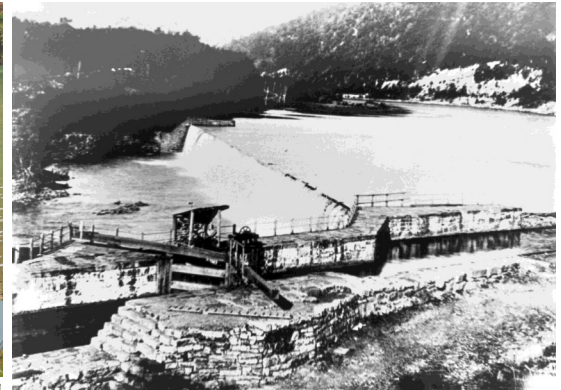
GREGG ADAMS

On Saturday, October 20th, ten hikers took a trip back in time. Not literally, of course. Rather, with the help of Pat Adams and Glen Weirich, this group took a peek at the Kerny as it had been a century or more ago. The hike, a joint Berks County Parks and Recreation and Blue Mountain Wildlife program, started at the Upper Parking Lot. There Glen Weirich of the Berks Historical Society described the history of the river, concentrating on the days of the canal boats plying the Schuylkill Navigation system. The locks of the Big Blue Mountain Dam reminded the hikers that the past lives on right in front of our noses.

where Pat Adams pointed out the artifacts remaining from the early railroad days, including the piers for the covered bridge and the earthworks for the earlier rail lines. She then described, with words and pictures, one of the greatest engineering marvels of the day, the moving of the Schuylkill River.

Most of the group expressed surprise and wonder at the events that they had "seen" on their hike back in time. It was a reminder that history did not begin at our first memories, that things now are not as they have always been, and that what was done in the past has a powerful influence over what is today.

The group then moved up to Pulpit Rock,



THE FISHERMAN

JOE SWIDER

On Friday, October 12th, I had this grandiose idea. I would mosey on down to the river and do some fishing. As a precaution I packed up my chainsaw and a bow saw just in case. The wind was blowing hard and steady with gusts up to 35 mph. I unlocked the gate to the road going down to the dam and off I went.

About a minute into my journey I was stopped abruptly by the presence of a fallen tree. Oh well, I had seen worse. I removed myself from the car. Chainsaw in hand I approached my adversary. Except for the weight of the pieces of tree I had to throw away I had no problem. I continued on my journey stopping here and there to remove tree branches that had fallen on the road. Then all of a sudden, I saw it. Right in front of me were two more fallen trees. My first thought was to turn around and go home. Here is where commitment, stubbornness and stupidity come into play. I had made a promise that I would, if humanly possible, keep this road clear at all times. I had to use both of my saws this time. I also had to be very careful so as not to injure myself. I started to laugh. All I really wanted to do was to go fishing. When I was

finished with this endeavor a few unwanted guests had come to visit this weary, old body of mine. Arthritis and sore muscles were reminding me that no good deed goes unpunished. I was only a moment from my original destination. There was a decision to make. Should I go home, or should I throw caution to the wind and let stupidity prevail. Well I am a guy after all and stupidity will always overshadow common sense. This was a perfect day for a skilled angler such as myself. I had nothing going in my favor. I was fighting the wind, high fast-moving muddy water and a serious amount of pain.

Well my friends I'm not going to brag and tell you about the twenty-seven or so fish I had caught. It's not really important that you know that seven different species were brought to shore. Of course, I'll never let you know that some of my adversaries were in in the ten to twenty pound class. If I shared that kind of information, I could be considered arrogant. I would just like to say to all of you that I had a very pleasant day. Keep in mind at all times that with life comes infinite possibilities.



HAWK MOUNTAIN PAINTING TO BE RAFFLED

HAMBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Anyone who would like to own or give a framed print of the view from the North Lookout of Hawk Mountain, and help out a sister organization at the same time, can take part in a raffle being held by the Hamburg Area Historical Society.

This limited-edition print of the painting by artist Tim Barr, matted and framed under glass, measures 20 by 40 inches. It can presently be viewed at the Hamburg Public Library, hanging above the fireplace. Tickets are available at the

Historical Society, 102 State Street (open from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays), or by calling 610-488-1817 or 610-562-0240. They are \$5 each, or 3 for \$10. The raffle drawing will be held toward the end of summer 2019.

The painting captures the moment when a hawk soars by the mountaintop on a fall day, with the Pennsylvania fields and forests spread out below.



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