

Dues

Active Member \$10
Family Membership \$15
Sustaining Member \$15
Junior Member \$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
Jim Eckert	Director
Stan Kemp	Director
Linda Ingram	Director
Jill 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 the above page.

For our field trips download
Butterfly - Bird - Botany walks
www.berkscountynature.org/bwalks2025.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 2-15-25

MENGEL NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

(Some meetings may be held via **Zoom**.
Send **Zoom** invitation request to
berksbutterflies@gmail.com.)

Meets at **McConnell Hall**

Nolde Forest

Environmental Education Center

located on PA-625 south of Reading
2 miles south of PA-724.
(3025 New Holland Road, Reading, PA.)

Programs & Field Trips 2024 - 2025

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

2024 - 2025 MEETING DATES

September 27, October 25, November 12,
December 13, January 24, February 28,
March 28, April 25, May 7 (was 9).

Check our Field Trips!

Programs for 2024 - 2025

Programs begin at 7:30 pm at McConnell Hall at Nolde Environmental Education Center (3025 New Holland Road, Reading, PA.)

September 27, 2024 Friday 7:30 PM
At Boehm Hall, Kutztown University - Also Zoom
"Odonata of Berks County Part 1: Dragonflies!" by member Todd Underwood. His presentation will provide an update on the species of Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) recorded in Berks County. He will discuss the original county-wide survey by local naturalists and explore the 60 species of dragonflies by sharing recent photographs and observations. Program followed by [Fall Native Plant Exchange and Give-away](#).

October 25, 2024 Friday 7:30 PM
"Genes in the Jungle – Observing DNA in the Amazon Rainforest" by Alex Kabrich, Environmental Science Student, and Jamie Becker, Assist. Prof. of Biology, Alvernia University. Observations are the foundation of natural history, but what about organisms too small or cryptic to identify by eye? What if there was a way to observe these organisms in an area long after they've moved on? Learn how life leaves invisible tracks in the form of environmental DNA and how molecular naturalists are using this universal language of life to study organisms in the Peruvian Amazon. Followed by [Fall Seed Exchange and Give-away](#).

November 12, 2024 TUESDAY 7:30 PM
At the Reading Museum
"Nature - New and Old" By Michael Szajna. Joint meeting with the Berks Mineralogical Society with Mengel hosting the program. Enter at the back of the Museum on South Parkside Drive.

December 13, 2024 IN PERSON Friday 7:30 PM
"Southern Africa: Birds and Wildlife" by members Peter & Jane Wolfe. An incredible, exciting photo odyssey to the countries of South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana, with Cape Town, the Zambezi River, Chobe & Hwange National Parks featured. Mengel host.

January 24, 2025 Friday 7:30 PM
"Members' Night" Peter Wolfe presents "Termites in Africa". "Mike Slater presents "A brief look at a few well camouflaged insects and herps of Namaqualand, Northern Cape, South Africa". Karl Gardner presents "A Butterfly Gynandromorph from Pennsylvania".

February 28, 2025 Friday 7:30 PM
"Local Science Students Symposium" Cheyenne Friscia, Kutztown U student will present "The influence of feather mite load on body condition of NA songbirds." Christina Walko, an Alvernia U student will present "Investigating Local Environment for Novel Antibiotics." Rowan Rice, Conrad Weiser HS student will present "Juglans nigra and Castanea mollissima Endocarps as Media in Filters for Microplastic Polluted Stream Water."

March 28, 2025 Friday 7:30 PM
"Some Native Bee Stories" by member Mike Slater. He will share some of the fascinating details in the life histories of native Pennsylvania bees. He will also include the ongoing story of his rescue of the Eastern Chimney Bee (*Anthophora abrupta*) colony from the I-78 bridge construction at Hamburg PA.

April 25, 2025 Friday 7:30 PM
"Creating Backyard Wildlife Habitats" by Katie Fisk. Habitats offer wildlife the food, water, shelter, and space that they need in order to survive. Environmental educator and wildlife biologist Katie Fisk will show you how to add each of these elements to your living space. Program followed by our annual [Spring Wildflower Exchange and Give-away](#).

May 7, 2025 Friday Banquet. "What Science Says About Old-Growth Forests & Why It Matters For Birds" by Joan Maloof PhD, founder Old-Growth Forest Network, Easton, MD. State Hill Craft Cocktails and Kitchen, 1 Wellington Blvd, Reading PA. Joint meeting with Baird Ornithological Club hosting. Details later.

Field Trips for 2024 – 2025

Most trips last under 2 hours.. You may call the leader or (484-883-6461, rwwoolwine@gmail.com) to confirm the trip, other information or [weather cancellation status](#).

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 26, 2025 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 7, 2025 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 14, 2025 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 12, 2025 Saturday 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 19, 2025 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 2, 2025 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 16, 2025 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.

(BOC) means joint event with Baird Ornithological Club