

BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE

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

Winter 2023

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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BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

The heat of August is a long way from the frost and snow of winter, but the news, while it can be slowed down, cannot be stopped. After many delays, the 2023 Winter newsletter is fit to be printed.

Last winter was very quiet for Blue Mountain Wildlife. The only event was the 19th Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet back

on January 27th. The BMW Officers, Directors and volunteers performed needed maintenance and emptied the trash, and prepared for the Earth Day Clean-Up. Then spring arrived and the work began in earnest.

There's plenty of summer left to enjoy, so take every opportunity to get out to the Kerny and soak it up.

CAUTION—SNAKE AT THE BARTRAM TRAILHEAD GREGG ADAMS

Please exercise caution at the Bartram Trail trailhead, especially if you have dogs or small children. A timber rattlesnake has been sighted under and around a rock near the trail. A sign has been posted at the rock. Timber rattlers are normally not aggressive but will defend themselves if threatened. Efforts to move the snake have been unsuccessful to date.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS—SUMMER 2023

Saturday September 2, 2023...Dine & Dash Burgers & Trail Race 10:30 a.m. 2nd & State Streets Hamburg
Saturday September 2, 2023...Taste of Hamburger Festival 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Hamburg
Thursday September 14, 2023...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 pm Hamburg Library

THE 2023 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND BANQUET

GREGG ADAMS

For the nineteenth 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 year's gathering reestablished the traditional meeting place and time—The Loft at C.J. Hummel's in Lenhartsville on the last Friday of January (which happened to be the 27th this year). Over thirty people gathered to renew old friendships and create new ones.

The meeting opened with President Don Wal-

dron welcoming the attendees and leading the introductions. Special Guests included PA State Representative Jamie Barton and his fiancée, Kelly Toyota Manager John Bono and his wife, and Tilden Police Sergeant Pete Witman.

Treasurer Fred Herman gave the financial report, noting that BMW started 2022 with \$13,546 in the bank, took in \$8,168 in revenue, had \$8,580 in expenses and ended 2022 with \$13,134 in the bank.

Gregg Adams gave the membership, communi-



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Blue Mountain Wildlife has been an all-volunteer organization from day one. We've all gotten involved because we love the Kerny and want to preserve it for ourselves and for future generations. We've built a community of volunteers and have kept that community alive for

over twenty years.

The past few years have seen a drop-off in the number of volunteers for BMW events. The Race Committee, which was the main fundraising organization within BMW, has struggled to return to pre-COVID levels of activity. We've



GREGG ADAMS

cations and programs reports for 2022, noting that BMW started the year with 111 members and ended with 114 members. He then reported that, in 2022, BMW held its Annual Banquet, the Annual Earth Day Clean-Up, a Wildflower Walk, the dedication of the new pavilion, and brought the Dine & Dash Burgers & Trail Race back to the Taste of Hamburger Festival.

Jim Turner then reported on the maintenance efforts in 2022, including new fencing along the Monument Parking Lot and the repair of the flood-damaged Therman Madeira Switchback.

After Don Waldron's closing remarks, the election of Officers and Directors was held. Donald Waldron was elected to the office of President,

Neven Dries to the office of Vice-President, Gregg Adams to the office of Secretary and Fred Herman to the office of Treasurer. Fred Herman and Jim Turner were re-elected for three-year terms as Directors of Blue Mountain Wildlife.

After the elections, Blue Mountain Wildlife recognized those who had a great impact on the organization and the Kerny over the past year. Don Waldron displayed a certificate for the newest Lifetime Member of Blue Mountain Wildlife, Sandra Moroney.

After the buffet dinner was served, Phil Kistler and his artifact hunting cohort provided the assembled with a fascinating presentation on Native American artifacts they both found in the area, including both educational and humorous stories of how such artifacts are found. Then Jacob Gardner of Schuylkill River Greenways gave the assembled an update on the Schuylkill River Trail projects in the Berks and Schuylkill Counties for the next year. Of particular interest was the work on the trail north of the current terminus of the John Bartram Trail at the bridge over the Schuylkill River.

The banquet officially concluded around 9 p.m. but a number of people lingered to discuss the evening's events. A great start to what we hope will be another great year!



been unable to recruit the volunteers to plan the Trail Race Series, much less the volunteers needed to staff the events. As a result, fundraising for BMW has been down significantly since 2019. BMW has been getting by on some generous donations, but our ability to effect positive change at the Kerny has been challenged.

The Kerny could use a little help. The great thing about volunteering is that it really doesn't take much to help. A few hours here and there can make all the difference. Getting involved with this community and seeing positive results from your time and efforts are pretty rewarding. For families with kids, volunteering is a great way to show your kids how giving back to their community can be fun and rewarding. We've had plenty of kids grow up as part of the Blue Mountain Wildlife family. For those of you in the prime volunteering demographic (I'm looking at you, 40-somethings recently liberated

from your kids), volunteering gets you out of the house and into a new community with new experiences. Just give it a try! You can help us bring back our old events that you would like to see return or bring something new and different to the table for a new generation to experience.

BMW's next event is the Dine & Dash Burgers & Trail Race at the Taste of Hamburger Festival on Saturday September 2nd. Consider helping out with the D&D. We need volunteers to help set up, get the burgers out, keep the runners on course, take pictures, and staff the finish line. Along the way you'll meet a bunch of fun and interesting folks and will probably have some fun doing it. If it's not your thing, we'll understand if you pass on the next one. But we think you might find something that will keep you coming back. To learn more about the volunteer experience, call Gregg at 610-562-2386 or email BMW at info@BlueMountainWildlife.com.



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**Joseph A. Martin
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