

BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE
P.O. BOX 389
Hamburg, PA 19526

BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE

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

Fall 2020

www.bluemountainwildlife.com

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THE 2020 HISTORY HIKE

WE WANT YOU!

ANNUAL "BANQUET"

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
Fred Herman (Treasurer): 610.207.5229
P.O. Box 389 Hamburg, PA 19526
www.BlueMountainWildlife.com
info@BlueMountainWildlife.com

GOODBYE AND GOOD RIDDANCE

Twenty-Twenty is gone but not forgotten. The year everyone would like to forget will likely live in our memories for a good long time. For Blue Mountain Wildlife, 2020 will be a lost year.

In 2020, Blue Mountain Wildlife held but two events: the Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet at the end of January and the History Hike at the end of October. A handful of monthly Board of Director meetings took place in between, but for the most part, very little happened over the year.

That is not to say that Blue Mountain Wildlife simply stayed quarantined for the whole year. The Race Committee had a very busy winter, absorbing new members and bringing them up to speed, setting dates, getting sponsors and getting everything ready to run a series of trail races, only to

have the whole thing shut down just before the t-shirts were to be printed. Then our sponsors were notified that the races were first postponed and then, in August, cancelled. Racers who had registered before the races were postponed were offered the options to roll their registrations over to the 2021 Trail; Race Series or get a refund. The same options were given to our race sponsors and most chose to roll their sponsorships over to 2021. We certainly appreciate our sponsors' confidence in us.

Joe Swider and his short list of volunteer helpers was also busy throughout the year, collecting trash and keeping the trails clear of the many trees that fell this year. Joe is one of the unsung heroes of Blue Mountain Wildlife. If you see him out on the trail, be sure to let him know he's greatly appreciated.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS—WINTER 2021

- Thursday January 9, 2021...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
- Saturday January 30, 2021...BMW Annual Membership Meeting and Cook-Out 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Kernsville Dam Recreation Area Monument Parking Lot
- Thursday February 13, 2021...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
- Thursday March 13, 2021...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library



HISTORY HIKE BOOKENDS BMW'S 2020 EVENTS

GREGG ADAMS

The second and final Blue Mountain Wildlife event of 2020 occurred on Saturday October 24th. Thirteen people gathered at the Monument Parking Lot on a cloudy and breezy afternoon to take a walk back in time. Pat Adams, BMW's resident historian, led the group back Kernsville Dam Road to the New Kernsville Dam. The first stop—1949 and the construction of the Dam. The group learned the story of the efforts to restore life to the coal silt-choked Schuylkill River and how the great slab of concrete before them did just that.

The next stop was the Upper Parking Lot and a bit further back in time, to the era of the Schuylkill Canal and the Big Blue Mountain Dam—its double set of locks visible on the far shore. Pat related the rise of the Schuylkill Canal

and the coal trade that drove it. As the afternoon breeze turned distinctly cooler, the group hiked along the river, venturing further back in time to the early 1920's. When they reached Pulpit Rock, they were treated to the story of the "Moving of the Schuylkill River" - the engineering marvel of the day—and the growth of the railroads between Philadelphia and coal country.

After the hike back to the Upper Parking Lot, the group finished the journey back in time with a visit to 1916 and the Little Blue Mountain Dam site and the coal wharf ruins just upstream. Pat told the story of the final days of the Schuylkill Canal and the rise of the Reading Railroad. As the sun started to peak out from behind the clouds, the group returned to the 21st Century and the Monument Parking Lot.

BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE NEEDS A DIRECTOR

GREGG ADAMS

Blue Mountain Wildlife Needs You! The Blue Mountain Wildlife Board of Directors has an opening that needs to be filled. BMW has a seven-member Board of Directors that meets monthly to review the organization's business and make decisions. Kerry Grim left the Board earlier this year and BMW is looking for someone to take his seat.

The Board of Directors meets on the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Hamburg Community Library. The Board reviews the activities that happened during the past month and directs the care of the Kerny and the maintenance of the organization. It's important work

and requires a little common sense and an hour or two of time. If you happen to have those things, BMW asks that you consider stepping up and helping out. A little commitment from you can make a world of difference at the Kerny.

If you want to learn more about being a Director, contact any of the Officers listed on the bottom left corner of the front page of this newsletter. You can also attend the regular Board meetings and see the Board in action.

If you appreciate and enjoy the Kerny as much as we do, consider giving a little back and helping out. You'll be surprised how satisfying such a small commitment can be.

BMW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND "BANQUET", COVID-STYLE

GREGG ADAMS

In November, when it became apparent that COVID-19 would not be under control anytime soon, the Board of Directors of Blue Mountain Wildlife decided that it would be prudent to cancel the Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet.

In December, the Board of Directors decided to try to adhere to the organization's bylaws as much as possible and schedule a Membership Meeting and Cook-Out for Saturday January 30th at 1 PM at the Monument Parking Lot.

Should the weather be accommodating, BMW will hold a quick Membership Meeting, elect a slate of officials and then adjourn to a quick cook-out of hot dogs and other grill-able delights, all at an appropriate social distance. If you're interested in helping out or bringing food or drink items, please email your information to info@bluemountainwildlife.com or call Gregg Adams at 610-562-2386. Remember to check the BMW website for updates, particularly if the weather looks threatening.



BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE P.O. BOX 389 HAMBURG, PA 19526

Your Courtesy Membership Expires On 3/31/2021

Blue Mountain Wildlife

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