

BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE

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

Summer 2023

www.bluemountainwildlife.com

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TASTE OF HAMBURGER FESTIVAL

OUR MISSION

**THE PRESERVATION
AND CONSERVATION OF
THE WILDLIFE AND
WETLANDS ALONG THE
SCENIC SCHUYLKILL
RIVER IN NORTHERN
BERKS AND SOUTHERN
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY**



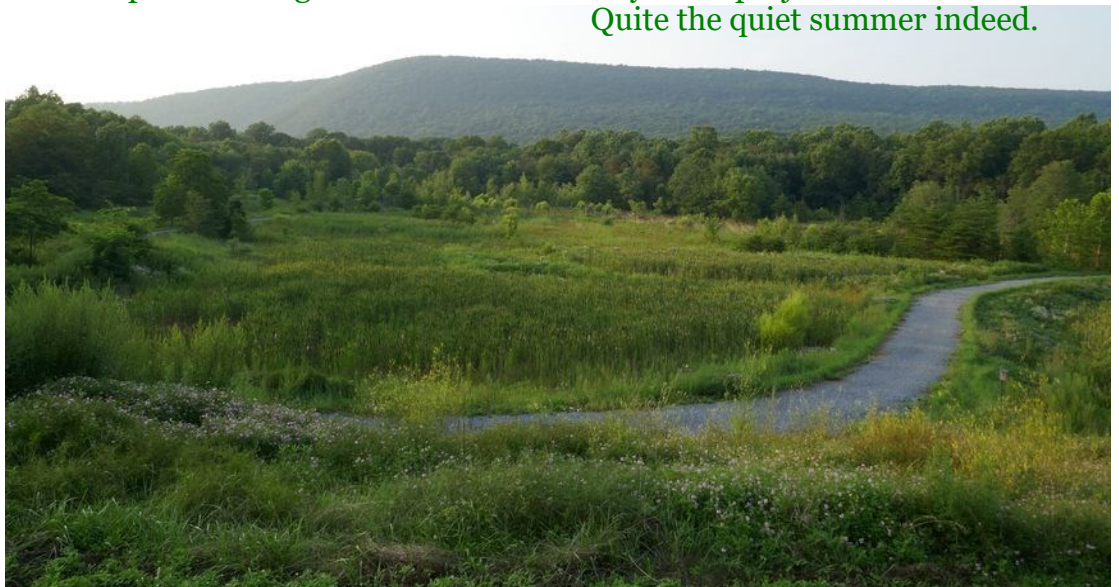
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A SNAKE AND A ROCK

When the biggest story of the summer is about a now-you-see-'em now-you-don't rattlesnake under a rock, you know it's a quiet summer. The snake in question was a rattlesnake that took up occasional residence under a large rock near the beginning of the Bartram Trail. BMW contacted a few local snake relocation services, but was never able to visually confirm the snake's presence while in contact with the service. So the snake evaded capture and sightings ended within a few weeks. Fortunately, there were no reports of anything more than a few surprised or frightened visitors.

Meanwhile, the summer progressed. BMW worked with Schuylkill River Greenway to get an accessible restroom put in at the Monument Parking Lot year-round. Callen Rodriguez continued to work with BMW on his next project—installing new blue bird boxes in the Basin. Plans were made with Berks Nature to replace the trees that had been planted near the Monument Parking Lot two years ago but had not survived. Finally, the Monument Parking Lot temporarily played host to a load of stone to be used at the Schuylkill River Greenway trail project south of Auburn. Quite the quiet summer indeed.



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

2023 TASTE OF HAMBURGER FESTIVAL

GREGG ADAMS

The September 3, 2023 Taste of Hamburger Festival kicked off in fine style with the running of the Dine & Dash Burgers & Trail Race. Blue Mountain Wildlife volunteers were out early setting up the course and marking the trail, putting up the stand and getting Race Registration active, and, most importantly, grilling up those six-ounce LaFavre Family Farm Store burgers. When registration opened at 10:00 a.m., race participants were standing in line at 2nd and State Streets waiting to check in and get their hands on the famous tie-dyed Dine & Dash t-shirts sporting the 20th Anniversary Taste of Hamburger Festival logo on the front. As the twenty-five runners gathered, BMW volunteers prepped the burgers and set the tables. Around 10:30, the horn sounded and the race began. Participants gobbled down the first burger and ran down Schuylkill Avenue to the Etchburger Trail and then to the turn-around one mile away. There they tackled the second burger before returning to cross the Finish Line.

Marcus Dietz crossed the Finish Line first with a time of 15:33. Lindsey Weber to Fastest Female with a time of 28:36. Dustin Diebert, Brett Wesner, Rayanne Kelly, and Kat Proudfoot took first place in their respective age categories. Best Costume went to Stephen Reinheimer as a chicken, Best Dog went to Lana (with Kat Proudfoot). Judges' Choices were Tina Dronick as Mary Catherine Gallagher (Superstar!) and Thomas Schappell as a crusading Knight.

After the completion of the Dine & Dash, BMW volunteers ran the stand and sold almost 700 bottles of water during the rest of the Festival. BMW volunteers also helped run the Taste of Hamburger Festival Burger Eating Event later that afternoon.

Blue Mountain Wildlife's fund-raising efforts throughout the Festival added over \$600 to Blue Mountain Wildlife's coffers and helped spread the word of our mission to many of the tens of thousands of attendees of the Festival.







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