

Dues

Active Member \$10
Family Membership \$13
Sustaining Member \$13
Junior Membership \$5

Dues: Yearly membership dues start in September. Dues may be paid at the first meeting or sent to the treasurer: Jane Wolfe 3326 Pricetown Road Fleetwood, PA 19522.

Officers and Directors

Ryan Woolwine	President (484-883-6461)
Peter Wolfe	Vice President
Karl Gardner	Secretary
Jane Wolfe	Treasurer
Linda Ingram	Director
Richard Bonnett	Director
Jim Eckert	Director
Stan Kemp	Director
Kathy Grim	Past President

Web Page

For more information on our programs visit
"[www.berkscountynature.org/
pagemengel.html](http://www.berkscountynature.org/pagemengel.html)"

The dues form and this brochure are available
from this page.

For our field trips download
Butterfly - Bird - Botany walks
www.berkscountynature.org/bwalks2024.pdf

MENGEL NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Mengel Natural History Society originated as the Natural History Hikers in the 1930's, was renamed the Mengel Natural History Society in 1941, and incorporated as a non profit organization in 1956.

The By-Laws state: "**The purposes of the Society are the stimulation of interest and study in natural history in all its branches, the promotion and diffusion of scientific knowledge, and the creation of the scientific spirit.**"

The Society meets once a month from September through April at McConnell Hall at Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center. Usually the fourth Friday of the month. Except in November we meet jointly with the Berks Mineralogical Society (on the second Tuesday at the Reading Museum) and in December we meet jointly with the Baird Ornithological Club (on the second Friday). In May we meet at a local restaurant for a dinner meeting. We also sponsor field trips.

The public is welcome to all activities.

For information 484-883-6461
(rwwoolwine@gmail.com).

In case of inclement weather you may call
about cancellation.

Updated 3-23-24

MENGEL NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

(Some meetings may be held via Zoom.
Send Zoom invitation request to
kargardner@aol.com.)

Meets at **McConnell Hall**

Nolde Forest

Environmental Education Center

located on PA-625 south of Reading

2 miles south of PA-724.

(2910 New Holland Road, Reading, PA.)

Programs & Field Trips 2023 - 2024

Public Welcome

(All meetings and field trips are open to
the public and are free.)

- ✓ Monthly Meetings with Lecture
- ✓ Field Trips for Wildflowers,
Butterflies, Dragonflies etc.
- ✓ Annual Wildflower Exchange
and Give-aways
- ✓ Annual Seed Exchange
- ✓ Show & Tell plus Members'
Night for your participation
- ✓ A place to meet other people
interested in the natural world

2023 - 2024 MEETING DATES

September 22, October 27, November 14,
December 8, January 26, February 23,
March 22, April 26, May 10.

Check our Field Trips!

Programs for 2023 - 2024

Programs begin at 7:30 pm at McConnell Hall
at Nolde Environmental Education Center
(2910 New Holland Road, Reading, PA.)

September 22, 2023

Friday 7:30 PM

"Damsels and Dragons - Flies That Is!" by member Anthony (Doc) Schoch. A digital presentation about these iconic insects will focus on their life cycle, anatomy, indication of water quality, identification and their place in the food chain of wetlands, lakes, ponds and streams. Gain a new perspective on dragonflies. Come for the information and catch the enthusiasm. Program followed by our [Fall Native Plant Exchange and Give-away](#).

October 27, 2023

Friday 7:30 PM

"Home Sweet Habitat" by Marcy Engleman, Senior Coordinator, Conservation Education, Audubon, Mill Grove. Hummingbirds, bright goldfinches, and colorful bluebirds, oh my! Do you want to learn more about how to attract birds like these? Discover how to create bird-friendly habitat for birds that are looking for a place to call home or to rest and refuel during their migration. Program followed by the [Fall Seed Exchange and Give-away](#).

November 14, 2023

TUESDAY 7:30 PM

At the Reading Museum

"To be announced" Joint meeting with the Berks Mineralogical Society with the BMS hosting the program. Enter at the back of the Museum on South Parkside drive.

December 8, 2023 Zoom Only Friday 7:30 PM

"Looking Forward to a Third Pennsylvania Bird Atlas" by Andy Wilson, Assoc. Prof. of Environmental Studies, Gettysburg College. Bird Atlas projects provide periodic in-depth snapshots of bird distributions and status across large areas, such as states or countries. Andy will talk about plans for the five-year 3rd PA Bird Atlas project which will be designed to engage thousands of birders, of all experience levels, across the state. Baird Ornithological Club (BOC) host.

January 26, 2024

Friday 7:30 PM

"Members' Night" Members' opportunity to present. Program will consist of three or four short programs by members. See an officer if you have a program to share.

February 23, 2024

Friday 7:30 PM

"Health Update for PA Forests" by Richard J. Hartlieb, Asst. District Forester, Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry. He will review 2023 defoliation surveys, spongy moth forecasts, beech leaf disease, and other pest issues. He will also review the latest updates on the restoration of the American Chestnut. The Darling 58 transgenic tree is under federal review.

March 22, 2024

Friday 7:30 PM

"Why are Common Terns no longer common?" by Dr. Jennifer Arnold, Penn State University, Berks Campus. Addressing population declines for Common Terns in inland waters of North America. She will discuss possible approaches for restoration and management.

April 26, 2024

Friday 7:30 PM

"Microbial Naturalists - Observing the Invisible" by Jamie Becker, Assist. Prof. of Biology, Alvernia University. Observing life is a bit tricky when your subjects are invisible. Learn how microbial ecologists meet this challenge using the universal language of life on Earth and how democratized microscopy is empowering microbial naturalists. Program followed by our annual [Spring Wildflower Exchange and Give-away](#).

May 10, 2024 Friday Banquet. "pOrnithology: The Birds and the Bees" by George Armistead. A review of interesting and unusual courtship and reproductive habits of birds, littered with copious innuendo and anthropomorphism to keep the concepts firmly in perspective. Joint meeting with Baird Ornithological Club (BOC) hosting. Details later.

Field Trips for 2023 – 2024

Trips will be confirmed and leaders announced in the monthly newsletter. You may call the leader or (484-883-6461, rwwoolwine@gmail.com) to confirm the trip or for other information including [weather cancellation status](#). Most trips last under 2 hours..

(BOC) means jointly with Baird Ornithological Club

March Herp Helper Night for Spotted Salamanders.

Contact Lori Soraparu (sallyrallyvolunteer@gmail.com) to volunteer and get on e-mail contact list. Emergence is weather dependent. Often a windy or foggy night, always rainy. This migration only occurs on a few nights a year at scattered locations.

April 27, 2024

Saturday 10 AM

Neversink Mt. - Butterflies, Birds, and Botany. (BOC) Meet at S 10th St. & South St. in Reading. Park on South

St. Leaders: Ryan Woolwine 484-883-6461 and Karl Gardner 610-987-3281.

June 8, 2024

Saturday 10 AM

Butterfly Identification Walk at Green Hills Preserve (553 Gunhart Rd. Mohnton, PA) (BOC) Take PA-10 south to PA-568. Turn right (west) for 1/2 mile to Gunhart Rd. Turn right. Park on right in about 1/4 mile. Leaders: Karl Gardner 610-987-3281 & Ryan Woolwine 484-883-6461.

June 22, 2024

Saturday 10 AM

Dragonflies & Damselflies at Hay Creek-Birdsboro Reservoir (BOC) Meet at Old 82 Parking Area at 2000 Hay Creek Rd, Birdsboro, PA. From traffic light at Rtes. 568 and 724 in Gibraltar, take 568 west about 1.5 miles and turn left on White Bear Rd. Drive 4 miles through 2 stop signs and turn left on Hay Creek Rd. Drive to the dead end and park on the shoulder. Coordinators: Mike Slater paplantings@gmail.com, Todd Underwood (underwoo@kutztown.edu), Karl Gardner 610-987-3281.

July 13, 2024 (Was June 29) Sat. 8:30 PM to ?

Moth Night at Nolde Environmental. Education Center. (BOC) "Introduction to Moths" Presentation starts at 8:30 pm followed by moth watching. Bring flashlight and camera. Meet at main parking lot. Leaders: Jim Eckert 610-401-1695 and Ryan Woolwine. 484-883-6461.

July 20, 2024

Saturday 10 AM

Wildflowers and Pollinators: Union Meadows West, (BOC) A meandering path through this former ball field converted to a pollinator meadow provides good access for observing and netting a variety of species. Route 724 (East Main St., Birdsboro). Turn opposite St. Michael's Cemetery, parking in the ball field lot. Coordinators: Mike Slater & Linda Ingram (610-621-7473).

August 3, 2024

Saturday 10 AM

Butterfly Identification Walk: Blue Marsh Lake. (BOC) Meet at the Blue Marsh Visitor's Center off Palisades Drive. Leaders: Karl Gardner 610-987-3281 & Ryan Woolwine 484-883-6461.

August 17, 2024

Saturday 10 AM

Butterfly Identification Walk at Angelica Park (BOC) Take PA-10 south from Lancaster Avenue 1-1/4 miles. Turn right at the park entrance road at the big masonry sign for Alvernia University. Park at the first parking area on the right. (575 St. Bernardine Street) Leaders: Karl Gardner 610-987-3281 & Ryan Woolwine 484-883-6461.