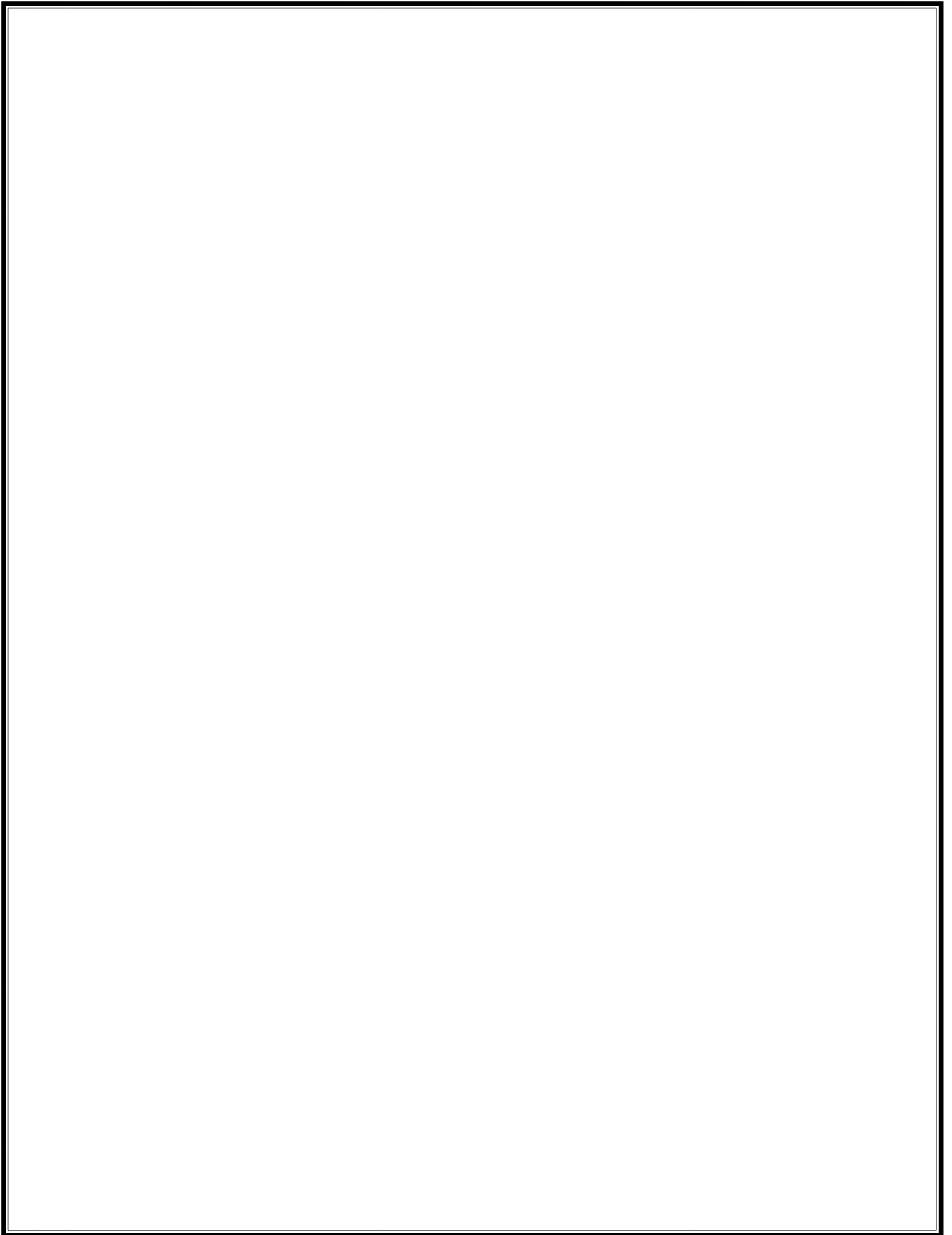


BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED

# 2013 ANNUAL REPORT





THE MISSION OF BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED IS  
THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE WILDLIFE AND  
WETLANDS ALONG THE SCENIC SCHUYLKILL RIVER

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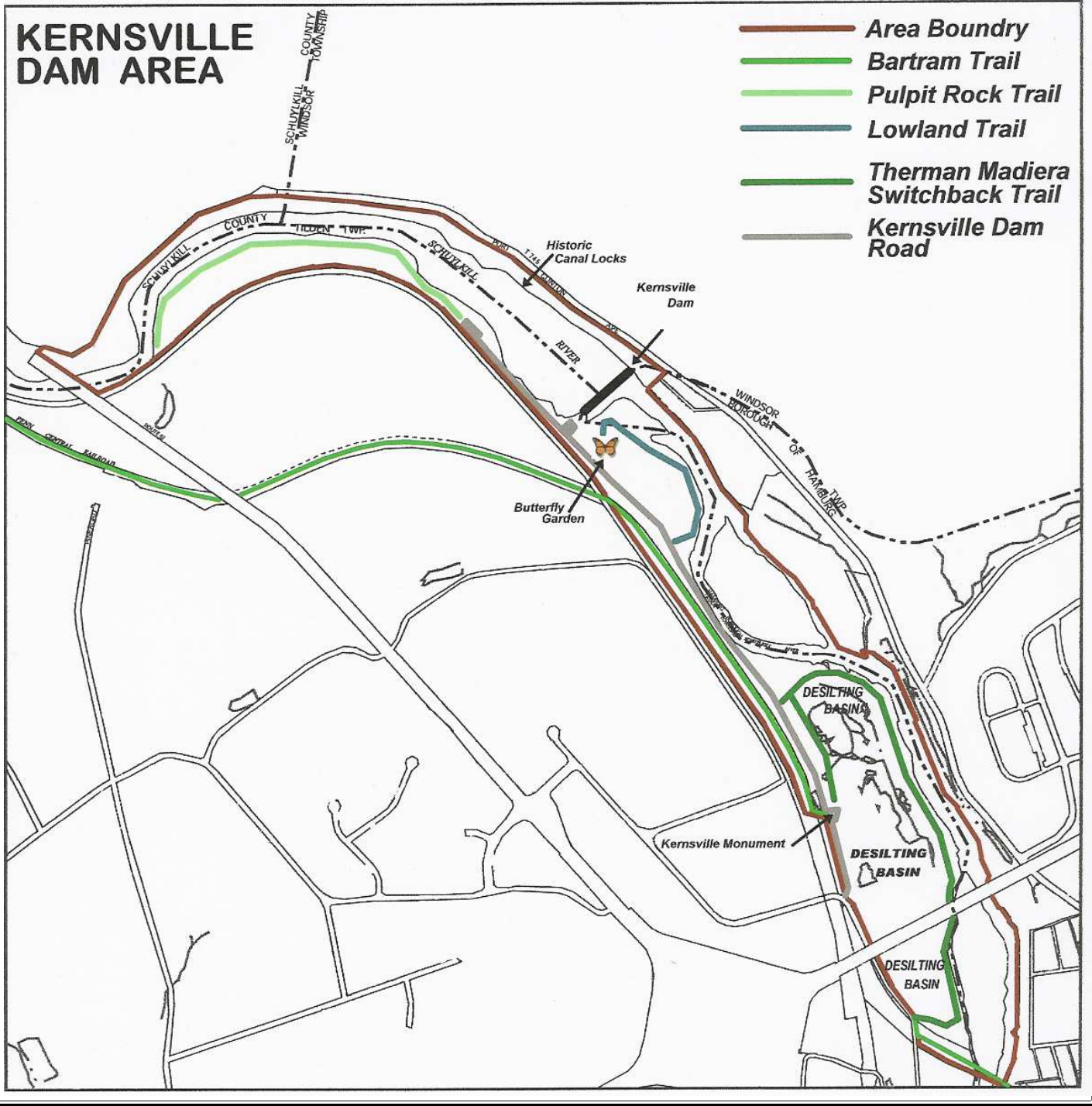
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## KERNSVILLE DAM RECREATION AREA

The Officers and Directors of Blue Mountain Wildlife Incorporated are pleased to present our Annual Report for the year 2013. Whether you are a long-time member, volunteer or are meeting us for the first time, we hope you find this Annual Report both interesting and informative.





## KERNSVILLE DAM RECREATION AREA

The Kernsville Dam Recreation Area encompasses approximately 252 acres and approximately 2 miles of the Schuylkill River which has been designated as a “Scenic River” by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Kernsville Dam Recreation Area includes:

- 183 acres in Tilden Township (72.6% of the Area)
- 44 acres in the Borough of Hamburg (17.5% of the Area)
- 18 acres in Windsor Township (7.1% of the Area)
- 7 acres in West Brunswick Township (2.8% of the Area)



*Image courtesy of MapQuest.com*



## KERNSVILLE DAM RECREATION AREA

The Kernsville Dam Recreation Area can be divided into several distinctly different areas:  
The Desilting Basin





# KERNSVILLE DAM RECREATION AREA

The Area Below the Dam



*Image courtesy of MapQuest.com*

The Area Above the Dam & The Northeast Shore of the Schuylkill River



*Image courtesy of MapQuest.com*



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## KERNSVILLE DAM RECREATION AREA

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**Desilting Basin** - Area of approximately 85-90 acres

Limited opportunities for improvements due to future use for desilting purposes  
I-78 bridge bisects the basin east to west, dividing the undulating wetlands/scrub forest  
in the northern half of the basin from the flat grassland in the southern half





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## KERNSVILLE RECREATION DAM AREA

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### **Desilting Basin**

Cabela's Wetland Mitigation Project located in the northwest corner of the desilting basin

The Therman Madeira Switchback Trail is located on the outside perimeter of the desilting basin wall along its north, east and south sides





## KERNSVILLE DAM RECREATION AREA



### **Area Below the Dam**

Area consists predominantly of lowlands and wetlands covered by mature hardwood forests

Two major islands are present in the Schuylkill River

A canoe portage and access point are located in the area below the dam on the western shore





## KERNSVILLE DAM RECREATION AREA



### **Area Above the Dam**

The lower half of the area above the dam is accessed from Industrial Drive by Kernsville Dam Road

The area near the dam provides an existing parking lot and fishing opportunities

At the terminus of Kernsville Dam Road is an existing parking lot, picnic area and popular fishing spot





## KERNSVILLE RECREATION DAM AREA



### **Northeast Shore of the Schuylkill River**

The northeast shore is a popular public access point to the Schuylkill River  
The Appalachian Trail crosses a portion of the area between Port Clinton Avenue and PA Route 61  
The northeast shore boasts a river beachfront





## KERNSVILLE RECREATION DAM AREA



### **The Bartram Trail linking Hamburg and Port Clinton**

The trailhead at Hamburg is in excellent condition and allows convenient access. The Bartram Trail follows an elevated section of the Pennsylvania Railroad right-of-way through much of the Kernsville Dam area allowing many scenic views of the surrounding countryside.

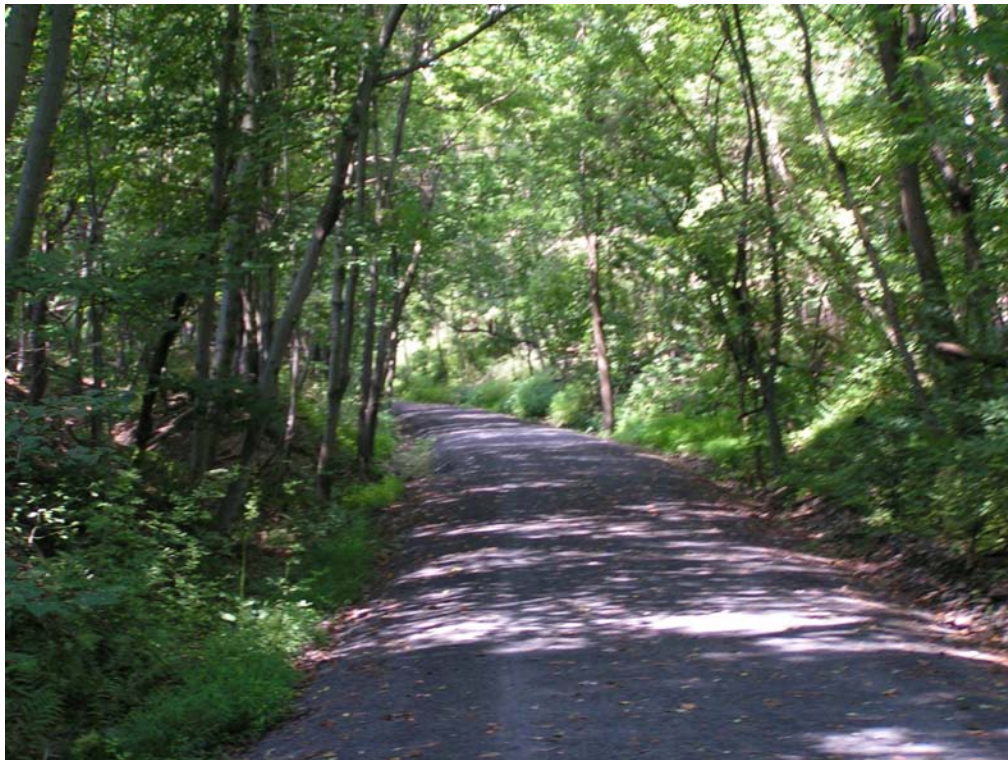




## KERNSVILLE RECREATION DAM AREA



Pennsylvania Railroad iron trestle bridge crossing over the Reading, Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad in the area just below the dam  
The northernmost sections of the proposed Bartram Trail traverse mixed hardwood and conifer forest and feature steeply sloped cuts on both sides

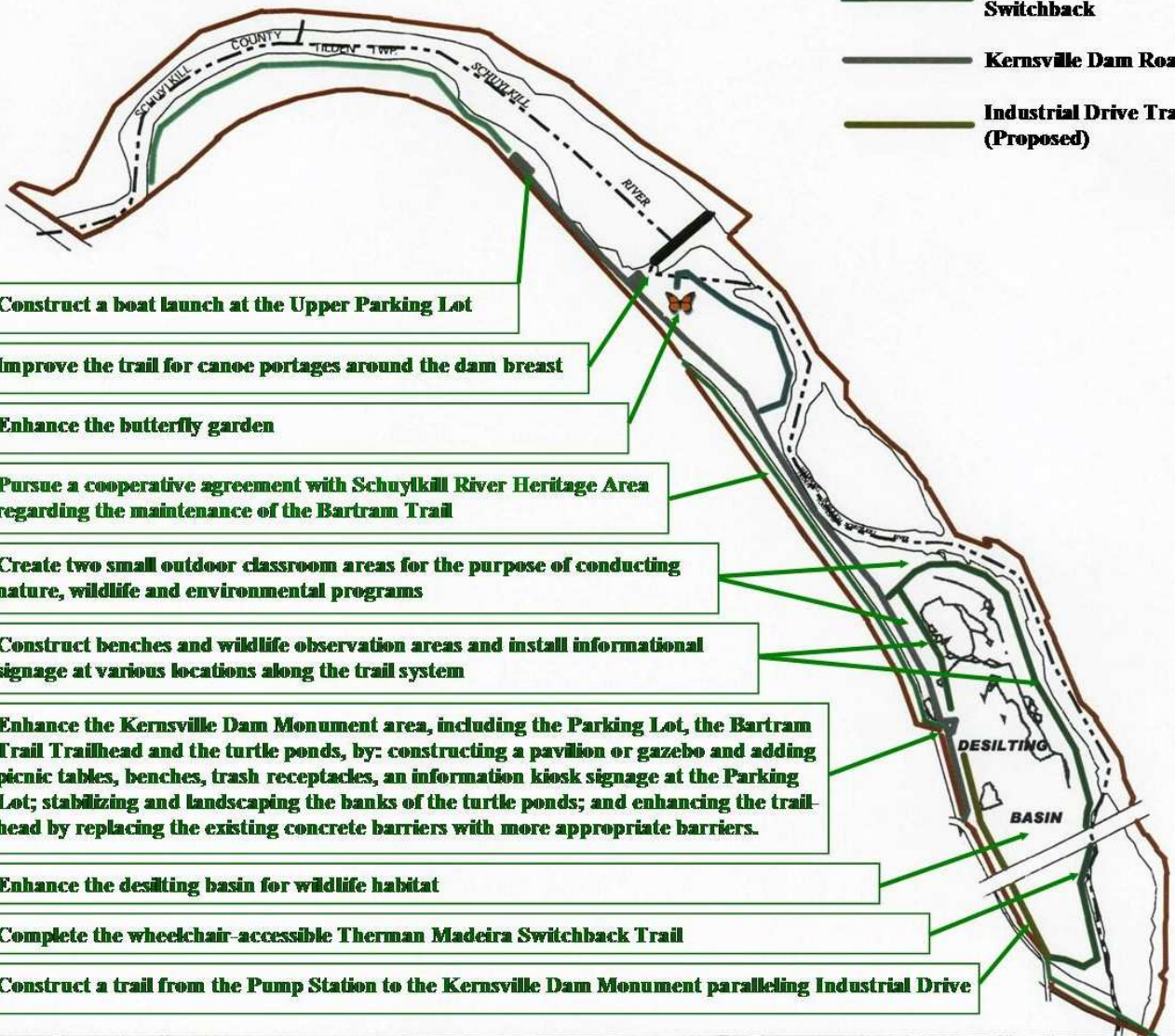





BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED LONG-TERM PLANS AND GOALS

# 2009 Kernsville Dam Recreation Area Open Space Plan

-  KDRA Boundary
-  Bartram Trail
-  Pulpit Rock Trail
-  Lowland Trail
-  Therman Madeira Switchback
-  Kernsville Dam Road
-  Industrial Drive Trail (Proposed)



-  Pursue a long-term cooperative agreement with Tilden Township, Berks County and the Schuylkill River Heritage Area for the preservation of the natural and historic Kernsville Dam Recreation Area.
-  Involve youth groups such as Scouts and school Wilderness Clubs in habitat improvement projects and environmental education.
-  Involve and coordinate the various public and private agencies and organizations, particularly at the local level, that could provide assistance with the above-stated goals.
-  Promote compatible forms of passive recreation.

**Note:** All proposed improvements are subject to approval by Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation. Any improvements proposed on land beyond that of the lease agreement will require permission and approval of the controlling interests.



## BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED HISTORY

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-  The roots of Blue Mountain Wildlife, Incorporated, go back to the early 1980's. Mr. Ron Cassler founded Hamburg Ecology Life Patrol (H.E.L.P.), which cleaned up the Kernsville Dam area, rebuilt the restrooms, and maintained trash removal and grass mowing on a weekly basis. H.E.L.P. relied upon limited funding and volunteer labor provided by its members. H.E.L.P. was active throughout the 1980's and early 1990's and several members are active participants in Blue Mountain Wildlife today.
-  In November, 2000, the first series of public meetings presenting plans for intensive development of recreational facilities in the Kernsville Dam area brought together a group of concerned citizens to form the "Friends of the Kernsville Dam". Throughout the series of public meetings the "Friends of the Kernsville Dam" offered several pre-existing alternative sites for recreational facilities as possible ecological solutions. None of these were incorporated into the proposed plans. The "Friends of the Kernsville Dam" circulated a petition in opposition to the proposed plans. Approximately 1,300 signatures were collected. The "Friends of the Kernsville Dam" approached nearby municipalities with the petition to solicit support in opposition of the proposed plan.
-  On June 29, 2001, the "Friends of the Kernsville Dam" officially incorporated as "Blue Mountain Wildlife, Incorporated" to help solidify existing support to preserve the wild area around the Kernsville Dam and develop alternative locations for recreational facilities throughout northern Berks County. Blue Mountain Wildlife consulted with and received support from nearby property owners and businesses to develop an alternative plan. The Reading, Blue Mountain, and Northern Railroad Company became a corporate sponsor. On October 10, 2001, Blue Mountain Wildlife presented its plan for the preservation of the Kernsville Dam area at a press conference to various agencies and organizations. Our plan was well received by the local municipalities and by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, the state agency that administers the Kernsville Dam area.
-  In March 2002, Blue Mountain Wildlife Incorporated applied for and was granted probationary 501(c)(3) non-profit organization status. BMW representatives attended the Hamburg Hunting and Fishing Expo, the Schuylkill Watershed Congress, Hamburg Sidewalk Sale and Hamburg Heritage Days. Major events included the Earth Day Clean-Up and participation in the Schuylkill Sojourn. Blue Mountain Wildlife also devoted much time and effort in negotiating with Northern Berks Recreation Council and other organizations to provide acceptable solutions to the issues of preserving the Kernsville Dam area while providing additional active recreation facilities in Northern Berks County.
-  Two Thousand Three saw Blue Mountain Wildlife's first major fundraising event—the Spring Rail Ramble sponsored by the Reading, Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad on May 31st. Blue Mountain Wildlife representatives attended the Hamburg Hunting and Fishing Expo on February 21-23, the Bear Creek Festival on May 18, the Northkill Watershed Meeting on July 23 and Hamburg Heritage Day on September 27. Major events included the Earth Day Clean-Up on April 26 and 27, Tilden Elementary School's Field Day activities on May 9 and participation in the Schuylkill Sojourn on June 1. On September 30, 2003, Blue Mountain Wildlife was granted a lease for the area from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation. Blue Mountain Wildlife applied for and later received a \$25,000 grant from the Berks County Open Space and Recreation Commission. The grant required 50% matching funds which was to be met through fund-raising, donations and in-kind services. By the end of the year, Blue Mountain Wildlife had contracted with Pet Net Designs to provide webhosting for a website ([www.bluemountainwildlife.com](http://www.bluemountainwildlife.com)).
-  Two Thousand Four saw the completion of Blue Mountain Wildlife's biggest project to date—the construction of the one-mile Therman Madeira Switchback Trail. The project was completed with the funding from the Berks Coun-



## BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED HISTORY

ty Open Space and Recreation Grant secured in the previous year and matching funds from donations of money, materials and time from the organization's many supporters. The second major project of the year, the construction of the Butterfly Garden, began in the spring. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission took up Blue Mountain Wildlife's request to establish a "No Wake" zone on the Kernsville Dam. Blue Mountain Wildlife took the bold step of declaring the desilting basin a "Wildlife Propagation Area", prohibiting hunting and other disruptive activities so that wildlife may flourish there and spread elsewhere along the Schuylkill. Blue Mountain Wildlife representatives attended the Hamburg Hunting and Fishing Expo. Major events included the Earth Day Clean-Up on May 1 and 2, participation in the Schuylkill Sojourn in June, the Helping Wheels Unincorporated tour of the Therman Madeira Switchback on July 11 and participation in Hamburg Heritage Day on September 25.

Two Thousand Five saw the establishment of a number of Blue Mountain Wildlife "annual traditions". The first was the Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet, held on January 13. The second was an expansion of the Earth Day activities beyond the Clean-Up. April 23rd and 24th's activities also included the improvement of approximately three-quarters of a mile of trail above and approximately one-half mile of trail below the Kernsville Dam, a bird walk and a raptor presentation. The third was the first of many fund-raising races. On May 28 a 5K Fun Run/Walk was held at the Monument and on September 24 a 5K/10K Run was held in conjunction with Hamburg Heritage Day. Other major events included selling Kerny Monster Burgers in the Taste of Hamburg-er Festival and selling ice cream and hosting historical tours of the Kernsville Dam area during Hamburg Heritage Day.

Two Thousand Six saw three major projects come to fruition. The Cabela's Wetland Mitigation project gained approval and was implemented in September. Approximately one-half acre of new wetlands and one-third mile of new trail were constructed in the desilting basin north of the Monument. On May 24, Environmental Education Day brought 120 5th graders from Hamburg Elementary School to the Kernsville Dam area for a number of outdoor educational opportunities. The Northern Berks QUAD Games were inaugurated as the organization's primary fundraiser and brought in approximately 300 participants to the four races. Other events included the Second Annual Membership Banquet on January 12 and the Earth Day/Outdoor Appreciation Weekend on May 20 and 21. On March 22, 2006, Blue Mountain Wildlife completed its 501(c)(3) probationary period and its non-profit status was confirmed and made permanent.

Two Thousand Seven saw the continuation of our successful projects. On May 11, Environmental Education Day again brought 120 5th graders from Hamburg Elementary School to the Kernsville Dam area for a number of outdoor educational opportunities. The Northern Berks QUAD Games experienced its second year as the organization's primary fundraiser and brought in approximately 300 participants to the four races. BMW also set about updating its 2001 Open Space Plan and made presentations at the four surrounding municipalities inviting them to participate. Other events included the Third Annual Membership Banquet on January 11, the Kutztown Earth Day Celebration on April 19, the Earth Day Clean-Up on April 21, the Bear Creek Festival on May 18 and the Pulpit Rock Beach Clean-Up on November 8. Scout projects included the KDRA sign by Austin Hartman and the Kernsville Monument beautification by Junior Girl Scout Troop 114.

Two Thousand Eight saw another set of projects begin. BMW secured two grants to top the Wetlands Trail and parts of the Therman Madeira Switchback as well as to construct a footbridge at the Industrial Drive pump station. Work on the Cabela's Wetlands continued. Construction was begun on an information kiosk at the Monument parking lot. An updated draft Open Space Plan was created and comments from all stakeholders solicited and collected. The BMW website was updated by KDS FX Design and BMW took over the domain name and the upkeep of the website. In its third year, the Northern Berks QUAD Games brought two races back to the KDRA and brought in approximately 280 participants to the four races. Other events included the Fourth Annual Membership Banquet on April 25, the Earth Day Clean-Up on April 26, the Bear Creek Festival on May 18 and Environmental Education Day on May 30.



## BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED HISTORY

- Two Thousand Nine saw the completion of the previous year's projects. The parking lot improvements included the completion of the informational kiosk and the installation of trash barrels. Additional sections of the Therman Madeira Switchback were topped, and the Donald Waldron Footbridge was completed and a dedication ceremony held on October 24th. Eagle Scout candidate Kurt Kissinger constructed an outdoor classroom at the north end of the Cabela's Wetlands. Despite three wet races, the fourth annual Northern Berks QUAD Games brought in 236 participants while earning over \$2,000. Inclement weather also caused the cancellation of the Annual Membership Banquet and forced the relocation of the expanded Environmental Education Day (now including Perry Elementary) to Tilden Elementary School on May 29. Other events included Earth Day Cleanups scheduled on each Saturday in April, the Bear Creek Festival on May 17th and Hamburg Community Days on July 3rd and 4th.
- Two Thousand Ten saw the convergence of a number of favorable events. Thanks to donations from several supporters and the Pennsy Paving Company, two of the worst portions of Kernsville Dam Road were milled and repaved, and the Bartram Trail Trailhead was milled, reconfigured and landscaped. Schuylkill River Heritage Area completed the topping of the Therman Madeira Switchback. Other projects, events and noteworthy items included: the coordination with the Tilden Township Environmental Advisory Council on two Township-wide Clean-Ups—in April and November; the 2010 Northern Berks QUAD Games, which brought in 245 participants and earned approximately \$3,800.00; the construction of the Environmental and Historical GPS Trail by Eagle Scout Candidate Casey Schneck; the 2010 Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet; Environmental Education Day; participation in the Schuylkill Watershed Congress, Bear Creek Festival, Hamburg Community Day and the June Hamburg Art Stroll; and community service volunteered by Penn State senior Alex Sung, Hamburg High School students Corey Furhman and Nick Meyers, and "Community Explosion" volunteers of Blue Mountain Academy and the Bridge Church.
- Two Thousand Eleven saw some ups and downs. Blue Mountain Wildlife was challenged by a number of thefts, acts of vandalism, and repeated flooding throughout the year. But the good outweighed the bad. In the early spring, Tilden Township donated a day's worth of labor and equipment to the maintenance of Kernsville Dam Road, markedly improving the road near the Upper Parking Lot. On May 12th, BMW and Schuylkill River Heritage Area hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony, officially opening the two miles of Schuylkill River Trail between Hamburg and the Bartram Trail. On July 16th, BMW celebrated its tenth anniversary with a party at the Monument Parking Lot, which drew over two hundred people. The Northern Berks QUAD Games were put on hold for retooling but, due to popular demand, the Dutch Country Bicycle Races were held on July 30th. Other projects and events included: the Annual Membership Banquet on January 28th; a cold and wet Earth Day Clean-Up on April 23rd; a warm and sunny Environmental Education Day on June 3rd; flood-damage repairs to the Therman Madeira Switchback in May and September; the completion of the second outdoor classroom by Eagle Scout candidate Danny Capitelli in May; more road repairs by the Bridge Church "Community Explosion" volunteers and the Tilden Township road crew in July; a tree planting in the Cabela's Wetland in November; and volunteer service by Alex Hartman. BMW also participated in Hamburg ThawFest, Central Berks Community Day Fair, Bear Creek Festival, and the Taste of Hamburg-er Festival.
- Two Thousand Twelve saw a number of small projects come to fruition. Funding from a "Trails Town" grant allowed BMW to move forward with a pair of signage projects: an informational sign describing the creation of the desilting basin was installed in the fall on the Cabela's Wetlands Trail and in the late summer and early fall work crews installed the bases for trail name signs. In late summer, Bridge Church Community Explosions helped fill more potholes in Kernsville Dam Road, bringing it up to the best condition it's been in over a decade. Finally, the January 2013 installation of the raptor nesting pole capped the year-long planning and fabrication effort. The Northern Berks QUAD Games returned to draw 257 participants and a new race, the Dine & Dash, was introduced at the Taste of Hamburg-er Festival. In March, Berks County Conservation District honored BMW with their Conservation Group of the Year. BMW participated in a record number of community events in 2012: the Annual Banquet in January,



## BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED HISTORY

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ThawFest and Earth Day Clean-Up in April; Central Berks Community Day, Bear Creek Festival and Environmental Education Day in May; and Get Outside Day and Tilden Township's 125 Anniversary in June.

Two Thousand Thirteen witnessed the completion of a number of smaller projects. In January, the raptor nesting pole was erected in the Basin. In April, a permanent gate was installed at the Upper Parking Lot, completing a project that took a year to design, fabricate and install. During June and July, work crews installed the trail signage onto the bases that had been installed in 2012. A game camera was installed near a perennial dumping site in an effort to catch and deter illegal dumping and vandalism. Repair work on the Kernsville Dam Road continued in 2013, with work by BMW volunteers, the Tilden Township Road Crew and Bridge Church Community Explosion volunteers in April, July and September. The Northern Berks QUAD Games returned to draw 188 participants and the Taste of Hamburg-er Festival Dine & Dash Burgers & Trails Race returned for a second successful run. The Basin hosted a "Walking With Dragonflies" tour in August and BMW's Pat Adams led a tour of "The Moving of the Schuylkill River" in October. Eagle Scout Candidate Charlie Cravotta designed, constructed and installed two bat boxes during

## 2013 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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### **Blue Mountain Wildlife Incorporated Officers**

 Don Waldron                      President 2013


Don has been a resident of Tilden Township since 1989 and has been a life-long outdoor enthusiast. He has served as President of Tilden Action Group, a citizens group that was involved with past land-use issues in Tilden Township. He is currently active in various outdoor clubs. He is also currently a Tilden Township alternative delegate to the Northern Berks Recreation Commission.

 Mary Jo McCormick              Vice-President 2013

Mary Jo is a resident of Fleetwood. She was volunteered into the group by her sister Pat Adams for the Dutch Country Bicycle Race and went on to accept a Directorship.

 Gregg R. Adams                      Secretary 2013

Gregg spent 20 years growing up on his parents' property off Lowland Road in Tilden Township and has been a resident of Hamburg since 2008. He is a life-long outdoor enthusiast. He currently is a Planner with South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County.

 Sue A. Fisher                      Treasurer 2013

Sue Fisher is a lifetime Hamburg Area and a Tilden Township resident since 1994. She spent many years as a teenager and an adult enjoying the Kernsville Dam environment. Sue currently operates two businesses out of her home and is a former Reading Company and Conrail employee.

### **Blue Mountain Wildlife Incorporated Directors**

 Gregg R. Adams                      Director 2012-2014

Gregg spent 20 years growing up on his parents' property off Lowland Road in Tilden Township and has been a resident of Hamburg since 2008. He is a life-long outdoor enthusiast. He currently is a Planner with South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County.

 Pat A. Adams                      Director 2011-2013

Pat is a former teacher with the Hamburg Area School District and a resident of Tilden Township since 1960. She is







2013 PROJECT IMAGES

2013 Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet January 25th





2013 PROJECT IMAGES

**Earth Day Clean-Up April 20th**





2013 PROJECT IMAGES

**Upper Parking Lot Gate and Spring Road Repairs**





## 2013 PROJECT IMAGES

### Community Event Participation



*Bear Creek Festival May 19th*



*Fun In The Sun Day June 8th*



*Get Outside Day June 15th*



*Let's Go Camping With Cabela's June 29th*



2013 PROJECT IMAGES

Environmental Education Day May 22nd



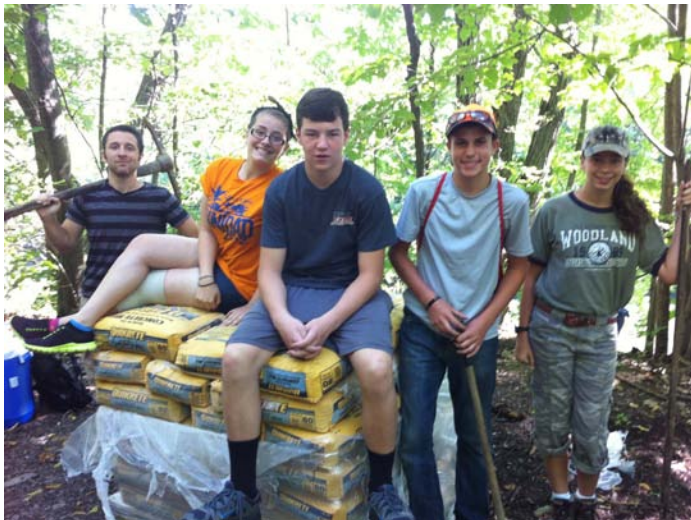


2013 PROJECT IMAGES

Trail Signage Installation



Bridge Church Community Explosion July 29th





2013 PROJECT IMAGES

Walking With Dragonflies August 10th





2013 PROJECT IMAGES

**Northern Berks QUAD Games**  
**Bartram Breeze "Road" Races April 13th**



**Mad Dash Trail Races May 18th**





2013 PROJECT IMAGES

**Northern Berks QUAD Games**  
**Dutch Country Bicycle Races July 28th**



**U Can DU It Duathlons September 29th**





2013 PROJECT IMAGES

**Taste of Hamburg-er Festival Dine & Dash Burgers & Trail Race September 1st**





2013 PROJECT IMAGES

**“The Moving of the River” Historical Tour October 20th**



**Charlie Cravotta Bat Box Project**





