

# BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE

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

Winter 2008

www.bluemountainwildlife.com

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**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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## ON YOUR MARK, GET SET...GO!

Winter is almost over and spring is in the air. The Kerny's seen a bit of snow and more-than-the-usual amount of rain this year, but now it is ready to burst into life. Blue Mountain Wildlife, in spite of the inclement weather, has been busy over the winter and is preparing to burst into action this spring and summer.

First, a bit of unfinished business. Due to unforeseen circumstances, January's Annual Membership Banquet was postponed. It will be held at the Blue Mountain Family Restaurant in Shartlesville on Friday April 25th at 6:30 p.m. Meet your fellow Kerny supporters, enjoy a meal, watch a fun and informative presentation from BMW's resident historian Jeff Hartman, hear about bank swallow restoration in the basin, and see the unveiling of the BMW Comprehensive Plan for the Kerny.

The best news of the winter was that Blue Mountain Wildlife has secured two grants, one from PA Department of Community and Economic

Development and the other from Berks County Open Space and Recreation Advisory Council, to improve the Monument parking area and to complete the Therman Madeira Switchback. Work on these projects will begin shortly, starting with the Monument parking lot. The stoned area will be expanded to accommodate the additional traffic the Bartram Trail has been generating. Subsequent projects will include the topping of the Cabela's Wetlands Trail and the Therman Madeira Switchback and the construction of a footbridge over the stream near the pump station off Industrial Drive. These projects will complete the off-road connection between Hamburg and the Bartram Trail. Please remember that matching funds will be required for the grant money, so volunteer labor and donated supplies will

be needed to complete these vital projects. Contact BMW officers, drop by our regular membership meetings or attend the Annual Banquet to learn how you can help out.

Speaking of fundraising, the Race Committee has been gearing up for BMW's main fundraiser, the Northern Berks QUAD games. Check out the insert to learn more about our third annual series of races. If you are interested in physical fitness, or know someone who is, consider making competing in the QUAD Games your fitness goal. If you are not into competition but would like to support the cause, consider being a race volunteer. It's a fun and satisfying way help out. Call Pat Adams at (610) 562-7909 for more details.

Mark your calendars—the Annual Earth Day Clean-Up is Saturday April 26th. Come out and give a little back to the Kerny and the community.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—SPRING 2008

**Sunday March 30, 2008...Northern Berks QUAD "Bartram Breeze" 10K/2K Trail Race 8:00 am Kernsville Dam Recreation Area**

**Thursday April 10, 2008...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library**

**Monday April 21, 2008...Kutztown University Earth Day Festival 2:00 to 7:00 pm The DMZ Kutztown University Campus, Kutztown**

**Friday April 25, 2008...4th Annual Membership Banquet 6:30 to 9:00 pm Blue Mountain Family Restaurant Shartlesville**

**Saturday April 26, 2008...Annual Earth Day Clean-Up 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Kernsville Dam Recreation Area**

**Thursday May 8, 2008...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library**

**AN OPEN INVITATION.....EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP 2008**

**JEFF HARTMAN**

Blue Mountain Wildlife is happy to extend an invitation to everyone. We have planned our annual Clean-Up Day for April 26, 2008 between 8 am and 4 pm. As always we will be picking up trash in and around the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area. We will also be performing some minor trail maintenance and probably some cutting of trees along the access road.

As always we are seeking your help. We depend on the volunteer help of our members along with other con-



cerned citizens to ensure that the area is maintained for the enjoyment of all outdoor enthusiasts.

There may also be some firewood available for our members. This might be a good way to lower your heating bills next year. So, bring along a good pair of gloves, maybe a shovel and a rake, or even your chainsaw. We will put you to work, but the work will be more rewarding than putting together an economic feasibility workbook for your boss at work!

**GET YOUR YAK WET!**

**JEFF HARTMAN**

Spring is almost here! The waters of the Kerny will be waiting for you to break out your Kayak. The pool of the Kernsville Dam provides a relaxing place to put your kayak in the water. Launching from the upper parking lot is convenient and provides a mid-point access to the dam. The pool is long enough to give your arms a little paddling exercise and the rapids above the rock can provide a great place to paddle in place against the current.

Of course a trip up and down the



Kerny can often provide some great glimpses of nature. Kingfishers can be seen along the trees along with an occasional heron or osprey. Of course geese and ducks are common sights. A late day cruise can often reward the kayak owner with the excitement of many fish jumping above the surface to catch low flying insects.

Just remember to always wear your flotation device and I recommend a pair of sunglasses. Oh yeah, if you are sure you will remain upright, bring along your camera.

**SUPPORT THE 2008 NORTHERN BERKS QUAD GAMES**

**GREGG ADAMS**

On Sunday March 30th, the Third Annual Northern Berks QUAD Games kick off at the Monument at the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area. We've changed two of the courses this year to highlight the new Bartram Trail and the QUAD's first course is one of them. Rather than a challenging "Mad

Dash" up and down a mountain, the Bartram Breeze 10K/2K promises

Family QUAD with more age categories and prizes. We hope to encourage more kids and casual athletes to come out and compete. Fill out the insert and send it in to preregister or just show up on race day. BMW also needs volunteers to help direct parking, run registration and take pictures. If you're interested, call Pat Adams at (610) 562-7909.



to be a faster, easier run. We've also formalized the shorter races into the

**WINTER AT THE KERNY**



## **YES, I will be attending the Blue Mountain Wildlife Incorporated Fourth Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet.**

I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ adult ticket(s) at \$15.00 each for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ child (ages 12 and under) ticket(s) at \$7.50 each for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I am enclosing a check or money order made out to **Blue Mountain Wildlife, Inc.** for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Blue Mountain Wildlife Incorporated will mail your tickets to the address on the reverse.

If the name and address on the reverse is incorrect, please write the correct information below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cut out this coupon and mail with payment to:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Blue Mountain Wildlife Incorporated**

**P.O. Box 389 Hamburg, PA 19526**

### **PLAN TO ATTEND THE FOURTH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BANQUET**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Blue Mountain Wildlife was forced to postpone the Annual Membership Banquet in January. Rather than gamble with February's unpredictable weather, the Officers and Directors of Blue Mountain Wildlife decided to reschedule the 4th Annual Membership Banquet to Friday April 25th.

All members are invited to join us at the Blue Mountain Family Restaurant in Shartlesville for an evening of good food and fellowship. The meeting gets underway at 6:30 p.m. with introductions, presentations and election of officers. With the formalities out

of the way, a delightful family-style dinner of chicken and ham will be served. The evening will be capped off with the unveiling of the new Blue Mountain Wildlife Open Space Plan for the Kernsville Recreation Area followed by a fun and educational show for

all ages. Reserve your seats by April 18th, as tickets will not be sold at the door. Tickets are \$15.00 for each adult and \$7.50 for each child 12 and under and include the meal, a non-alcoholic beverage and the show. Enjoy an evening of good food and entertainment while supporting a worthy cause.

### **THOUGHTS FROM THE RIDGE "NO BATTERIES REQUIRED"**

**JEFF HARTMAN**

It seems that the youth of today are becoming more and more dependent on AA and AAA batteries. These batteries seem to have become a staple of life. A trip to the store before an impending snowstorm now must include batteries, along with the pre-requisite milk, bread, and bathroom tissue. I-Pods, MP3's, GameBoys and a hundred other battery-devouring gadgets seem to fill every young person's pockets and schoolbags. And don't even get me started on the annoying little tunes that cell phone users seem to think are cool when used as ring-tones. Of course those little tunes are

a welcome relief from the silly people screaming at each other with their "walkie-talkie" cell phones. It is bad enough, when trying to enjoy a day outdoors, we are forced to listen to one side of someone else's conversation. Why do these people think we want to be subjected to the other half of their drivel? I would rather listen to fingernails being drawn across a chalkboard!

Adults, of course, have also been infected by this plague. I must admit to

owning a couple GPS units, several FRS radios, flashlights of various sizes and a few other battery eaters. I occasionally, when entering the woods, show my disdain for these items by purposely leaving anything that requires a battery at home. I have even purchased a wind-up watch, although I almost forgot how to read a watch with hands. This is not to say that these newfangled conglomerations of circuits and wires powered by miniature self-contained energy cells

are not useful. I believe the FRS radios with built-in GPS are amazing. The ability to communicate with your friends and see where they are is a wonderful tool to be taken full advantage of when in unfamiliar territory.

There is, however, a frequent desire to return to the simpler and perhaps more enjoyable days of wandering Penn's woods. I don't know if you remember those days. It was way back. If you remember, it was before the phrase, "I got lost", was followed by, "yeah, my batteries went dead."



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