

BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE

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

Fall 2023

www.bluemountainwildlife.com

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OUR MISSION

THE PRESERVATION AND
CONSERVATION OF THE
WILDLIFE AND WETLANDS
ALONG THE SCENIC SCHUYLK-
ILL RIVER IN NORTHERN
BERKS AND SOUTHERN
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY.



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OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

With 2023 drawing to a close, now is the time to tidy the loose ends, close the books, and get ready for the New Year with a clean slate. It's been a very busy year for this newsletter editor and too many months have passed with other priorities being addressed. Time to finish the stuff that was pushed to the bottom of the pile for the last several months, including those pesky BMW newsletters. So here they are—the Spring, Summer and Fall newsletters. Take the opportunity to look back over the last year and visit (or revisit) what Blue Mountain Wildlife has been up to.

As with the spring and summer, the fall of 2023 was a quiet one. Some new trees were planted near

the Monument Parking Lot. Some new blue bird boxes were installed in the basin. And some of you may have noticed a new picnic table near the gazebo. Blue Mountain Wildlife's projects were decidedly smaller and less flashy this year, but they are improvements nonetheless and we are proud of them. We hope that the human visitors and the animal inhabitants of the Kerny appreciate them as well.

Looking ahead to 2024, the first order of business is the Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet, to be held on Friday January 26th. Join BMW at The Loft at C.J. Hummel's in Lenhartsville to meet the people who make it all happen and see what's coming in 2024!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS—WINTER 2024

Thursday January 18, 2024...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
Friday January 26, 2024...BMW Annual Banquet and Membership Meeting 6:00 to 9:00 pm CJ Hummel's Restaurant
Thursday February 15, 2024...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
Thursday March 21, 2024...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
Thursday April 18, 2024...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
Saturday April 20, 2024...Earth Day Clean-Up 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Kernsville Dam Recreation Area

WELCOME ADDITIONS TO THE MONUMENT PARKING LOT

GREGG ADAMS

On Earth Day two years ago, Joe Matisko, Berks Nature and Blue Mountain Wildlife combined efforts and planted a dozen trees in the area to the north of the Monument Parking Lot. Shortly thereafter, the local deer noticed the new trees and decided that they were very much worth the effort to eat. And eat they did. After two years, BMW counted five trees remaining. Fortunately, we humans tend not to give up and go home. We learn from our mistakes and do better. So, Berks Nature and Blue Mountain Wildlife tried again. This time Larry Lloyd of Berks Nature provided ten oak trees and two

sweet gum trees. He also promised five more trees in the future. Jim Turner rented an auger to dig the holes and procured topsoil to augment the rather poor soil in that area. With rain threatening the original Saturday planting date, the trees were planted quickly and with no issues on that Friday afternoon. They have been watered regularly since their planting by dedicated BMW volunteers like Jim Turner and Mike Kahl. Our hope is that they survive the first few seasons and grow to provide a healthy canopy over the area, ample opportunity for nesting birds, and plenty of acorns for the local wildlife.



MORE BLUEBIRD BOXES FOR THE BASIN

GREGG ADAMS

The next phase of Callen Rodriguez' improvements project came to fruition on November 19th with the installation of thirteen new blue bird boxes. Callen, his mother Darla, Jim Turner, scout Weston Hertzog, and Weston's father placed the boxes throughout the Basin, dou-

bling the number of boxes available. Jim Turner, an avid blue bird fan, ensured that the boxes were up to snuff and placed in locations enticing to blue birds. Be sure visit the Cabela's Wetlands Trail through the basin next spring to check out the new residents.



2024 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND BANQUET

GREGG ADAMS

The Officers and Directors of Blue Mountain Wildlife invite you to join us for the Nineteenth Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet. This is always a wonderful opportunity to meet the folks who give a bit of themselves to protect and improve the Kerny, to find out what's been going on at the Kerny and what's being planned for the future, and to join and enjoy our little community. The Banquet will be held at The Loft in C.J. Hummel's Restaurant in Lenhartsville on Friday January 26th. The festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. with the committee reports, election of officers, honors ceremony and "A Look Ahead".

We will be enjoying a buffet meal which will include tossed salad, choice of two entrees (turkey or roast beef) and three sides (mashed potatoes, corn and green beans), fruits, dinner rolls and non-alcoholic drinks. Alcoholic refresh-

ments can be purchased at additional cost. Vegan offerings can be provided upon request—let us know when you RSVP. Prices will be listed on the Blue Mountain Wildlife website soon and invitations will be sent to all BMW members in mid-January.

After the meal service, we will have some guest speakers to entertain and enlighten. Our presentations tentatively include Callen Rodriguez' proposed improvements to Outdoor Classroom #1 and an update on the Schuylkill River Greenway projects along the Schuylkill River Trail.

Although reservations are not required, please RSVP by January 23rd by calling Gregg Adams at 610-562-2386 or visiting the BMW website. You can pay ahead online at the BMW website or bring cash or a check to the Banquet.



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