

BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE

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

Winter 2021

www.BlueMountainWildlife.com

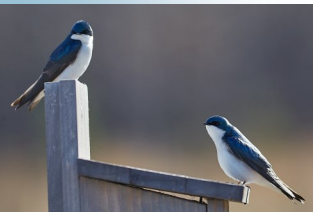
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OUR MISSION

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



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A SLOW RESTART

It looks like the winter of 2021 is about over. We had one good month of snowy winter weather, but spring has taken hold and summer cannot be too far behind.

Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic has still not passed into history, although the signs are looking better than they were at the beginning of the winter.

Blue Mountain Wildlife held the Annual Membership Meeting and Cook-Out in the fresh air of the Monument Parking Lot at the end of January. On the other hand, the Race Committee decided that it would be more sensible to cancel the **2021 Trail Race Series** and start fresh next year, given the unpredictable nature of the COVID pandemic, the unknown availability of volunteers to staff the races, and the difficulties many of our traditional sponsors have faced over the past year.

The **Annual Earth Day Clean-Up** is scheduled for Saturday April 24th and signals BMW's slow restart of it's program year. Besides the traditional Clean-up, BMW is looking for work crews to help finish the monument for the

picnic table and to help with the Natural/Low-Maintenance Area Project around the Monument Parking Lot. Berks Nature is scheduled to be on-hand with native-species trees to plant around the parking lot.

No other events are planned at this time, but if Taste of Hamburger Festival moves ahead, the Dine and Dash Burgers and Trail Race will likely move ahead with it. BMW is also tentatively scheduled to take the BMW stand to the Hawk Mountain Boy Scout Council's Golden Jubilee on October 2nd.

In other news, the I-78 Project continues, with the southern bridge addition scheduled for construction this year. Additionally, this is to be the year that the pool above the Kernsville Dam is to be dredged in preparation for the removal of the Dam. That work will have an impact on the Therman Madeira Switchback Trail and the southern part of the desilting basin. Keep an eye on the BMW Facebook page for updates on that project.

See you at the Earth Day Clean-Up!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—SPRING 2021

Thursday April 8, 2021...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 pm Kernsville Dam Recreation Area
Saturday April 24, 2021...Earth Day Clean-Up 8 am to 3 pm Kernsville Dam Recreation Area
Thursday May 13, 2021...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 pm Hamburg Library
Thursday June 10, 2021...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 pm Hamburg Library

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BANQUET—COVID-STYLE

GREGG ADAMS

For the seventeenth time, the Blue Mountain Wildlife officers, directors and members gathered to review the year past, elect officers and look to the new year ahead. Due to COVID, this year's meeting was held at the Monument Parking Lot at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday January 31st. Under clear skies but in chilly temperatures, eleven BMW members gathered to conduct the Annual Meeting and enjoy a quick cook-out.

President Don Waldron opened the meeting. Treasurer Fred Herman gave the financial report, noting that BMW started 2020 with \$13,609.45 in the bank, took in \$7,073.85 in revenue, had \$7,437.71 in expenses and ended 2020 with \$13,245.59 in the bank. Gregg Adams gave the membership, communications and programs reports for 2020, noting that BMW started the year with 126 members and ended with 122 members. He reported that four newsletters were published in 2020. He reported that the BMW website had 2,471 unique visitors and 4,983 page views generating \$967 in sales in 2020. He reported that the BMW Facebook

page gained 54 "Likes" in 2020.

Adams then reported that, due to COVID, Blue Mountain Wildlife conducted only the Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet in January and a History Hike in October.

Jim Turner reported on the work around the Monument Parking Lot in conjunction with the Wetlands Mitigation Project and Natural/Low Maintenance Areas Project, and the ongoing maintenance issues at the KDRA.

After Don Waldron's closing remarks, the election of Officers and Directors was held. Donald Waldron was elected to the office of President, Neven Dries to the office of Vice-President, Gregg Adams to the office of Secretary and Fred Herman to the office of Treasurer. Elle Rulavage was elected to serve out the remainder of Kerry Grim's term, and Gregg Adams and Mary Jo McCormick were re-elected for three-year terms as Directors of Blue Mountain Wildlife.

After the Election of Officers, everyone enjoyed a lunch of hot dogs and brats cooked over an open fire before adjourning the meeting.



THE I-78 WETLANDS MITIGATION PROJECTS WINS THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF PENNSYLVANIA 2021 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS AWARD

AECOM PRESS RELEASE



I-78 Wetland and Stream Mitigation Project
Tilden and Marion Townships, PA

PennDOT District 5 - Allentown, PA
AECOM Technical Services, Inc. - Conshohocken, PA

The wetland mitigation and stream restoration undertaken by PennDOT and Berks County, provides extensive ecological function and societal value by establishing palustrine emergent, scrub/shrub and forested habitat for wildlife at previously barren lands, and expands/restores aquatic habitats for fish and other river species. Additionally, the wetland mitigation site extends and improves public trail networks to natural areas.

The restoration of Tulpehocken Creek on the Zartman Farm improved a degraded section of stream. This area was targeted by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) for improvement and restoration. The restoration design included the narrowing of the channel to the appropriate bankfull width through the use of in-stream rock structures, boulder bank revetment and mud sills. PFBC best management practices were incorporated into the design.



Tulpehocken Creek on Zartman Farm - Overwide channel with mid channel bar



Restored Tulpehocken Creek on Zartman Farm - Cross rockvane to concentrate flows and built out left bank



Desilting Basin mitigation site before mitigation, showing poor soils



Desilting Basin mitigation site during construction, showing diversity of habitat and improved ADA trail



HARRISBURG, Pa. (Jan. 28, 2021) – The American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania (ACEC/PA) named AECOM Technical Services, Inc., as the 2021 Environmental Projects winner for the completion of the I-78 Wetland and Stream Mitigation project, at the organization’s annual Diamond Awards for Engineering Excellence.

“The impact our infrastructure has on the en-

vironment should never be taken lightly, and AECOM's winning project is a prime example of how creative solutions to difficult roadway development problems can help preserve our land and waterways,” said Leeann Sherman, executive director of ACEC/PA. “The AECOM team and their partners should be proud of the outstanding work they undertook to protect our ecosystems for generations to come.”



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