

BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE

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

Spring 2018

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 HOPEFUL SPRING

As the Kerny shakes off winter's grip, Blue Mountain Wildlife is finishing up the plans for the spring. Each year begins with hope, but this year there was much more to be hopeful for. The PennDOT project to install new wetlands in the Basin

helped raise our hopes, as did the two Scout projects in progress at the time. The previous summer saw a marked decrease in the number of visitors to the Dam and The Rock, spurring hopes that the worst had passed and perhaps the State would begin to consider opening the rest of the Kerny up to the public.

As our events came and went, the hopefulness grew. Even the cold and wet Mad Dash buoyed our spirits, for those that showed up seemed to enjoy themselves. And then we learned that the funding for the re-

moval of the Kernsville Dam had actually made it into the State budget. While this is a contentious topic, the removal of the Dam is likely to herald in the re-opening of the rest of the Kerny to the general public. That is cause for some excitement.



So the spring passed. BMW's events went well. The projects from our Scouts have been completed and other projects that Blue Mountain Wildlife has been working on, such as the DS Trail benches,

the picnic table, and the new gate at the east end of the Monument Parking Lot, are progressing quite nicely. Certainly more cause for hope.

As the summer grinds on, with its heat, humidity and unseasonal rainfall, take some time to go out and visit the Kerny. There's always something new to see.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—FALL 2018

Saturday September 1, 2018 Taste of Hamburg-er Festival Dine & Dash Burgers & Trail Race 10:30 am 2nd & State Streets, Hamburg
Thursday September 13, 2018...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
Friday September 14, 2018...StarWatch 7:00 pm Monument Parking Lot
Saturday September 29, 2018...Indian Campfire Stories 7:00 pm Monument Parking Lot
Thursday October 11, 2018...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
Saturday October 20, 2018...History Walk 10:00 am Monument Parking Lot
Thursday November 8, 2018...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
Thursday December 13, 2018...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library

LOCAL BIRDERS ENJOY TWO SPRING BIRD WALKS THROUGH THE BASIN KERRY GRIM

The Cabela's Wetland Trail through the desilting Basin, Therman Madeira Switchback Trail along the Schuylkill River, and the cut-off trail across the basin provides ¾ mile loop enjoyed by walkers, runners, and wildlife watchers. Most walkers will eventually have a close encounter with deer, gray squirrels, chipmunks, and rabbits. The area has become a year-round Berks County birding hotspot as a result of the trail system.

Two organized bird walks were held in and around the desilting basin this spring. The first was held April 7, now a yearly bird walk sponsored by the Baird Ornithological Club. The weather was not conducive to birding with temperatures in the thirties with breezy conditions

and snow flurries. Seven birders participated. Despite conditions, we identified 39 species that included a local Bald Eagle and a Dunlin, a rare species anywhere in Berks County and the first on record for the Kernsville area.

The second walk was held May 12, promoted by Berks County Parks and Recreation Department. Once again, the weather was not the best with cloudy skies, mist, fog, and cool temperatures. These conditions kept participants to five. However, the same conditions slow the migration and this was evident with 54 species identified. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was seen and heard well; a boreal forest species and rare migrant in Berks County.





EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP

GREGG ADAMS

After last year's tepid turnout for the combined Earth Day Clean-Up/Bartram Breeze Trail Races, we at Blue Mountain Wildlife we very pleased to see almost 100 volunteers show up at this year's Earth Day Clean-Up on Saturday April 21st. With all the additional hands available, much work was done and some area that have never been cleaned up in the past were given a good once-over for the first time.

The DS Trail's new benches took a step closer

to reality when Jim Turner's work crew prepped the area and poured three concrete pads where the benches will eventually be placed. Barry Shollenberger also worked on adding river rock to the monument at the picnic table. Kay Greenawalt's Girl Scouts provided a free lunch and some much-needed refreshments. When all was said and done, our industrious volunteers got out and collected over 1700 pounds of trash. A very good day at the Kerny.

THE “BARTRAM BREEZE” KICKS OFF THE 2018 TRAIL RACE SERIES

GREGG ADAMS

The Bartram Breeze 10K, 5K and 2K Trail Races kicked off the 2018 BMW Trail Race Series on a warm and sunny April 14th morning. There was an excellent turnout—80 runners registered—and nothing but good reviews were to be heard. DJ Brett spun the oldies and Cracker Barrel provided their famous hot breakfast to all who could hold a plate.

When the dust settled, Lillian Dougherty took the 2K race with a time of 12:02. Matt Schwinger took the Fastest Male in the 2K with a time of 15:06.

The 5K Race was where the competition got

hot. Matt Rollman topped the field of 34 with a time of 22:42. Kelly Trabosh took Fastest Female with a time of 24:28.

In the 10K, Logan Tarleton led the field of 24 with a time of 46:54. Right behind him was Stephanie Kershner, taking Fastest Female with a time of 47:26.

A big thanks goes out to all the volunteers who showed up to help, all of our great sponsors (especially Cracker Barrel and Hecky’s Sub Shop) and all the runners who participated. The Bartram Breeze was an auspicious start to the 2018 BMW Trail Race Series.





A WET “MAD DASH” CONTINUES THE 2018 TRAIL RACE SERIES

GREGG ADAMS

After the success of the Bartram Breeze, Mother Nature decided to continue the tradition of a wet Mad Dash. Unfortunately, she decided to up the ante this year. May 19th dawned cool and rainy, and went downhill from there. Surprisingly, the weather did not seem to deter our intrepid runners. Many showed up that morning to register, knowing full well what was awaiting them. By the looks of it, most were not disappointed in the least.

The volunteers struggled to get through the registration process with a minimum of wetness and DJ Brett managed to keep his equipment dry enough to pump out the hits. The races started a little after 9 and the small but determined field took to the trails.

The 2.5K runners came in first. Less than half of those registered actually showed up, but

William Hossler did not let the weather stop him from taking the gold with a time of 13:09. Michele Waslesyn took Fastest Female with a time of 14:27.

In the 5K, Dave Gatley led the field of 6 with a time of 33:42. Stacey Brautigam was close behind him and took Fastest Female with a time of 34:51.

The real competition was in the 5-Miler. Matthew Liptak posted the second-best time for the course with a time of 33:02. Stephanie Kershner once again took the Fastest Female award with a time of 42:12.

Hopefully Mother Nature will grant us better weather for future Mad Dashes. But for now, I believe that the participants and volunteers will long remember the Mad Dash of 2018 as one of the wettest races they’ve ever been part of.





Pictures: Gregg Adams, Jayde Dries, Neven Dries, Kay Greenawalt, Kerry Grim and others

THE “RUN TO THE ROCK” COMPLETES THE 2018 TRAIL RACE SERIES

GREGG ADAMS

In what seems to be a new tradition, rainy weather seems to be stalking the Run To The Rock. Once again, it rained on the course before the race, muting the trail markings and creating large mud puddles for the runners to slog through. But the rain stopped and Mother Nature granted us a dry start.

The Run To The Rock is undoubtedly our most popular race. The year we tied the registration from two years ago (the second highest for a BMW race) with 100 registrants.

The 2.5K runners hit the Finish Line first, with Kameron Boyer leading the field of 11 with a time of 13:55. Callie Miller took Fastest Female and posted a course record with a time of 15:05.

In the 5K, Sarah Maue topped the field of 30 with a time of 21:34. Tom Kanger took Fastest Male with a time of 2:24.

In the 10K, Mark Boyer led the field of 47 by a wide margin, posting a time of 42:11. Stephanie Kershner completed her Triple Crown for the Trail Race Series by taking Fastest Female with a time of 48:31.

Even with the rain, this was the best year for the BMW TRS, equaling 2016 with a total of 234 participants. Overall, the Trail Race Series earned Blue Mountain Wildlife over \$3,000. A big thanks goes out to the volunteers, our great sponsors and the trail runners who come out and support BMW and the Kerny. See you next year!





FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

GREGG ADAMS

It's been a quiet year for the BMW stand. It visited only two festivals so far, but those festivals are long-time favorites and are always fun to participate in.

On Sunday afternoon, June 3rd, BMW took



the stand up to the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds to attend the Bear Creek Festival. The weather was a little cool but otherwise perfect. Over 40 kids participated in the coloring contest.

A week later, on June 9th, the BMW stand went down to Blue Marsh to attend the 2018 Get Outdoors Day. We met hundreds of visitors and had a great time getting the out for the Kerny.



INVASIVE SPECIES HUNT & HIKE

GREGG ADAMS

On the morning of Sunday June 3rd, a small band gathered in the Monument Parking Lot to hike the Kerny's trails and learn the latest about the invasive species inhabiting the Kerny.

Richard Gardner led the group out Kernsville Dam Road, stopping every so often to point out

one of the many invasives that are making the area their home. He discussed how they arrived, what their impact is and even discussed some eradication methods. He then led the group down the Bartram Trail to point out more invasives. As always, it was a morning well spent.



UPCOMING EVENTS

GREGG ADAMS

As the summer heats up, BMW generally winds down. However, there are still a few events left on BMW's calendar. The first event is September 1st's Dine & Dash Burgers & Trail Race at the Taste of Hamburger Festival. Support the Kerny, grab your family, the dog and maybe some costumes, and get ready for some fun. Registration is limited to 50, so pre-register online or show up at 10 AM when registration opens to guarantee yourself a slot (and tie-dyed t-shirt). It's a great way to start Hamburger Fest!

On Friday September 14th, the Monument

Parking Lot hosts a Star Watch with the Berks County Amateur Astronomical Society. Come out at 7 PM to get a glimpse of what's above us after the sun sets.

On Saturday September 29th, Dave "Big Owl" McSurdy will be telling campfire stories between 7 and 9 PM just off the Monument Parking Lot. Bring some marshmallows!

Finally, Pat Adams will be leading a History Walk through the Kerny on Saturday October 20th at 10 AM. Learn about more than three centuries of history as you hike the Kerny.

A NEW BUTTERFLY GARDEN SPROUTS

MCKENZIE GREENAWALT

My Girl Scout Gold Award Project was to improve the area at the Kernsville Dam for butterflies. I picked this project since butterflies are an important part of our environment. Most species are decreasing in numbers, mostly due to habitat destruction and the use of pesticides. I wanted others to see how to attract butterflies with native plants and teach others how to identify local butterflies.

I designed the beds with the help of Sue Tansit, from Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery. We discussed the use of native plants to benefit the butterflies. Barry Shollenberger, Jim Turner and Gregg Adams from Blue Mountain Wildlife helped prepare the area. I marked the three beds with spray paint to get a visual of how large to make the beds. Due to the poor quality of soil and the spreading of the weeds, we put down a weed mat and then had topsoil brought in. The topsoil was donated by Andy Muller. To help keep the soil in place we lined the beds with mountain stone. I purchased native plants and

planted them in the beds with the help of others, including Pat Adams. Additional plants were donated by Pat and other members of Hamburg Community Wildlife. Since it was so dry we added mulch to the beds. The mulch was donated by Hawk Valley Farms. Barry Shollenberger leveled area. Then Barry, Kerry Grim, Jim Turner and others helped to remove larger rocks. Black-eyed Susans and Coneflowers were seeded in that area to add color and choke out weeds. I designed a brochure to help others identify the different kinds of butterflies found in our area. A brochure holder was put up at the Information Kiosk to hold my brochures as well as brochures about Monarch Butterflies designed by Sheryle Dewlewski. A butterfly house at the main bed was donated by Harold Holtzman.

Thanks to all the help I got make my project was a success. I hope to encourage others to make a difference by planting native plants in their gardens and neighborhoods.





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