

BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE  
P.O. BOX 389  
Hamburg, PA 19526

# BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE

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

Spring 2022

[www.bluemountainwildlife.com](http://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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## RETURNING TO “NORMAL”

The spring of 2022 continued the return to more normal activities at the Kerny. Blue Mountain Wildlife is still not at the activity level it once enjoyed, but more of the traditional BMW events are slowly returning.

The Annual Banquet, which was the last event held by BMW before COVID shut everything down in March and April of 2020, finally put in an appearance on April 1st. The BMW faithful reconnected at the Loft in C.J. Hummel’s in Lenhartsville after the two-year hiatus, enjoying a good meal, good company and two great presentations.

The Earth Day Clean-Up kicked off the Kerny’s event schedule on April 23rd. It was lightly attended, but some important work was accomplished around the Monument Parking Lot. Fortunately, volunteers collected only a small amount of trash. Not because there were few volunteers but rather because there was little trash to collect. That’s a trend we can all get behind!

The following day, in beautiful spring weather, Berks Nature hosted a Wildflower Walk through the Kerny. Almost twenty hikers showed up to participate and enjoy

the early blooming wildflowers.

The end of April saw the dedication of the new Gazebo that overlooks the Basin and a Bee House Workshop at the Monument Parking Lot. Both were coordinated by Kay Greenawalt and both were well attended.

The rest of the spring passed uneventfully. The Kerny continued to be a busy place, with the parking lot full on weekends (particularly in good weather). The I-78 Bridge Project continued unabated, with work on the south side of the bridge nearing completion and work on the north side well under way. The new wetlands have really taken root and the project is almost complete. Only the deer fencing at the northern end of the Basin remains.

BMW work crews replaced the old and deteriorating railroad-tie fence line at the Monument Parking Lot in early spring with a new split-rail fence, beautifying the area and making maintenance easier. And, of course, routine trash collection and trail maintenance by BMW volunteers continues. It’s not very flashy, but keeps the Kerny clean and inviting.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS—SUMMER/FALL 2022**

- Saturday September 3, 2022...Taste of Hamburg-er Festival Dine & Dash Burgers & Trail Race 10:30 am 2nd & State Streets, Hamburg
- Thursday September 8, 2022...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
- Thursday October 13, 2022...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
- Thursday November 10, 2022...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library
- Thursday December 8, 2022...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm Hamburg Library

# THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND BANQUET RETURNS

GREGG ADAMS

The Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet, originally scheduled for late January, was postponed to Friday April 1st. About thirty members and guests attended the evening's festivities. President Don Waldron opened the meeting with remarks and introductions. Committee reports followed, and then Election of Officers. Don Waldron, Neven Dries, Fred Herman and Gregg Adams were returned to the offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary, respectively, for another year. Three Director positions were up for election this year, with Elle Rulavage, Barry Shollenberger and Joe Swider winning the vote from the assembled membership. Don Waldron then honored Joe Swider with a Lifetime Membership in recogni-

tion of his years of service maintaining the Kerny. Mary Jo McCormick was honored with a Lifetime Membership for her service to the Kerny. Kay Greenawalt was recognized for her exceptional work on the Native Butterfly Gardens, the new Gazebo, and other improvements to the Monument Parking Lot area. After a delicious meal from C.J. Hummel's attentive staff, the membership and guests were treated to an informative presentation from Berks Nature's Sarah Chudnovsky on the Wildflower Blooms Project, which crowd-sources wildflower data along the Kittatinny Ridge. Then local author Sandy Sorlien presented the hidden (and not-so-hidden) treasures of the Schuylkill Navigation Canal along the upper Schuylkill River.





**SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK**

**GREGG ADAMS**

On the Sunday following the Earth Day Clean-Up, Berks Nature hosted a Wildflower Walk through the Basin and along the Schuylkill River. Sarah Chudnovsky led about seventeen people on the search for early spring wildflowers. She also highlighted the Flowers and Fauna of the Appalachian Trail Corridor Project, which is an effort to track the blooming times of wildflowers along the Kittatinny Ridge using the iNaturalist smartphone app. The app allows hikers to collect data when they take a picture of a blooming wildflower on their smartphone. The app automatically records the date and time and

the flower's species and location, and sends the information to a database to be used by scientists.

While volunteers at Saturday's clean-up noted no blooms in the Basin or along the river, the improving weather brought out a number of wildflowers by early Sunday afternoon, much to the delight of the hikers. The early blooms also allowed Sarah to demonstrate the iNaturalist app and gave a number of hikers hands-on experience using the app. A few of the hikers also demonstrated their knowledge of local plants, leading to lively conversations.

### 2022 EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP

GREGG ADAMS

The 2022 version of the annual BMW Earth Day Clean-Up was much like many others in the past—starting cool and overcast and turning warmer and sunnier as the day wore on. The BMW faithful started off early, setting up the stand at the Monument and getting down to some spring cleaning. The posters on the Information Kiosk, which have been showing their age, were replaced by updated posters that make it clear who takes care of the area. The new BMW poster also makes good use of QR codes, allowing visitors to become members and/or do-

nate to BMW right then and there (rather than relying on paper brochures that can be lost or quickly forgotten). Volunteers also collected about a dozen bags of trash throughout the day. The low volume of trash collected is a testament to the efforts of volunteers and visitors alike to cut down on litter and keep the area clean.

Volunteers also worked in the Native Plantings Butterfly Garden, planting new vegetation and sprucing the area up. Many thanks go out to all of the volunteers who helped make Earth Day 2022 a success!





## GAZEBO DEDICATION AND BEE HOUSE WORKSHOP

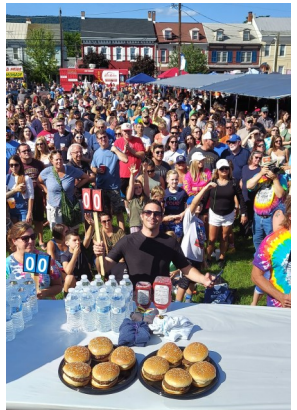
GREGG ADAMS

On April 30th, Blue Mountain Wildlife, the Hamburg Rotary Club, local dignitaries and on-lookers gathered at the Monument Parking Lot to formally dedicate the new Pavilion overlooking the trails and wetlands in the Kernsville Desilting Basin. Last November's purchase and installation of the Pavilion, spearheaded by Kay Greenawalt, was a collaborative effort between Blue Mountain Wildlife and the Hamburg Rotary Club.

Kay had the honor of cutting the ribbon and showing off the new plaque commemorating the newest amenity at the Kerny.

Afterwards, over a dozen people gathered for a Bee House Building Workshop, presented by Kay Greenawalt. Each participant built their very own "Bee House" for Mason Bees, those docile, solitary-dwelling bees that are great pollinators.





**THE DINE & DASH RETURNS TO THE TASTE OF HAMBURGER FESTIVAL** **GREGG ADAMS**

Mark your calendars! The Taste of Hamburger Festival marks its 19th year celebrating ground beef on a bun on Saturday September 3rd. This year also marks the return of the BMW stand to its traditional location at 2nd and State Streets (although this year we are on the south side of State Street) and the return of the Dine & Dash Burgers & Trail Race.

The D&D will be BMW's only fundraiser this year, so be sure to cross this unique event off your bucket list and sign up, either online at [www.bluemountainwildlife.com](http://www.bluemountainwildlife.com) or at the BMW stand between 10 and 10:30 a.m. The race starts

at 10:30 with the eating of the first burger, followed by a mile run along the beautiful Schuylkill Canal Trail to the second burger, and a mile run back to the start. Lots of prizes, including Best Costume and Best Dog, await the survivors after they cross the finish line.

If the D&D is not your cup of tea, be sure to stop by the BMW stand to catch up with the happenings at the Kerny and to check out our colorful t-shirts. You can also check out the BMW volunteers counting burgers at the Professional Burger Eating Competition at the Budweiser Beer Garden at 3:30 p.m. See you there!



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