



BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED

Winter 2005 Newsletter

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Annual Banquet A Success

January 13th, 2005 was a milestone in the history of Blue Mountain Wildlife Incorporated. Our First Annual Membership Banquet was held at Haag's Hotel in Shartlesville. Forty-three members attended the regular business meeting and stayed for the food and entertainment that followed.



BMW Members gathering at Haag's Hotel



Linda Holliday and Pat Christ

President Barry Shollenberger called the meeting to order, welcomed the members and introduced the officers and directors present. He also introduced Darrell Trainer of Abilities Unlimited,

Dan and Pat Christ and Lloyd and Phoebe Hopkins as Honored Guests of Blue Mountain Wildlife. Following the introductions, brief Committee reports were given outlining the accomplishments of

each Committee in 2004 and each Committee's plans for 2005. Blue Mountain Wildlife's Secretary Sue Fisher then took over the meeting and accepted nominations for offi-

cers for 2005. Dinner was served and the members enjoyed the fine Pennsylvania Dutch fare offered by Haag's Hotel staff while renewing acquaintances and making new ones. After dessert, the members elected the officers for 2005 and seven directors. The floor was then cleared for the evening's entertainment. Linda Holliday's engaging acts of magic, ventriloquism, comedy and song capped the evening and gave Blue Mountain Wildlife a night to remember.

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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Members Elect New Officers and Directors

The members of Blue Mountain Wildlife Incorporated elected their officers for 2005 at the Annual Membership Banquet at Haag's Hotel on January 13th. Barry Shollenberger, who has served with distinction as Blue Mountain Wildlife's president for the past three years handed over the gavel



The Passing of the Gavel

to Don Waldron. Don, who has served with equal distinction as Blue Mountain Wildlife's vice-president for the past three years, heeded the members' mandate and accepted the presidency with pride.

Treasurer Sue Fisher was re-elected, but gave up her second

office, that of Secretary, to Gregg Adams. The members also elected seven directors to three-year terms that evening. Darrell Bohn and Pat Adams were returned for second terms and Kevin DeLong, Judy Fishburn, Elaine Hilbert, Ruth Ann Miklus and Jim Pierce were elected for their first.



President Don Waldron's First Speech

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2005 PROJECTS AND GOALS ANNOUNCED

Blue Mountain Wildlife has put together a rather ambitious list of future goals and projects. The following list is presented in no particular order and these goals are a list of short and long term goals.

- > Construction of a Bluebird trail and nesting boxes.
- > Construction of Eagle nesting Sites
- > Installation of benches along the Therman Madeira Trail

- > A walkway through the Butterfly Garden area.
- > Construction of an arbor in the Butterfly Garden
- > Additional signage throughout area explaining projects and interesting points.
- > Installation of footbridges at the lower end of the trail.
- > Finishing our Railroad tie barriers
- > Improvement of parking areas.

- > Improvement and marking of the Pulpit Rock trail.
 - > Maintenance and upgrades to the Cassler's Cove area.
 - > A canoe portage trail around the dam breast.
- This is just a partial list of the projects we hope to work on in the near future. Please help us by volunteering to help as we continue to improve the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area.

PARTNERING WITH P.G.C. TO BE DISCUSSED

As part of B.M.W. Inc.'s ongoing efforts to maintain and manage the Kernsville Dam area we are further exploring our options of partnering with the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

At a meeting last year representatives of the P.G.C. met with our officers and directors to explain the benefits of their cooperative program.

This program would allow the

P.G.C. to help B.M.W. to manage the Kernsville Dam area. The area north of the upper trailhead at the basin is and has been open to hunting. This program allows the P.G.C. along with BMW to post signage and patrol the area to enforce all game laws. Safety Zone areas would also be clearly along with no littering and motor vehicle use regulations.

In exchange for our help in keeping these areas open to hunting we

would receive free tree seedlings and wildlife seed mixes to help improve the surrounding area as a habitat for wildlife.

We are planning discussion and a possible vote on this cooperative program at our regular April membership meeting. If you have an interest in this matter please attend and become a part of maintaining the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area for all future enthusiasts' uses.

LOCAL GIRL SCOUT TO IMPROVE HABITAT

At our last monthly meeting we had the pleasure of meeting a local Junior Girl Scout as she presented her proposal to add to our growing butterfly garden.

Dawn L. Dietrich requested our permission to build and place several butterfly houses in and around our butterfly habitat area.

Dawn also brought along an example of the shelters she plans

on placing. Dawn further explained that she is working towards achieving the Bronze Award in Scouting and that this project would be part of her efforts to achieve the award.

All in attendance were very impressed with Dawn's presentation and welcomed her desire to help improve the garden's ability to provide habitat for our

local butterflies. Dawn's request was promptly approved and a motion to grant her approval was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Blue Mountain Wildlife Inc. greatly appreciates Dawn's help and welcomes other local Scouts and students to join in our ongoing efforts in the Kernsville Dam area.



COMING BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE EVENTS

March 10th, April 14th, May 12th, June 9th, July 14th, August 11th.... Monthly Business Meetings at the Hamburg Middle School in the L.G.I. Room. Please come out and participate in planning the Kerny's future.

April 23rd, 24th ...Many Earth

Day events at the Kerny, including the clean-up, trail work, programs and more.

May 28th ... 5K Fun Run / Walk. This event is planned for the morning and is open to all, from serious runners to those looking for a fun relaxing day

outdoors.

September 24th ... Heritage Day. We are planning guided tours of the Kerny detailing the historical facts of the area, another 5K run and, of course, the Sundae Stand. More details to follow.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

The first thing I would like to do is thank the members and the board for expressing confidence in me to serve as your president. We have many challenges and a lot of work ahead of us. Second I would like to thank Barry for the years he has served as our organization's first president. Working with him to start this organization continues to be a truly enriching experience. Barry faced many challenges and difficult decisions. I know he has made many sacrifices for the sake of the organization and I also know that without his efforts we would never have ac-

complished nearly as much as we have. Barry is truly a gifted person when it comes time to "get it done". So please join me in saying "Thank You" to Barry for all he has done and all he continues to do.

What's next? When we first started we had great success hosting clean up weekends at the Kerny. At times we had over 200 people help out over many a weekend to give the area just what it needed, a huge clean up! The next few years proved to be a great deal more complicated than the clean up effort. Making plans, getting permits, applying

for grants, co-coordinating contractors, etc. has taken a lot of time and involved a huge amount of red tape to work through. This year we need to concentrate our efforts on the many smaller projects that will prepare the area for the next stages. The other really important challenge that faces us is fund raising. Without success in this area we simply will not be able to implement our ideas for the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area. So please continue your support and involvement.

Thank You.... Don Waldron



EARTH DAY EVENTS FOR 2005

Blue Mountain Wildlife Inc. will once again participate in the annual observance of Earth Day. The weekend activities will take place this year on April 23rd and 24th.

Due to the overwhelming success we have had in recent years in our efforts to clean up decades worth of trash we are happy to announce that we plan to spend some our time and efforts on trail maintenance. We still plan on spending some time inspecting the Kernsville Dam recrea-

tion area to ensure that any trash is removed.

It is our intention however that much of the weekend is spent improving the older network of trails throughout the area. There is a substantial trail network just waiting to be opened for all to enjoy. This will involve mostly light work duties including trimming of branches and brush removal. These duties will allow everyone willing to volunteer a little time to participate.

We are also planning to present

a short program each morning as an additional enticement to bring our members and friends out to the Kerny to help improve the area for all.

A bird walk is planned for early on the 23rd and we are still working on something for the morning of the 24th. Please check our website or contact an officer for additional information in the upcoming weeks.

We hope to see you all out at the Kerny this year to help the world celebrate Earth Day.

