Don't Miss Dale Hendricks at our
Spring Native Plant Sale Members’ Day

Hello volunteers, members, and friends of BHWP. In a word, we expect 2014 to be BUSY. The months leading up to our spring plant sale are always challenging, so spring will be busy as it always is. This spring we'll be hosting Dale Hendricks of Green Light Plants out of Landenberg, PA at our Members’ Preview Event. His lecture, “Native Plants and Permaculture: Building Resilience, Diversity and Opportunity”, will include discussion on native plants intrinsic role in permaculture. From edible natives to making peace with invasive plants, Dale will be offering fresh ways to live and garden in harmony with one's natural environment.

In addition to our bi-annual plant sales, we have significant plans to update the nursery which will allow us to improve our plant production. The good news is that the Preserve has received some grant money as well as some very generous private donations. These funds have been set aside specifically to renovate the nursery. At present we are in the process of replacing our dilapidated nursery fence. Come fall, the plan is to have a new heated greenhouse installed. This will allow us to propagate (and enjoy?) more unusual & rare species.

I'm excited, and I know you are too. As always, I want to send a special thanks to my volunteers and donors. You play a vital role in the success of the Preserve.

-Bob Mahler
Special Thanks to Betsy Falconi

Betsy Falconi, Chair of the Board of Trustees for Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, completed her four-year term as Chair at the end of 2013. During her time as Board Chair, Betsy led the Preserve to many important accomplishments.

During Betsy’s tenure as Chair, the Gala doubled in scope, providing critical operating support for the Preserve and its educational mission. She helped guide the Preserve’s many development initiatives including the growth of the Annual Fund which allows us to deliver new and exciting educational programming year after year. Perhaps most notable was the successful fundraising campaign for, and subsequent construction of the Preserve’s breathtaking new pond, a destination that combines beautiful aesthetics with unparalleled learning opportunities.

Not only has Betsy been a passionate advocate for the Preserve in the community, she also understands the importance of her personal touch to engage and lead her fellow Trustees. Her presence and hard work at so many special events, from Plant Sales to Volunteer Brunches, inspired the staff and volunteers and contributed so much to the spirit of teamwork and cooperation that defines the culture here. Thank you Betsy for being a role model, for leading by example, and for pouring so much of your heart and soul into this special place over the last four years. Your leadership has been inspiring.

Thank you to George Donovan

After 5 years of outstanding service the Preserve’s Vice-Chair George Donovan resigned from the Board of Trustees in order to oversee the growth of his business – Phillips and Donovan Architects, LLC. The Preserve completed several important projects thanks to George’s expertise and generously donated time. Perhaps most notable was his leadership on the Pond Committee. His experience was invaluable in helping to navigate the bidding process with contractors, and his pre-bono work on the design and permitting of the pond’s charming springhouse. George also provided pre-bono concept drawings for the Preserve’s Master Plan developed in 2006. Additionally, George’s leadership on the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce was key to the Preserve hosting of the hugely successful Business Card Exchange held in summer of 2013.

Thank you George, for lending the Preserve your leadership skills, your incredible architectural expertise and sense of aesthetics, and for being an all-around terrific board member. You have contributed mightily to an amazingly productive Board and earned the respect and admiration of everyone here. We will miss you and hope you will continue to be part of the Preserve in whatever capacity you are able.
Preserve Celebrates our Dedicated Volunteers

Volunteers are an important piece to the success of our mission. Our annual Appreciation Lunch, held on November 16, 2013, is just one small way we can thank our dedicated and talented team of volunteers.

The theme of the event, “You’re an important piece of the Preserve” lent itself nicely in decorating the Visitor Center in puzzle pieces. Table arrangements, wreaths, and garland were all handmade from old jigsaw puzzles and recycled paper. Limited edition Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve puzzles were given away by Miles Arnett, Executive Director, as prizes during a trivia contest.

The festive event was enjoyed by more than 65 of our hard working Volunteers, joined together with staff and Trustees, to mingle, eat, and celebrate. Every volunteer, no matter how many hours they are able to donate, is greatly appreciated. Those who donated more than 50 hours to the Preserve in 2013 were recognized with a gift of appreciation. The top five volunteers with the most hours: Dave Horne - 375 hours, Michael Glenn - 285 hours, Stephanie Lovenguth - 249 hours, Barbara Bailes - 239 hours, Pat Saunders - 225 hours. Special recognition was given to our youngest volunteer, Nick Mount, who donated 70 hours of his summer vacation to the Preserve. Nick was honored with the Acorn Award and recognized for his broad knowledge of native plants and environmental issues. Gala Committee Volunteers, Trustees, and those with 5, 10, and 15 years of service to the Preserve were also presented with certificates of dedication.

Our event was made possible with the generosity of our neighbors and community who donated and individuals. Please call the Preserve to register by April 18th.

Welcome to our new Education Coordinator

I am delighted to introduce Kelly Joslin as the newest member of the Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve team! Kelly was hired to fill the important position of Education Coordinator for the Preserve.

Kelly has worked as an environmental educator for 18 years and holds a Master of Science in Education from Northern Illinois University, with a specialization in Environmental Education. Prior to joining the Preserve's staff, Kelly worked as the Environmental Education Coordinator for the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District at Iron Oaks Environmental Learning Center. Prior to that, she served as Director of Education for the Green Earth Institute.

Kelly’s passion for nature, particularly native plants and birds, was first ignited while exploring the forests, fields, and streams on the family farm in southern Iowa. As a young adult she began her career with the Morton Arboretum as a Naturalist-Guide, and ever since she has committed her personal and professional life to environmental conservation and stewardship, as well as sharing a sense of wonder with others.

At the Preserve, Kelly will bring her passion and education to our role as Education Coordinator. With a strong background in program development and delivery, her interest and experience make her an outstanding complement to the talented staff at BHWP. Please join me in welcoming Kelly and her husband Bryan, daughter Riley, and their rescue dog Maisy!

Goodbye to Amy Hoffman Mawby

On October 26 we bid farewell to Amy Hoffman Mawby, our beloved Education Coordinator, as she transitions to her new role as Director of Public Programs at Tyler Arboretum. Many of you that know and love the Preserve have been inspired by Amy and all that she accomplished in her five years here. Amy led the redesign of our website and visitor map and created new interpretative signage at the Pond, Visitor Center Garden, Tree Trail, and Bird Observatory. She also started a display gallery in our Auditorium.

But where Amy made the most meaningful impact by far was in her interactions with all of us. We’ve all been inspired and excited by her expertise and contagious enthusiasm. Staff, volunteers, members, and Trustees will miss her intellect, energy, and friendship. Amy recruited, trained, and led our passionate corps of volunteer naturalists. But perhaps most importantly, Amy helped nurture the next generation of stewards of the earth. So many children will treasure their memories of storytime with Miss Amy and the outdoor adventures that ensued.

I will miss collaborating with Amy – it has been one of the most rewarding and productive relationships in my career.

Farewell to Sebastian

Sebastian Brown, the Preserve's grounds manager resigned in early December to pursue his many interests. Sebastian was a ferocious weed warrior and he led a dedicated group of volunteers though the years to keep a whole host of pernicious invasive exotic weeds at bay. The Preserve's diverse habitats are better for Sebastian's invasive plant removal initiatives. During his time here Sebastian also became a sensei with the chainsaw, getting huge trees to drop with surgical precision. His work clearing debris and downed trees after so many storms was essential in keeping the Preserve and its trail system open and safe for the visiting public.

Staff and volunteers alike will miss Sebastian's wit and his sense of humor, and we wish him the very best in his new endeavors.

Celebrate Earth Day!

Join us for our annual Earth Day Celebration with hands on activities that help preserve native habitat. Spruce up the Preserve in preparation for nature's extravagant spring display. The day begins with hot coffee and project registration. Then we head out onto the property and get to work. Your workshift ends with a delicious lunch in the Visitor Center and great conversation about the morning’s accomplishments!

Our Earth Day projects are suitable for groups, families, and individuals. Please call the Preserve to register by Wednesday April 9th.

People & Events

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Her passion for nature and education will serve Kelly well in her role as Education Coordinator. With a strong background in program development and delivery, her interest and experience make her an outstanding complement to the talented staff at BHWP. Please join me in welcoming Kelly and her husband Bryan, daughter Riley, and their rescue dog Maisy!

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Learning from a River: Plant Stewardship Index Update
by Jared Rosenbaum, PSNJ Coordinator

Last summer, a nature preserve took me to school.

Across the season, I spent more than a dozen days walking into a steep ravine in New Jersey’s Highlands, noting every plant along the way, hiking from steep rocky rubble down to rich, glorious riparian lowlands along the Black River. We had been hired to do an extensive Plant Stewardship Index survey at the Black River Park – Kay Section – by the Morris County Park Commission. I had the pleasure of retaining senior botanist Steve Glenn to work with me on the surveys, and gleaned many precious tidbits of taxonomy from his comments and explanations.

The uplands at Kay were craggy, dry, and steep. Here was trailing arbutus beneath mountain laurel, on rubble with an exposed layer of mosses over the thin acidic humus. Here were Chestnut oaks with their deeply ridged deep gray bark, looking not too unlike the boulders at their feet. Unbrowsed pinxter azalea, mapleleaf viburnum in bloom and fruit, and broad swaths of lowbush blueberry filled the understory with structure and color. The river – and if you’ve never visited, you may want to – is as scenic and untrammeled as any in these parts. It winds through a cool, shaded hemlock ravine, fed by numerous seeps, negotiating monolithic boulders by swirling, falling, and meandering.

The edges of the river gave me an education in plant communities. Meadow-style wildflowers like golden ragwort and tall coneflower grew alongside classic woodlanders like trilliums and cinnamon fern. Rocky seeps dripped with waterwort and marsh blue violet. Each moist or dry niche, each inflection of sun and shade, had its own characteristic groupings. On a cool face of the ravine, northerly species like twinleaf and arctic twayblade were almost as numerous as the commoner southerners. The edges of the river – so obvious to a plant lover and naturalist – and will inform stewardship of the preserve by the Park Commission.

It was a wonderful month – many thanks to Preserve volunteer Pat Coleman for her work on compiling the data – and the core sections of the preserve rank as dry niche, each inflection of sun and shade, had its own characteristic groupings. On a cool face of the ravine, northerly species like twinleaf and arctic twayblade were almost as numerous as the commoner southerners. The edges of the river – so obvious to a plant lover and naturalist – and will inform stewardship of the preserve by the Park Commission. It was a wonderful

Pennsylvania Amphibian & Reptile Survey (PARS)
Volunteer Workshop
Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Pre-registration suggested.

Open your eyes to the fascinating field of herpetology! PARS is an atlas project that attempts to determine the current status of PA’s reptile and amphibian populations. These animals are important indicators of the health of our natural places, but very little information has been collected about them. The PARS project is creating an army of citizen scientists, from amateur naturalists to professional scientists, to thoroughly document the distribution of PA’s turtle, lizard, snake, frog and salamander species. Marlin Corn, PARS Coordinator from the Mid-Atlantic Center Herpetology and Conservation, will be recruiting volunteers and conducting a workshop on field survey techniques and other details of how to participate in this important project.

Mindfulness Walks
8 Wednesdays, April 16 through June 4, 9:30-10:30a.m.
Members: FREE, Non-members: $5
Pre-registration encouraged.

Part of our Wellness Wednesdays series. Modern life requires and rewards multi-tasking, but we lose out on fully experiencing the moment when our attention is scattered. Join us to reconnect with nature and yourself. Mindfulness is the practice of deliberately attending to the present and accepting it without judgement. Being in nature brings many of us into the present more easily than other settings. Walks at the Preserve will support the practice of mindfulness with our time spent in awareness and appreciation of whatever nature presents us that day. Designed as a drop-in series: dress for the weather and wear sturdy walking shoes.

Long Pond Plant Explorer’s Tour
Wednesday, May 21, 8a.m.-5p.m.
Members: $100, Non-members: $120
Fee includes transportation and a boxed lunch.
Pre-registration with payment required by Thursday, May 1.
Join Executive Director Miles Arnott for a private tour of the Nature Conservancy’s Long Pond property. Nestled along the southern escarpment of the Pocono plateau, Long Pond embodies the region’s boreal heritage, harboring species tolerant of cooler temperatures reminiscent of its glacial past. Representing the only natural community of its kind in the world, the mesic-till barrens at Long Pond are interspersed in a vast landscape of swamps, bogs, marshes and shallow ponds. Our trip is timed for peak bloom of Rhodora — a rare, pink-flowered, wild azalea that attracts photographers from around the world and makes Long Pond one of the most important moth and butterfly habitats in the state. Only 12 spaces are available for this very special tour — reserve early!

New this Spring!
Beginning Birding
Saturday, March 22, 9 – 11 a.m.
Members: $6, Non-members: $10
Pre-registration required by Thursday, March 20.
If you’d want to begin watching birds, but didn’t know where to start, here is your opportunity. We will learn the basics of field identification through visual and behavioral cues, as well as some common song recognition. Then we will head out to test our new found knowledge in the field. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Members’ Spring Fling
Saturday, June 7, 10:00 a.m. – noon
FREE for Preserve Members + one guest.
Pre-registration required by Thursday June 5.
Join us as we celebrate the Preserve’s 80th Anniversary! Members, bring a friend and learn the history of Pennsylvania’s Washington Crossing Historic Park which has served as an historical monument to the events of December 25, 1776 since its creation in 1917. Now encompassing almost 500 acres, the park promotes a variety of recreational pursuits and is home to Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve. After the lecture, stay for outdoor history tours (weather dependent). Light refreshments provided.

Peter Osborne is a writer and an historian who has worked in the public history field for more than thirty years. Of particular regional interest, Peter authored a book about the history of New Jersey’s Washington Crossing State Park and his latest book, No Spot in the Far Land is More Immortalized: A History of Pennsylvania’s Washington Crossing Historic Park, includes a section on the Preserve.
Welcome New Members

Special thanks to all of you who have joined the Preserve Family in the late summer and fall of 2013.

Ruth Almond
Adam Anderson
Blanche Anderson
Lorraine Anton
The Arslanian Family
Bob and Beth Auerwar
Mary Ellen Balady
Hannie Banister
Jane Barg
Carla Bates
The Becker Family
The Behme Family
The Bozarth Family
Gail Brock
Gretchen Brouch
The Brown Family
Pattie Burke-Lund
Laura Bush
Robert and Joyce Byers
Connie Coe
The Compelli Family
The Correll Family
Stephen Cottvec
Diana Davis
The Devries Family
Lisa Doria
Charles Dyer
The Eagan Family
Tina Ehrlig
Jay and Joanne Eisenberg
Jackie Farino
Cate Feser
April Fijałkowski
Rick Fonda
Demaris Foote
Cindy Fried
Janice Gable
The Gottlieb - Hutto Family
Jim Gvathney
The Haldeman Family
Allan and Mary Harshbrouch
The Heinenmann Family
Judy Henderson
Father Hilton
The Hoffman Family
Suzanne Hurst
Bonnie Jackson
Randall Jones
Barbara Kahn
The Karlsson Family
Marlene M. Kauffman
Ellie Kelley
The Kreithen Family
The Krotzer Family
Tom Kull
The Lee Family
Maria and Mike Lewis
The Lighthouse Family
Linda Litwin
The Logan Family
The Loos Family
The Lovely Family
The MacGuire Family
Marcello Mangano
The Mann Family
The Manno Family
The Marino Family
Theresa McCartin
The Mclaughlin Family
Martlyn Mehren
Varad Mehta
Edward Meig
The Moore Family
Jeff Morris
The Morrison Family
The Mount Family
Pat Mullen
The Murray Family
Joseph and Sheryl Musacchia
Thomas W. Noonan
The Nyce Family
The Ogorek - Oconnell Family
John Orsato
The Patel Family
The Petty Family
The Poiron Family
Penny Polo
Audrey Poole
Helle Rahem
The Rettemeyer Family
Rebecca Rotino
The Ruenes Family
Susan Schirmer
The Schott Family
Diana Seiler
The Seitz - Hall Family
Eileen Senn
The Shallenberger Family
Mida Page Sheehan
The Sherwin Family
Linda W. Steele
The Small Family
The Smigiel Family
The Smith Family
Tony Soares
Posnam Sood
The Stiefel Family
The Stoner Family
The Stuart Family
The Sullivan Family
The Tudor Family
The Tully Family
The Turner - Craft Family
The Vercaende Family
Marilyn Vogel
The Winters Family
Mary Wood
Sarah Wieschinski
Matthew Zahryn

Preserve Receives a Special Gift: A New Truck!

Join the Business Partner Program
Help keep us blooming for generations to come and let the community know you value our efforts to preserve the native flora of our region.

For more information about Business Membership contact Jennifer Pennington, Membership Coordinator: pennington@bhwp.org or visit our website: www.bhwp.org/get-involved/Business-Partners.htm

Save the Date!
Flower to Tower Festival
Coming this September

The 2014 Flower to Tower Festival and Walk-a-thon will take place on Sunday, September 21, 2014. Take in the breathtaking fall foliage with a morning stroll on our trails, up to Bowman’s Tower. The walk is followed by family fun and refreshments, all to support the Preserve!

From the Membership Desk...

We extend our gratitude to all of you who have renewed your annual membership for 2014. Your on-going support is essential to both the health and growth of this special place. As Members you are the Preserve’s best ambassadors. With that in mind, we hope you’ll join us later this spring for our second annual Members’ Spring Fling on Saturday June 7. (See event details on page 7.) This event is a first for us in that while it is a Members’ exclusive, we encourage you to bring along a non-member as your special guest. The highlight of the event is a whole host of grounds projects. Thank you!

If you haven’t yet renewed for 2014, please take a moment to return the enclosed remittance envelope and stay current. This year we’ve added to the many benefits of Preserve membership. Show your valid membership card and receive free admission and discounts at over 150 participating organizations through the ANCA Reciprocal Admission Program.

Thank you for your support.
- Jennifer Pennington

Share Your Stories

When did you first fall in love with the Preserve and why?
As our 80th Birthday approaches, we’d love to share your recollections in the June edition of our electronic newsletter. Poetry or prose, sentence or story, submit your memories by email to: pennington@bhwp.org

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Preserve Receives a Special Gift: A New Truck!

Thanks to a very generous anonymous gift in 2013 the Preserve was able to purchase a heavy-duty truck to complement our light-duty Toyota truck. The new addition to the fleet will be tow the horse-trailer we use to haul plants for our plant sales and will also be able to tow equipment like the generator we use for our fundraising Gala. It has a hydraulic dump so we will be able haul heavy loads of stone and soil and dump them where needed. The truck also came with a snow plow so we will soon be plowing our own roads – a very attractive option given the cost of plowing service and the amount of snow we had this winter!

We love our new truck and how efficient it makes us as we tackle a whole host of grounds projects. Thank you!
A Special Thank You To Our Generous 2013 Annual Fund Donors

The tremendous support we received in 2013 proves that this community truly believes in the mission of the Preserve and values what we offer to the community and the region. Our Annual Fund support touches every aspect of what we do here at the Preserve and is the backbone of funding for any non-profit organization. A strong Annual Fund provides important funding that an institution needs to maintain and grow its general operations, ultimately ensuring the longevity of the organization.

Our gifts provide support for educational programs,botanical research, the renovation and maintenance of our trails, and helps us provide hands-on activities and special programs for our more than 1,600 members and over 50,000 visitors of all ages. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, myself, our staff, and volunteers, thank you once again for including the Preserve in your philanthropic giving and for helping to support our mission.

Each of you has made a gift that helps us fulfill our mission and your gifts are critical to the well continued being of the Preserve.

I hope we can count on your support in 2014 and I look forward to seeing your name on our donor recognition list.

Warm regards,
Miles Arnott, Executive Director

2014 Spring Garden Gala

Thank you to the 2014 Gala Committee: Dee Dee Bowman, Sue Eavenson, Janet Eshleman, Suzanne Eveland, Jean Falconi, Michael Glenn, Sallie Henriques, Nancy Heyrich, Sue Hurst, Julia Klosner, Donna Lacey, Stephanie Lovenguth, Bill MacDowell, Ruth McMonigle, Jane McNellig, Sue Shaffer, Alice Shapiro, Lynn Stoner, Fran Verweil, Susan Vigilante, Pat Whitman and Jane Yeourakis.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our generous event sponsors:

Our 2014 Spring Garden Gala Sponsors (as of February 1) are listed at right.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our generous event sponsors. Our 2014 Spring Garden Gala Committee gather after a planning session.

Members of the 2014 Wild About Flowers Spring Garden Gala Committee gather after a planning session.

Front Row, left to right: Betty Falconi, Alice Shapiro, Jean Falconi, Allison Hargreaves, Lynn Stoner, Stephanie Lovenguth, Sue Hurst, Julia Klosner.

Back Row, left to right: Dee Dee Bowman, Michael Glenn, Jacob Griffith, Donna Lacey, Ruth McMonigle, Suzanne Eveland, Bill MacDowell, Miles Arnott.
Planning a Special Event?

The Preserve's uniquely beautiful and rustically chic venues are perfect for your special occasion. Consider us when planning weddings, family reunions, birthdays and corporate events. Hosting an event at the Preserve is a privilege reserved for our Business Partners and Members at the family level and above.

For more information about Facility Rentals, visit our website: bhwp.org/plan-your-visit/Facility-Rentals.htm or contact Liz Poole Lamb, lamb@bhwp.org.