



Become a Member and Receive:

- 20% discount on programs
- Early registration for summer camps
- Invitations to members-only events
- Facility rentals for your celebrations
- 10% discount in the Nature Shop
- Discounted/free admission to select nature centers across the nation
- And more!

www.briarbush.org

Spring & Summer Hours

Business Hours

Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Dede Long Nature Museum

Open Daily: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Griscom Bird Observatory

Closed until further notice.

Briar Bush Pond

Open Daily: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Trails:

Daily: Dawn to Dusk

Facility and trail access are subject to change due to severe weather or to accommodate privately scheduled programs/events. Call before you visit for the most up-to-date BBNC hours.

Admission:

Briar Bush Members: Free

Abington Residents: Free

Others: Donations accepted

Admission fees are subject to change.

**Spring & Summer
program guide
starts on page 5.**

*The Dede Long Nature Museum,
Griscom Bird Observatory, and Pond
will be closed on Memorial Day,
Emancipation Day, and
Independence Day.*

www.briarbush.org



Newsletter and Calendar

215-887-6603

May – August 2025

Combating Mosquitoes Naturally

By Briar Bush Animal Curator, Katie Fisk

Ah, summer! Summer brings some of the best experiences like summer vacations, backyard barbecues, trips to the shore, and of course, lots of nature hikes. But summer also brings mosquitoes, those uninvited party crashers that simply have no regard for personal space. In nature, mosquitoes play an important role as food for wildlife like bats, hummingbirds, and spiders. The males are also valuable pollinators as they dine on nectar from flowers. But all of this is of little consolation when a female mosquito is sucking your blood and leaving behind an itchy, red welt. As Briar Bush supporters, you are likely interested in reducing the number of mosquitoes in your yard, but don't want to resort to poisoning your yard ecosystem with pesticides. So, what can you do?

Reduce breeding grounds

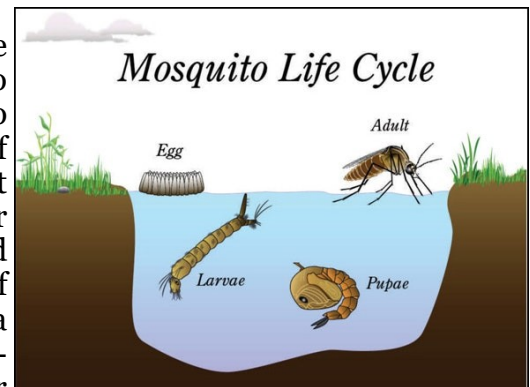
The first step to reducing the local mosquito population is to eliminate places for them to breed, which means sources of standing water. Dump out buckets, toys, pots, and other items that collect water, and store them upside down. If you have a pond, many times a fountain or pump that disturbs the surface of the water will deter egg laying, as the females need to land on a calm water surface to lay their eggs. At Briar Bush, we utilize mosquito dunks in our pond, which release a mosquito-specific bacterium that kills the larvae but leaves other wildlife such as fish, frogs, and other invertebrates unharmed.

Invite natural predators

If you have mosquitoes, there's a good chance you already have some of their predators nearby, but you can take steps to increase the number of mosquito hunters on your property.

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215-887-6603



Briar Bush News and Information

Meet Our New Team Member

Carter Johnson, Senior Naturalist



Carter joined the staff in the spring of 2025. He holds an A.S. in Wildlife Technology from Penn State and a B.A. in History from Millersville University. Prior to relocating to Philadelphia, Carter worked at a variety of environmental education positions around Central Pennsylvania including ZooAmerica in Hershey, Wildwood Park in Harrisburg, and Nixon County Park in York. His current role as Senior Naturalist combines facilities management and education. His background and passion for the pre-colonial history of Pennsylvania history guides programing and management philosophy. American Chestnuts and passenger pigeons are two of the subjects he is most passionate about.



Get Involved - Volunteer at Briar Bush Nature Center!

Briar Bush could not accomplish its goals without the help of dedicated volunteers.

The Friends of Briar Bush is currently seeking Board of Director candidates with backgrounds in community leadership, business, finance, non-profit management, and education.

If you are interested in a Board of Director position, please **email info@briarbush.org** with "Board Candidate" in the subject line.

(continued from page 1)

Reduce or eliminate the amount of chemicals you use in your yard, such as herbicides and pesticides. These chemicals pass up the food web and are concentrated in predator species. You can also increase the amount of native plant species you use in your garden, which attract a variety of prey species for predators. (Think of it as the difference between going to a specialty restaurant versus a buffet—something for everyone!) If you have the space, you can also add a bat box to your property! Bat boxes should be at least 10 feet (ideally 12-20 feet) above the ground, in a sunny location facing south or southeast, and away from obstructions like low tree branches and wires.



Non-pesticide deterrents

If you have done all you can to reduce mosquitoes but still have some lingering unwanted guests, there is always the standby of citronella candles or torches, which add a nice ambience and smell nice too. At my home, we use an oscillating fan to keep the mosquitoes off of us while dining outside and it works quite well. Mosquitoes are weak fliers and get blown away by the fan. It also has the added benefit of bringing a gentle breeze on a hot day!

This summer, take to your mosquito battle stations armed with some new tactics and ammunition. You can have an enjoyable outside experience while protecting the environment as well!

Briar Bush News and Information

A Warm Welcome to New Board Members

Regina Broscius



Regina and her family have lived in the Highland Farms neighborhood across the street from Briar Bush Nature Center for more than 25 years. Her children visited frequently when they were young, and her family's love of the outdoors led her back to Briar Bush as a member of the board. Regina plans to share her expertise and develop new skills to help advocate for and advance BBNC's mission. She has worked in content creation, strategic marketing, and media relations roles at Penn State Abington since 2009 and previously served as an editor at a daily newspaper after earning a degree in journalism from Temple University. She is a longtime member of the Abington Community Taskforce, a coalition of local agencies and organizations that support youth development. She enjoys reading, walking her dogs, and traveling with her husband and extended family.

Alexis Garban



Alexis has always had a deep appreciation for nature and the impact it has on our well-being. A registered nurse with a degree from Holy Family University and an MBA from Saint Joseph's University, she has built a career in healthcare operations, helping hospitals streamline processes and improve patient care. A resident of Montgomery County, Alexis enjoys gardening, exploring the outdoors with her family, and encouraging her young son's curiosity about the natural world. She believes that hands-on experiences in nature foster a lifelong appreciation for the environment. Joining the Briar Bush Board is an exciting opportunity for Alexis to give back to her community and support a place that inspires both children and adults to engage with the natural world. She looks forward to contributing her skills and passion to help Briar Bush continue its mission for years to come.

Lauren Sotherden



Lauren lives in Maple Glen with her husband, 10-year-old daughter, and their two dogs, a mutt named Lucy, and a purebred German Shepherd named Jasper. She has spent the last twenty years as a Librarian in both the public and private sectors. She is currently the Research and Intelligence Operations Manager within the Research and Intelligence Center ("RIC") at Ballard Spahr, LLP which is a large law firm with 18 offices across the country. In this role, Lauren oversees access to legal research material in digital and print formats, manages contract life cycles, and participates in the annual budgeting process for the RIC. Prior to her current position she worked in the investment banking world, at the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and at a local school district in an elementary school setting. Lauren enjoys spending time outside, particularly on walks with her family and in her garden. She is an avid reader, likes to bake and sew, and spend time traveling, especially to the beach. Lauren's daughter has always had the opportunity to spend a lot of her time outside particularly during the summer months at camp which has led her to develop a strong appreciation for science and the natural world. Lauren is looking forward to being part of an organization like Briar Bush that affords opportunities for local children, families, and adults to explore the natural world around them.

Briar Bush News and Information

Help Put Nature Within Reach and Unlock Endless Wonder

At Briar Bush, we believe everyone deserves the opportunity to experience the inspiration, tranquility, and healing that nature provides. We're committed to improving access to nature for all.

Your support will help us:

- Provide increased financial assistance for our programs to connect more people with nature
- Expand our offerings for schools and other groups
- Continue to improve our facilities to make nature accessible to people of all mobilities

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, we've already made significant strides:

- Created ADA-compliant trails to the Griscom Bird Observatory and Butterfly House
- Installed accessible parking and routes to all buildings
- Provided over \$10,000 in financial assistance to families and schools for children to attend nature-based summer camps and participate in environmental learning

But there's still more to be done. We need your help to continue this vital work and ensure that everyone can enjoy the excitement and benefits of spending time in nature.

Take up the challenge! Longtime Briar Bush volunteer and supporter Bruce Angney has offered up to **\$10,000 in matching funds**. This means that every dollar you donate will double the impact of your contribution!

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Fallon, Director

Ways to give your gift:

- Mail a check payable to the Friends of Briar Bush
- Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/BBAA2025>
- Scan the QR Code



*Did you know some employers match their employee's charitable donations?
Ask your employer today for a chance to increase your impact.*



*The "Old Cabin" in 1968, now the
Griscom Bird Observatory*

wildlife laws of the time allowed Bruce to engage with Duffy the skunk and a flying squirrel in Briar Bush care. These experiences were formative, instilling respect for the balance of nature and a sense of pragmatism.

To learn more about Bruce's lifetime commitment to Briar Bush,
visit <https://www.briarbush.org/fobbaa2025>.

Bruce Angney's connection to Briar Bush began during a field trip in elementary school. He vividly recalls visiting the "old cabin" and a giant tree with an intriguing burl—a strange and beautiful twist of wood that sparked a lifelong fascination with nature. Just a few years later, Bruce's passion led him back to Briar Bush, this time as a teen volunteer. He would assist the naturalist, feeding animal ambassadors and learning the stark reality of the circle of life as he cared for and then fed resident mice to resident snakes. The lax



*Bruce at Volunteer
Celebration, 2016*

Programs for Children

Most programs require registration for participants ages 2+. Children under 2 years of age are free of charge.

Please review all program information at the time of registration.

To register, visit www.briarbush.org. Questions or need help registering? Call 215-887-6603.

Magic Mornings

For 2-5-year-olds with adult

Hey, toddlers! Bring your favorite adult for walks, animal encounters, crafts, activities, and more! Each week features a new nature-themed lesson; register for one day per week.

Day: MOST Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in May

Time: 10:30am-11:30am

Cost/Session: \$12.50 | Abington Resident: \$11.25 | BBNC Member: \$10.00

Cost/Add'l Child (Same Household): \$7.50 | Abington Resident: \$6.75 | BBNC Member: \$6.00

Nature Pioneers

For 4-6-year-olds

Children can join us on their own for age appropriate activities, walks, crafts, games, animal encounters, and more! Each week features a new nature-themed lesson.

Day: MOST Thursdays in May

Time: 1:00pm-2:30pm

Cost/Session: \$15.00 | Abington Resident: \$13.50 | BBNC Member: \$12.00

School's Out, Get Outside!

For Children in Grades K-5

When school is not in session, students can spend a day with Briar Bush exploring the outdoors, meeting animals, making crafts, playing in nature, and more.

Day: Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Time: 8:30am-3:30pm

Cost per Participant: \$75.00 | Abington Resident: \$67.50 | BBNC Member: \$60.00

After-Care is available from 3:30pm-5:30pm for an additional \$12.00 per participant.



Programs for All Ages

Most programs require registration for participants ages 2+. Children under 2 years of age are free of charge.

Please review all program information at the time of registration.

To register, visit www.briarbush.org. Questions or need help registering? Call 215-887-6603.

Backyard Safari

Grab your hat and lace your boots – we’re going exploring! Join us on a safari to explore the living things that keep Briar Bush’s backyard interesting. Use binoculars to observe feeder birds, dig in the soil for creepy crawlies, and catch frogs and tadpoles at the pond.

Date: Saturday, May 10, 2025

Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm

Cost: \$10.00 | Abington Resident: \$9.00 | BBNC Member: \$8.00



Amazing Adaptations

A Briar Bush Nature Center Members-Only Program

Adaptations are special features organisms have that allow them to fit like a puzzle piece into the ecosystem. Learn why some animals look and behave the way they do and discover how amazing these adaptations can be through games, activities, and more! Then, enjoy refreshing popsicles after the program.

Date: Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Time: 7:00pm-8:00pm

Cost: FREE for BBNC Members (*Registration is required.*)



Pond-apalooza!

Discover what is living (and swimming!) in the Briar Bush pond! Use dip nets to catch and examine the aquatic creatures that are hoppin’ in the summer. Then, enjoy refreshing popsicles after the program.

Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Time: 7:00pm-8:00pm

Cost: \$12.00 | Abington Resident: \$10.80 | BBNC Member: \$9.60



Summer Night Bio-Blitz

Become a scientist for the night and help the Briar Bush Staff survey all of the living creatures, big and small, that are found on the trails. Be sure to bring your keen observation skills! Then, enjoy refreshing popsicles after the program.

Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Time: 7:00pm-8:00pm

Cost: \$12.00 | Abington Resident: \$10.80 | BBNC Member: \$9.60



Programs for Adults

Most programs require registration.

Please review all program information at the time of registration.

To register, visit www.briarbush.org. Questions or need help registering? Call 215-887-6603.

Species Spotlight and Native Plant Swap

With the growing season in full swing, Katie will share some of her favorite plant species for attracting hummingbirds as well as must-haves for the pollinator garden, flowers that produce seeds for birds, and other native garden all-stars. After the program, we'll host a native plant swap. Bring a native plant from your own garden to trade with others who attend. Swapping plants is a great way to increase biodiversity in your yard in a low-cost way! *Bringing a plant is not necessary to take one home!*



Date: Saturday, May 17, 2025

Time: 10:30am-11:30am

Cost: \$10.00 | Abington Resident: \$9.00 | BBNC Member: \$8.00



Friends of Briar Bush 35th Annual

Feather Our Nest

Gala & Auction

The Magic of Nature

Friday, September 26, 2025

6:30 pm - 10:00 pm

North Hills Country Club

*Dinner & Drinks * Live Auction * Games & Entertainment*

Online Auction begins September 12, 2025!

Scan the QR code to visit our Event Page.



Funds raised during FON directly support Friends of Briar Bush mission and programs.



1212 Edge Hill Road
Abington, PA 19001

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Nonprofit Permit

No. 719

FT Washington, PA

Electronic Service Requested

Spring Storybook Trail is Here!

Can you imagine what it's like to be a rock, a nest, a bird, or even a bubbling creek? Join in on an outdoor adventure to discover the magic and mystery of the living, breathing, natural world all around us.

Date: All Summer Long

Time: Dawn to Dusk

Cost: FREE

Sponsored by the Gagliardi Family

