

# BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE

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

Summer 2021

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 COUNTY**



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## A QUIET SUMMER

Happy New Year! It's a bit chilly outside and it may start snowing at any time, so it's a good time to look back a few months and remember the warm summer days at the Kerny. The summer of 2021 was a quiet one at the Kerny. We did host a Wetlands Restoration Walk with Berks Nature on July 30th, but there were no other events planned until the Taste of Hamburger Festival on Sep-

tember 4th. Of course, that did not stop Mother Nature from planning any events of her own. Hurricane Ida stopped by the Kerny in mid-September to drop a little rain and cause a little damage to the Therman Madeira Switchback. But such things are to be expected every so often and Blue Mountain Wildlife took it in stride, clearing the downed trees and making repairs.

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND BANQUET

GREGG ADAMS

The Officers and Directors of Blue Mountain Wildlife invite you to join us for the Eighteenth 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 28th. The festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. with the committee reports, election of officers, honors ceremony and "A Look Ahead". This year, 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 for \$25 per person. We are scheduling the entertainment now. Check our website closer to the Banquet date for the lineup. The Annual Banquet has been growing in popularity over the last several years and, although reservations are not required, it is highly recommended that you RSVP by January 23rd. To do so, call Gregg Adams at 610-562-2386 or email [info@bluemountainwildlife.com](mailto:info@bluemountainwildlife.com). If you wish to pay ahead of time, visit the Blue Mountain Wildlife Store to purchase tickets: <http://www.bluemountainwildlifestore.com/membership-donations/annual-banquet>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—WINTER 2022

Thursday January 13, 2022...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library  
Friday January 28, 2022...Annual Membership Banquet and Meeting 6:00 p.m. The Loft at C.J. Hummel's Restaurant  
Thursday February 10, 2022...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library  
Thursday March 10, 2022...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library

## WETLANDS RESTORATION HIKE

GREGG ADAMS

On a beautiful Saturday July 31st, Berks Nature's Sarah Chudnovsky led a small group in a walk through the Desilting Basin to view and talk about Wetlands Restoration. The tour featured the 15-year old Cabela's Wetlands Mitigation Project and the more recent I-78 Wetlands Mitigation Project. The group discussed the con-

struction of the wetlands, including the numerous plant species planted, the impact on the wildlife in the Basin, and the interaction between the existing wetlands and the new wetlands. It was a fun and educational morning for all attendees and we hope to schedule a similar hike next year.





## CLEANING UP AFTER THE STORM

GREGG ADAMS

On September 1st and 2nd, remnants of Hurricane Ida swept up the eastern seaboard and dumped a bit of rain on eastern Pennsylvania. The Schuylkill River water gauge at Berne topped out at almost sixteen feet of water in during the night (flood stage is at twelve feet). At the Kerny, the Schuylkill overtopped its banks and flooded over the Therman Madeira Switchback for a good portion of its length, with the curve at the northeast end of the Basin taking the most damage. The trail was scoured by rap-

idly-moving flood waters, losing almost a foot of trail surface in some parts.

Once the waters receded, BMW volunteers worked on repairing the damage—removing downed trees and filling in the worst holes. A big “Thank You” goes out to Tilden Township Road Master Mike Quick, who donated some of his time helping out with the repairs. As this kind of flooding happens every few years, BMW is now reviewing its options for a long-term fix.

### IN MEMORY OF RAY KADINGO

JOE MATISKO

Ray Kadingo joined the Board of Directors of the Mid-Atlantic Area Renewable Energy Association (MAREA) in early 2015. As an active Board member, one of Ray’s passions was to look for ways to reduce our carbon footprint and the effects of climate change. He gathered support and helped coordinate tree plantings in the Berks County region. In October 2019, he gathered a list of 39 tree planting volunteers in nine counties to assist with those efforts. Working with Berks Nature, he helped recruit volunteers to plant trees along Angelica Creek near Berks Nature, Blue Marsh Lake, Kempton Community Center and the Kutztown Middle School. Tree planting efforts and projects paused during 2020 as the COVID pandemic grew. Later that year, Ray paused his efforts as well due to health concerns and, sadly, in early January 2021, he passed away unexpectedly.

In memory of Ray and his efforts, the MAREA Board of Directors made a contribution to Berks Nature to plant trees at the Blandon El-

ementary School and the Kernsville Recreation Area in Hamburg in the Spring. During the planting of trees in April at the Kernsville Recreation Area, it was learned from volunteers of the Blue Mountain Wildlife organization that a memorial plaque could also be considered for placement there. Working with Gregg Adams, the Blue Mountain Wildlife Board approved the memorial plaque. And, through the efforts of Jim Turner of Blue Mountain Wildlife, the plaque was installed on a select boulder in this pristine Hamburg setting.

MAREA appreciates the many efforts of the Blue Mountain Wildlife Organization. Those efforts included tree planting (providing the hay, manure, and equipment), the review and approval of the plaque, and its installation including boulder selection, placement, and mounting of the plaque in late July. The memorial plaque and its location are a fitting tribute to Ray’s efforts.





## THE FISHERMAN

I woke up at 4 a.m. I gave my tired, worn out body directions. At 74 years old I have to tell my body what I expect. With age sometimes bodies forget just what is expected of them. Everything was going just fine except I couldn't seem to find my socks. What had happened was that I had forgotten I had already put them on. Anyone in my age group can understand this. Methodically I made my way to the kitchen. I made a cup of coffee. I placed all my medicines and supplements in my mouth and I gulped down some coffee. I had to put on my suspenders. I can't hold up my pants with a belt, they just keep falling down at the most inopportune moments. Once, while getting out of my car at the grocery store, my pants fell off. There were three young ladies standing there. I think I made their day as they couldn't stop laughing. They should have given me a few dollars for an entertainment fee. Now back to my story. I arrived at the park at 05:20. The first thing I did after parking my car was to take care of the trash. When everything was in order I drove my vehicle over to the gate entrance to the road to Kernsville Dam. I unlocked the gate and I was on my way. I parked my car

about 200 ft. below the dam. I took my fishing weapons and camera out of the car. I walked down to the dam. I was ready to do battle with the fish. I don't use live bait because catching fish on a baited hook is too very hard on the fish. My policy is that no fish will be harmed. I cast and artificial bait into the river. As soon as my lure hit the water I had a fish on. Cast after cast. Fish after fish. I was being blessed. I stopped for a moment and then I turned around. I stepped on a slippery rock. I let out one yell as I was going down. I lay there for a moment. I took a deep breath and pulled myself to my feet. Whether I was hurt or not was not of any consequence. My generation was God, Mother, and apple pie. I would not disgrace my whole generation by being a quitter. I was in pain and I hurt in places I can't even pronounce. I would see this adventure through to the end. I had already caught 50-something fish and I thought I should take a photograph or two. I ran into another problem. The fish I was catching were much too large to photograph. You will just have to believe me as to their size. Let's put it this way: when one of the fish would jump out of the water the water level would go down a foot or two. You can't make up stories like this.



## THE TASTE OF HAMBURG-ER FESTIVAL RETURNS

GREGG ADAMS

On Saturday September 3rd, the streets of Hamburg filled with the wonderful smells of hamburgers being grilled, fried, deep fried and every other possible way of being created. The Taste of Hamburger Festival returned after a one-year break for COVID and thousands of hungry hamburger fans showed up to celebrate.

Blue Mountain Wildlife was on hand as well. While the BMW Race Committee decided to cancel the Dine & Dash Burgers & Trail Race due to a number of difficulties, the BMW Stand did make an appearance, although not at its usual location at 2nd and State Streets. This year it was up on 4th Street near the Strand Theater. That put a lot more traffic in front of the stand and there was a steady stream of visitors all day stopping in to check out the pictures, pick up brochures, peruse the BMW shirts and gear, and just talk about their memo-

ries of the Kerny.

Blue Mountain Wildlife volunteers also returned to their traditional task of supporting the Taste of Hamburger Festival's Amateur and Professional Burger Eating Contests at the State Street Square Bud and Burgers Beer Garden. Volunteers Gregg Adams, Amy Browder, Steve, Anne and Ben Ostrowski, Neven and Kane Dries, Rob Fehnel and Josh Reddinger helped Master of Ceremonies Chris Tray run first the Amateur Contest and then the Professional Contest. The volunteers performed yeoman work setting up the tables and plating the burgers, keeping the official burger count for each contestant and then cleaning up afterward. While braving the threat of flying burger bits, the volunteers got an up-close and personal view of the eaters doing what they do best. It was a fun afternoon and we all look forward to next year's Festival.





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