

**Briar
Bush**
NATURE CENTER

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
- Participate in ANCA Reciprocal Program and visit nature centers across the nation
- And more!

Briar Flyer

Newsletter and Calendar

www.briarbush.org

215-887-6603

May – August 2024

Spring & Summer Hours

Business Hours:

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

Dede Long Nature Museum:

Daily: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Admission:

Briar Bush Members: Free
Abington Residents: Free
Others: Pay what you can

Griscom Bird Observatory:

Daily: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Briar Bush Pond:

Daily: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Trails:

Daily: Dawn to Dusk

Facility hours are subject to change to accommodate privately scheduled programs. Remain aware of trail closures. Call before you visit for the most up-to-date BBNC hours.

Spring & Summer program guide starts on page 4.

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

Construction Update - We're Open!

While weather and other delays slowed the process, Briar Bush officially reopened on April 19th. Abington Township crews have completed several major components of our Master Plan, including a new front gathering area and Pavilion. ADA improvements to our Education Building are complete. Work continues, including replanting, signage, and trail work, but we are so excited to welcome everyone back to enjoy nature at Briar Bush!



ADA accessible route will connect parking, new gathering area, Museum, Pavilion, and Griscom Bird Observatory.



Education Building received a new ADA entrance and bathroom.

www.briarbush.org

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Briar Bush News and Information

Celebrate 50 years of the Friends of Briar Bush!

Thanks to supporters like you, Friends of Briar Bush (FOBB) reached its 50th anniversary this year! We have grown from a few passionate volunteers to a full-fledged nature center that reaches tens of thousands of participants every year. **We have accomplished so much since 1974:**

- * **Facilities:** Purchased the FOBB Education Building; renovated the Dede Long Nature Museum, Pond, and Griscom Bird Observatory; built the Nature Playscape to foster child development and inspire future conservationists
- * **Financial Aid:** Surpassed \$10,000 in 2023 from nearly nothing just five years ago, improving access to nature and environmental learning
- * **Programs:** Created Family Nature Night, an award-winning program for children with special needs; doubled Summer Camp capacity; tripled capacity for “Magic Mornings” toddler programs
- * **Animal Ambassadors:** Added raptors and other rescued wildlife; implemented an Animal Enrichment Volunteer Program, benefiting the health and wellness of animals in our care

We need your help to keep Briar Bush beautiful and vibrant for another 50 years. Your gift helps us retain highly qualified staff and develop new programs, like Educator Katie Fisk’s presentation on backyard native plant and wildlife habitat. Your generous contributions also permit us to foster exciting facility improvements, like our current construction projects funded by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Abington Township in partnership with FOBB:

- * ADA parking and access to the Education Building, Museum, Bird Observatory, and newly converted pavilion
- * New streetscape to improve traffic and pedestrian safety, better signs, and pollinator habitat
- * New Butterfly Habitat

In honor of our 50th anniversary, an anonymous donor has pledged to add \$50 to any donation of \$50 or more, up to \$5,000. Can you help us secure this challenge with a special birthday gift of \$50 or more to the Friends of Briar Bush?

Thank you for your consideration,

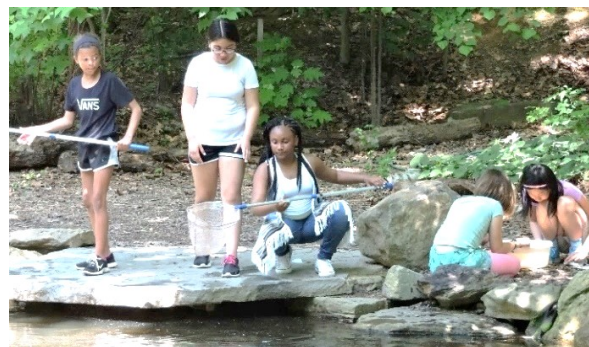


Mark Fallon, Director

50 years, always moving forward



Nature Playscape,
installed 2010



Students participating in pond study,
renovated Pond, 2016



Katie Fisk, Animal Curator, with
Scarlett, BBNC’s first raptor, 2012

Briar Bush News and Information

...forever true to our mission.



Girl Scouts learning from Florence Griscom, 1952



Students learning from Wyncote Audubon volunteers, 2016



Wyncote Audubon volunteers in Griscom Bird Observatory, 2022



Dede Long, former Director, c. 1980



Heidi Malizia, Educator, 2013



Jeannette Noorman, Volunteer, 2021

Ways to give your gift:

- Visit www.briarbush.org
- Mail a check payable to the Friends of Briar Bush
- Scan the QR code



Did you know?

Some employers match their employee's charitable donations? Ask your employer today for a chance to double your impact.

Staff News



Sarah Busby, Environmental Educator

Sarah is a recent graduate of Drexel University and is excited to have joined the Briar Bush team this March! She earned her BS in Biology with a concentration in Ecology, Evolution, and Genomics in June 2023. Her previous work at the Academy of Natural Sciences and Willistown Conservation Trust focused on watershed ecology and water quality monitoring within the Delaware Watershed. From macroinvertebrates to megafauna, she is endlessly fascinated with the beauty and complexity of nature and desires to foster this fascination in others. She is looking forward to bringing this passion to her role as an educator at Briar Bush. Originally from the South Shore of Massachusetts, she now lives in West Philadelphia, where she can typically be found hosting board game nights, convincing her city friends to go on more hikes, and juggling too many crafting hobbies.



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

Magic Mornings - A program 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 theme; register for one day per week. *Visit our website for the full schedule.*

Day: MOST Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 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 - A program 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 theme; register for one day per week. *Visit our website for the full schedule.*

Day: MOST Wednesdays and Thursdays in May

Time: 1:00pm-2:30pm

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

Programs for Families

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

Family Nature Night - A program for children with sensory processing disorders or other special needs and their families

Bring the whole family for a fun night complete with live animal encounters and interactive stations relating to the theme of the night - all at your own pace. Family Nature Nights are geared toward children with sensory processing disorders and are now featuring a forest sensory experience! *The program will take place indoors and outdoors. Light snacks will be provided.*

Date: Friday, May 17, 2024

Time: 6:00pm-7:30pm

Cost: FREE

Sponsored by Child Development Foundation



Pond Exploration - A program for all ages

Let's see what's hopping at the pond! Join us as we meet our land and aquatic turtles, then head to the pond to catch the frogs, tadpoles, and aquatic insects that call this place their home. Get ready to make a splash! *This program will take place outdoors, so please dress for the weather and in clothing and footwear that can get wet and muddy.*

Date: Saturday, May 18, 2024

Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm

Cost/Participant: \$8.00 | Abington Resident: \$7.20 | BBNC Member: \$6.40



Storybook Trail - An activity for all ages

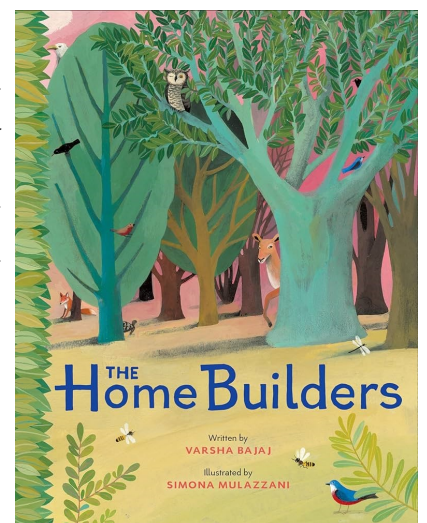
Visit the Briar Bush woods this summer and discover our new Storybook Trail. Stroll along as you read The Home Builders by Varsha Bajaj and take your friends and family on a tour of where woodland creatures make their homes with beautiful illustrations by Simona Mulazzani. Can you spy any of the Briar Bush woodland animal nests, burrows, and dens?

Date: All Summer Long

Time: Dawn to Dusk

Cost: FREE

Sponsored by the Gagliardi Family



Hot S'mores Nights 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 including program location.
To register, visit www.briarbush.org. Questions or need help registering? Call 215-887-6603.

Bring your family and friends to Briar Bush for summer nights of nature-based fun! Join the Briar Bush educators in games, activities, live animal shows, guided hikes, and more, all relating to the theme of the night. Campfire and s'mores are weather dependent. *Registration is required.*

Dates: MOST Wednesday Nights in July and August

Time: 7:00pm-8:30pm

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



Sensory Adventure – Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Get ready to explore Briar Bush using your five senses. What are rods and cones and how do they help us to see? Are wet noses or dry noses better at smelling? Answer these questions and more while sampling s'mores using our favorite sense of all: taste!

The Color of Night – Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Colors play a big part in the natural world. At night, some colors change while others disappear altogether. We'll talk about how colors are used by animals to disguise themselves or to stand out. Get ready to test out your own ability to see colors at night.



Owl Prowl – Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Can you hoot? How about whinny, screech, or hiss? There's a lot more to owls than most people think. Come learn about these fascinating nocturnal flyers and likely meet a live owl guest!

Animal Locomotion – Wednesday, July 31, 2024

How do you get around? Animals slither, crawl, hop, fly, and scurry. Each animal has its own unique way of moving. Watch Briar Bush's animals move in their own unique ways and then try it yourself through animal locomotion games and activities!

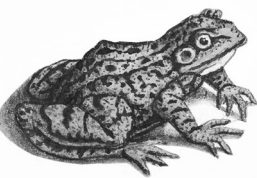


All About Bears – Wednesday, August 7, 2024

They are cute and cuddly when they are Teddy Bears, but don't get too close Goldilocks! They come in different colors such as black, brown, and white, but how big do they get? Do they live in cities like Philly or Chicago? Join us as we tell stories, songs, and facts about bears.

Creatures of the Night – Wednesday, August 14, 2024

At night, the Briar Bush forest is filled with animals we may not see during the day: raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes, owls, and insects. Learn more about these creatures by visiting each station and participating in the activities. Then, meet some nocturnal animals during a live animal encounter!



Herp, Herp, Hooray! – Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Herpetology is the study of reptiles and amphibians. But what is the difference between these two classes of animals? Join us as we learn how to distinguish between the two with the help of some of our resident animals, a pond exploration, and other fun activities. (This Hot S'more Nights is for BBNC Members ONLY.)

Programs for Adults

Most programs require registration.

Please review all program information at the time of registration including program location.

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

Outdoor Survival Camp

This program is back by popular demand! Adults, do you long for the carefree days of summer camp? It's time to capture a bit of that magic! Spend an afternoon at Briar Bush with survival fanatic Katie Fisk doing the same activities taught in our popular Outdoor Survival Camp for 10-12-year-olds: learn how to start a fire, carve a spear, make a shelter, and take the hypothermia challenge. Do you have what it takes? *This program will take place outdoors rain or shine. Please dress for the weather.*



Date: Saturday, May 4, 2024

Time: 1:00pm-4:00pm

Cost/Participant: \$25.00 | Abington Resident: \$22.50 | FOBB Member: \$20.00



Get Involved - Volunteer at Briar Bush Nature Center!

Briar Bush could not accomplish its goals without the help of dedicated volunteers. Learn more about the variety of opportunities and make your mark at BBNC.

Adults (18+) - Board of Director, Education, Hike Guides, Building/Grounds Maintenance, and more!

Groups - Volunteer with your organization, corporation, Greek Organization, etc.

Families (for adults and their child(ren) ages 8 & up) - Building/Grounds Maintenance and Bird Club

If you are interested in any volunteer opportunities above, email volunteer@briarbush.org.

Save the Date!

Feather Our Nest Gala & Auction

Golden Together

Celebrating 50 Years of the Friends of Briar Bush

Friday, September 27, 2024, at North Hills Country Club

Dinner & Drinks * Auctions * Entertainment

Online Auction Begins September 13, 2024

Tickets Coming Soon!



1212 Edge Hill Road
Abington, PA 19001

U.S. Postage Paid
Nonprofit Permit
No. 719
FT Washington, PA

Electronic Service Requested

Briar Bush is OPEN! We are excited for your next visit!



*Thank you to our funders: PA DCNR, Abington Township, and supporters of the Friends of Briar Bush.
Some construction is still in progress. Please use caution when on site.*