

# BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE

INCORPORATED

Winter 2018

www.bluemountainwildlife.com

BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE  
P.O. BOX 389  
Hamburg, PA 19526INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:ANNUAL  
BANQUET2018  
EVENTSOUTDOOR  
CLASSROOM

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 NEW HOPE

Spring is officially here but this winter is not giving up without a fight. Fortunately, time is on our side and winter's demise is inevitable. Soon enough we'll be starting our gardens, mowing our lawns and walking the trails at the Keryn watching the annual rebirth of nature. I can almost hear the peepers now...

As Blue Mountain Wildlife moves into year two of the closure of the area north of the desilting basin, we seem to have settled back into our normal routine planning, programs, maintenance and construction. With Ryan Kemp's Eagle Scout project complete, BMW is now looking forward to McKenzie Greenawalt's native plant and butterfly garden at the Monument Parking Lot, as well as other improvements to the immediate area.

The spring and summer programs are set and include a number of events in conjunction with Berks Parks and Recreation.

Kaercher Creek's unfortunate closure resulted in our partnership with Berks Parks and Rec and has allowed the Keryn to shine. Look for the new programs in the center section of this newsletter.

Of course, no review of Blue Mountain Wildlife's spring programs would be complete with the Trail Race Series. This year's fundraiser kicks off on Saturday April 14th with the Bartram Breeze, continues on Saturday May 19th with the Mad Dash and concludes on Saturday June 23rd with the Run To The Rock. Dust off the running shoes, gather the family and meet us out on the trail!

Don't forget to join us on Saturday April 21st for the Earth Day Clean-Up. It starts at 8 AM at the Monument Parking Lot. Free coffee and doughnuts to start the day, followed by a free hot dog lunch for those who show up after noon. Let's do a little spring cleaning and get the Keryn ready for summer!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—SPRING 2018

Thursday April 12, 2018...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 pm Hamburg Library  
Saturday April 14, 2018...BMW Trail Race Series Bartram Breeze 9:00 am Kernsville Dam Recreation Area  
Saturday April 21, 2018...Earth Day Clean-Up 8 am to 4 pm Kernsville Dam Recreation Area  
Thursday May 10, 2018...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 pm Hamburg Library  
Saturday May 12, 2018...Bird Walk at the Keryn 7:00 am Kernsville Dam Recreation Area  
Saturday May 19, 2018...BMW Trail Race Series Mad Dash 9:00 am Hamburg Reservoir  
Sunday June 3, 2018...Invasive Species Hunt & Hike 9 am Kernsville Dam Recreation Area  
Sunday June 3, 2018...Bear Creek Festival 12 noon Schuylkill County Fairgrounds  
Saturday June 9, 2018...Get Outdoors Day 10 am Blue March Dry Brooks Day Use Area  
Saturday June 23, 2018...BMW Trail Race Series Run To The Rock 9 am Hamburg Community Park

# THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND BANQUET

GREGG ADAMS

For the fourteenth time, the Blue Mountain Wildlife officers, directors and members gathered to review the year past, elect officers and look to the new year ahead. This years gathering was again at The Loft at C.J. Hummel’s in Lenhartsville on Friday January 26th. About thirty-five people gathered to renew old friendships and create new ones.

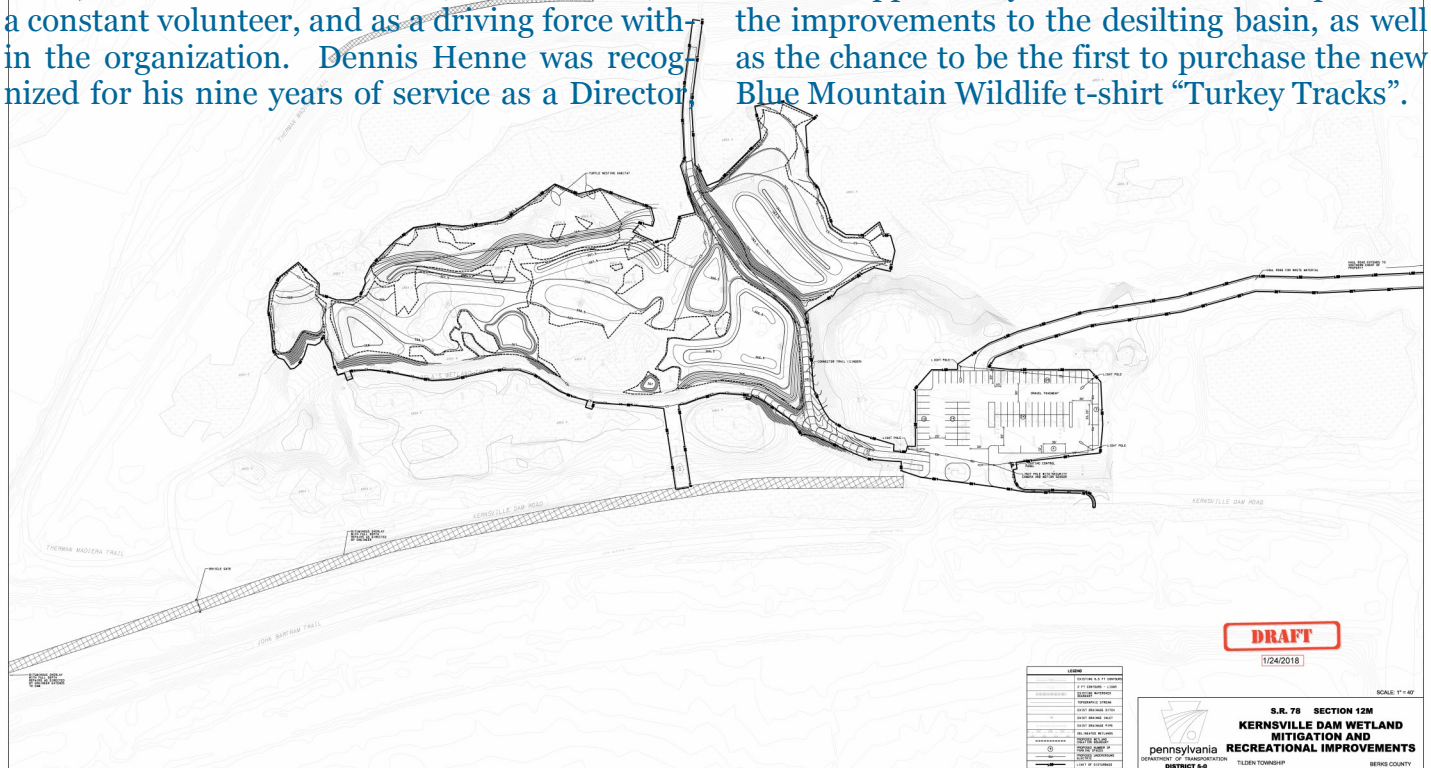
The meeting opened with President Don Waldron welcoming the attendees and leading the introductions. Treasurer Sue Fisher gave the financial report and Gregg Adams gave the membership, communications and programs reports for 2017. The membership assembled then elected Donald Waldron to the office of President, Neven Dries to the office of Vice-President, Gregg Adams to the office of Secretary and Sue Fisher to the office of Treasurer. Gregg Adams and Mary Jo McCormick were elected Directors for three-year terms.

After the elections, Blue Mountain Wildlife recognized those who had a great impact on the organization and the Kerny over the past year. Barry Shollenberger was recognized for his work with Blue Mountain Wildlife, as a founding member and its first President, as a Director, as a constant volunteer, and as a driving force within the organization. Dennis Henne was recognized for his nine years of service as a Director

as well as his many years of service as volunteer and “trail ranger”. Elaine Cook was recognized for her seven years of tireless work on the Race Committee. Ryan Kemp was recognized for his work with his Eagle Scout project “Rehabilitating Outdoor Classroom #1” in the desilting basin.

After the buffet dinner was served, Ryan Kemp presented an overview of his Eagle Scout project in words and pictures. Richard Gardner presented an informative lecture on the Green Lanternfly, its spread as an invasive species, the futility of the controls proposed and possible natural controls. Jerry Neal of PennDOT capped off the evening with a timely overview of the I-78 widening project and its impact on the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area, including the proposed additional wetlands to be constructed within the desilting basin as offsets for wetlands to be lost to construction and proposed improvements to the Monument Parking Lot and trail system as compensation for the loss of use of the existing recreation facilities during the construction of the new wetlands and of the I-78 bridge addition.

After the final presentation, the attendees had the opportunity to review the draft plan for the improvements to the desilting basin, as well as the chance to be the first to purchase the new Blue Mountain Wildlife t-shirt “Turkey Tracks”.





## **2018 EVENT SCHEDULE**

**GREGG ADAMS**

Blue Mountain Wildlife is lining up a number of events on its calendar for 2018, both at the Kerny and on the road.

**BMW Trail Race Series Bartram  
Breeze 10K, 5K or 2K Trail Races  
Saturday April 14th 9 AM  
Kernsville Dam Recreation Area**

Blue Mountain Wildlife's calendar of events kicks off with the 2018 Trail Races Series Bartram Breeze 10K, 5K or 2K Trail Races. The TRS is the main fundraiser for Blue Mountain Wildlife and highlights some of the great recreational opportunities here in northern Berks. The TRS is a series of three events, each with a long, intermediate and short distance. Try one or do them all, starting with the Bartram Breeze! Registration opens at 8 and all three races start at 9. Plenty of snacks and refreshments will be on hand, DJ Brett will be spinning the hits, and Cracker Barrel will be catering a hot breakfast for all participants after the races. Online pre-registration will be open until Thursday April 12th. And volunteers that help out with the races will get free t-shirts and breakfast! Check out [www.BlueMountainWildlifeStore.com](http://www.BlueMountainWildlifeStore.com) and BMW's Facebook page for all the details.

**Earth Day Clean-Up  
Saturday April 21st 8 AM  
Kernsville Dam Recreation Area**

Celebrate Earth Day 2018 by doing a little spring cleaning at the Kerny! Blue Mountain Wildlife will be hosting the annual Earth Day Clean-Up. Clean-Up Projects for Groups and Walk-Ins. All Equipment Provided. FREE Coffee and Pastries For Participants. FREE Hot Dogs and Soda Lunch For Participants. Find the "Trash Easter Eggs" for Free Prizes. JUST SHOW UP AND HELP OUT!

**Berks Parks and Rec  
Bird Walk at the Kerny  
Saturday May 12th 7 AM  
Kernsville Dam Recreation Area**

Join us for an early morning walk along the Cabela's Wetlands Trail looking for birds attracted to the wetlands and other wildlife abundant to the area. The Kernsville Dam Recreation Area

is one of the best locations in the County for birders, and this is a peak time for migrant song-birds. Dress for the weather, and for a leisurely walk about 1-mile in length. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair from us. Depending on the weather, we should see 35 or more species of birds!

**BMW Trail Race Series Mad Dash  
5-Mile, 5K or 2.5K Trail Races  
Saturday May 19th 9 AM  
Hamburg Reservoir**

Join BMW at the Hamburg Reservoir for the second event of the 2018 Trail Race Series, the Mad Dash! While the 5K and 2.5K courses are challenging in their own right, the real challenge is the monster 5-Mile course straight up the Kitatinny Ridge. Of course, the last two miles are all down hill! The same good things at the Bartram Breeze will be at the Mad Dash, except that Red Robin will be catering brunch. Bring the whole family for a fun morning on the mountain.

**Berks Parks & Rec  
Invasive Species Hunt and Hike  
Sunday June 3rd 9 AM  
Kernsville Dam Recreation Area**

Join us for a late spring hike to identify common non-native invasive plants like garlic mustard, multiflora rose, various honeysuckles, oriental bittersweet and more. We will also look at the 'Tree-of-Heaven' and its relationship to the spotted lanternfly. We'll meet in the Monument Parking Lot for a moderate hike and learn how you can help keep our forests and wetlands healthy and clean. Wear a sturdy pair of shoes and bring a pair of work gloves so we can tackle some of the intruders we find. In case of heavy rain, the hike will be canceled. Program sponsored by the Blue Mountain Wildlife Inc. in partnership with the Berks County Parks and Recreation Department.

**Bear Creek Festival  
Sunday June 3rd 12 Noon  
Schuylkill County Fairgrounds**

Join Blue Mountain Wildlife at the Bear Creek Festival! The Bear Creek Festival is a family-oriented event that offers visitors many fun educational activities related to our environment.

This event is free and open to the public. There are FREE events and activities for all ages! Past activities have included: Build your own bluebird house with Home Depot, Paint a flower pot, Schuylkill County Trout Unlimited's annual fishing derby, Animal talks given by the Red Creek Wildlife Center, and Live music.

### **Get Outdoors Day**

**Saturday June 9th 10 AM**

#### **Dry Brooks Day Use Area, Blue Marsh**

Join Blue Mountain Wildlife at Get Outdoors Day! Celebrate the annual National Get Outdoors Day! We will have a variety of displays and activities to help you learn about the different ways you can recreate outdoors. Participate in a variety of activities, demos, and presentations, including: Scavenger Hunt with Prizes, Red Creek Wildlife Raptor Shows, PennStar Helicopter Visit, BAMBA Trail Bike Ride, Control Tower & Garden Tours, Paddle Demos & Water Safety, K-9 Rescue Demos, Fly Fishing & Catfish Pond, Geocaching & Orienteering, and so much more! For questions call 610-374-2944 or visit [www.nap.usace.army.mil/bluemarsh](http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/bluemarsh).

### **BMW Trail Race Series Run To The Rock 10K, 5K or 2.5K Trail Races**

**Saturday June 23rd 9 AM**  
**Hamburg Community Park**

Finish up the 2018 BMW Trail Race Series with the Run To The Rock, the only legal way to get to Kernsville Dam and "The Rock" this year. All courses start at the Hamburg Park. The 2.5K and 5K courses cross the river to the Kernsville Dam Rec Area, but the 10K course runs on every trail at the Kerny and ends up on top of "The Rock" itself before heading back to the Park. Once again DJ Brett and Cracker Barrel will be waiting there with music and free hot breakfast.

### **Mengel Natural History Society/Baird Ornithological Club Dragonfly Walk**

**Saturday August 11th 10 AM**  
**Kernsville Dam Recreation Area**

Come spend the day wandering through the desilting basin and meeting its insect inhabitants up close. Fun, educational and a great opportunity for pictures. Coordinators: Ken Lebo 610-856-1413 and Tony Schoch 610-670-0657.

### **Taste of Hamburg-er Festival**

#### **Dine & Dash Burgers & Trail Race**

**Saturday September 1st 10:30 AM**  
**2nd & State Streets, Hamburg**

Mixing the spirit of an active outdoor lifestyle with that of ground beef indulgence may sound impossible, but Blue Mountain Wildlife is giving it a try. Work up an appetite for Taste of Hamburg-er Festival by running the Dine & Dash. Start by downing a burger. Then run a mile. Then down another burger. Then finish it off with another mile run. What could be better!

### **Berks Parks and Rec**

#### **Starwatch In Northern Berks**

**Friday September 14th 7 PM**  
**Kernsville Dam Recreation Area**

We invite you to gaze into the night sky to view planets and star constellations, with members of the Berks County Amateur Astronomical Society. Bring your own telescope if you have one, a flashlight and chairs to enjoy a late summer evening of starwatching. Cloud/Rain date: Saturday, 9/15.

### **Berks Parks and Rec**

#### **Indian Campfire Stories**

**Saturday September 29th 7 PM**  
**Kernsville Dam Recreation Area**

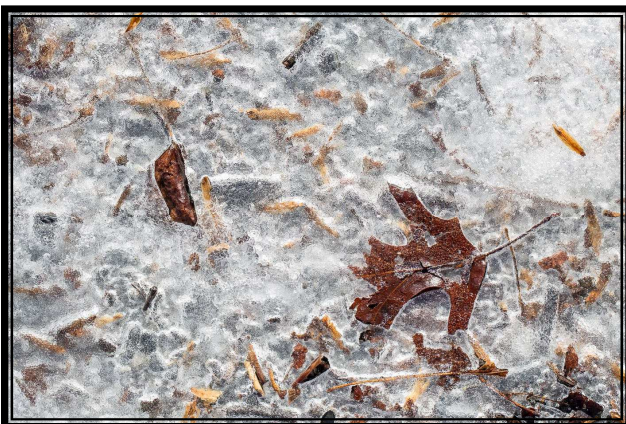
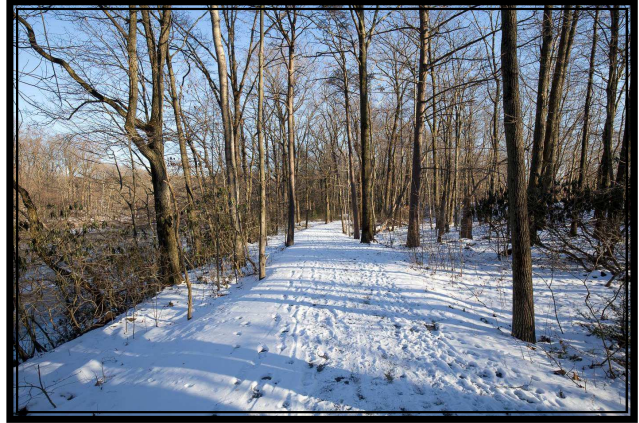
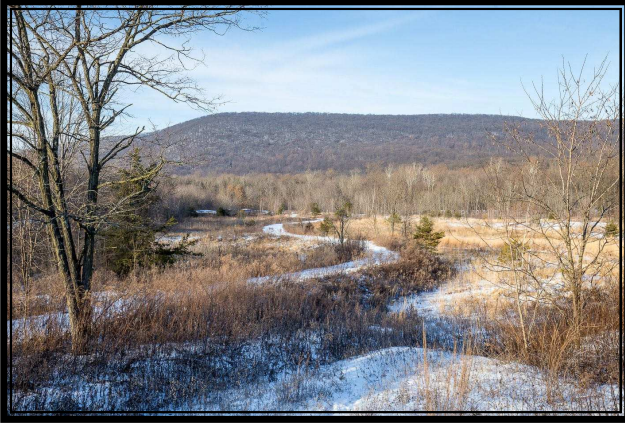
Dave "Big Owl" McSurdy will stand on 'twelve skunk skins' to tell stories about Rainbow Crow, How a Cicada tricked a Coyote, a race between a rabbit and a turtle, and other stories told around an American Indian campfire. Stories are for all ages from young to young at heart. In case of rain, the program will be canceled. Program sponsored by the Blue Mountain Wildlife Inc. in partnership with the Berks County Parks and Recreation Department.

### **Berks Parks and Rec History Hike**

**Saturday October 20th 10 AM**  
**Kernsville Dam Recreation Area**

Join volunteers of Blue Mountain Wildlife Inc. to learn and explore the rich history of this transportation corridor along the Schuylkill River. Make sure to wear sturdy walking shoes. Please call ahead to register 610-374-2944.

**WINTER AT THE KERNY**



## REHABILITATING THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

RYAN KEMP

It has been my honor and privilege to work with the Blue Mountain Wildlife Association constructing an outdoor classroom along the Kernsville Dam Schuylkill River Trail. Even though it was a challenge, my goal was that the finished project will greatly serve the community. The six benches, each 7 feet long, were constructed using Trex and pressure treated lumber. Trex is an eco-friendly outdoor decking material that requires low maintenance. For hikers, walkers and even furry footed friends, the benches, that overlook the wetlands, will provide



a place to rest and take in the beauty of nature. This area can also be used as a learning facility by local schools and community organizations.

Clearing the land was the most demanding part of the project. It was surrounded and filled with all types of sticker bushes, brush, and small fallen trees. I designed and cleared the outdoor classroom area to provide enough room for all six benches and additional room to walk around. I also cleared two paths that can be used to enter and exit the classroom area.





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