



**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 reciprocity program and visit nature centers across the nation
- And more!



Newsletter and Calendar

www.briarbush.org

215-887-6603

January – April 2023

Winter & Spring Hours

Business Hours:

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

Dede Long Nature Museum:

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

Admission:

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

Griscom Bird Observatory:

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

Trails:

OPEN Daily: Dawn to Dusk

Pond:

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

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.

**Winter & Spring
program guide
starts on page 4.**

The Dede Long Nature Museum, Griscom Bird Observatory, and pond will be closed on New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, and Good Friday.

www.briarbush.org

Head Start/Pre-K Counts Into Nature

Through a grant awarded to the Friends of Briar Bush in 2016 from the Willow Foundation, Heidi Malizia, one of Briar Bush's dedicated environmental educators, was presented with the opportunity to jumpstart a sustainable environmental enrichment program for underprivileged children. Heidi immediately reached out to the Head Start of the MCIU, a program that offers supportive services for preschoolers in families with an income at or below the poverty level. The offer was well received and it was quickly arranged for Heidi to bring a pilot program to each Head Start classroom in Montgomery County. This began a long and marvelous partnership.



After seeing the delight in children's faces from Head Start, a similar program called Pre-K Counts shared interest in having Briar Bush visit their classrooms. Additional funding would be required to support this program extension. As luck would have it, a dear friend of Briar Bush had recently

seeded the McLean Early Childhood Nature Education Fund in memory of her parents and requested the funds be used to educate children from low income families about the importance of nature. The timing was perfect!

With the help of new grant and scholarship funding, over 40 Head Start and Pre-K Counts classrooms now receive two visits from Briar Bush each year. The program has continued through the pandemic first with video lessons complete with correlating crafts and activities and then with live virtual sessions. Finally, last spring Briar Bush was able to be back in these amazing preschool classrooms. The teachers and children delight in meeting a variety of our animals, experiencing how life might have been as a Lenape child, and more. Each visit promises something new to learn for everyone involved and has been a rewarding experience for Briar Bush!



215-887-6603

Briar Bush News and Information

The Enchanted Forest, A Griscom Fairytale

The Friends of Briar Bush had a wonderful evening for our 32nd Feather Our Nest Gala, *The Enchanted Forest*. Upon arrival, guests stepped into *The Griscom Fairytales* where they enjoyed an evening of dining and drinking with friends and fairytale characters played by Briar Bush staff and volunteers.



Our annual online auction began two weeks before the main event and continued into the evening. A variety of items donated by local artisans, supporters, and local businesses caught the attention of our entire community and contributed to this successful event!

We are excited to share that *The Enchanted Forest* raised over \$45,000! All funding raised during the event directly supports the Friends of Briar Bush mission and programs.

Many thanks to all FON 2022 supporters for helping us write another chapter of the BBNC story!

Special Thanks to our FON 2022 Sponsors including our 2022 Grand Sponsor, BLBB Charitable in partnership with Bonnie Bell; Platinum Sponsors: Anonymous and Marge & Steve Ulrich; Gold Sponsors: Clearco Products Co., Inc. and Power Events; Silver Sponsor: Locks Law Firm; Bronze Sponsors: Amy's Yoga for Life, Brenda L. Branson, D.M.D., Dresher Dental, LLC, Pete and Jenny Duskey, The Kleiman Family, Henry and Nancy Geyer, The Lewis Family, The Maloney Family, Norman S. Marcus, The McKenna Family, Mom's Organic Market, The Palmer Family, Republic Bank, TD Bank; Copper Sponsors: Abington Friends School, Glanzmann Subaru, Abington - Jefferson Health, Kiki Vodka, Neshaminy Creek Brewing Company, Karen Sanchez, Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, Minuteman of Glenside, Rydal Park & Waters, Think Green, LLC; and our Feather Our Nest 2022 Supporters: AMS Cardiology, Bee, Bergvall & Company, P.C., Dave's Backyard Farms, The Fireside Bar and Grille, Quinn & Wilson, Inc Realtors, Stahl Electric, and Sustainable Choices, LLC.



Additional thanks to the Friends of Briar Bush Board Members for all of their support.



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.

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

Community Engagement: Briar Bush attends many events throughout the year. This opportunity includes representing Briar Bush, sharing information about our organization and programs, and interpreting our table activity to people of all ages and backgrounds.

Grounds Maintenance and Restoration: When the snow melts, our sanctuary is in need of a spring cleaning including general trail management and removing invasive vegetation that is less than inviting to our native wildlife. If you like to work outside, this opportunity is for you!

Interested in a BBNC volunteer opportunity? Email volunteer@briarbush.org.

Briar Bush News and Information

New Board Member



Timothy Glencamp, Jr.

Tim was born and raised in Central New Jersey. In his youth, he loved having pets around him from hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, mystic sharks, snakes and even scorpions. This taught him to value and respect animals and nature. When he first attended Rutgers College in New Brunswick, NJ, his goal was zoology but he eventually changed his major to math and economics. This led to his I.T. career that just reached 25 glorious years. Tim moved to Glenside in 2010 and discovered Briar Bush in 2016 when his daughter started summer camp. It was an instant connection and he felt right at home. When Tim is not working, you can find him biking on trails and enjoying nature. When he is not on the trails, you can find him on the courts playing tennis with his daughter. Nature is our heaven on earth and he is very happy to be a part of an organization that cares so much about preserving nature.

Staff News



Estelle Allen, Program and Guest Services Coordinator

Estelle Allen recently joined the Briar Bush team as the Program and Guest Services Coordinator. Estelle spent 35 years at a major telecommunications company holding positions focusing on customer service and project coordination. Following retirement, she worked with the Abington Township Community Police Division providing support to the Police Athletic League, and later accepted a Customer Service position with AARP. She is committed to providing service to others, most importantly her church, The Abington Youth Aid Panel, and Montgomery County Senior Services. Estelle lives in Glenside, PA where she and her husband raised their two children. She cherishes the time she has with their two grandchildren. She enjoys family, bowling, traveling, and planning and hosting group activities for family and friends.

Desserts and Amorous Animals

Special Friends of Briar Bush Members Program for Adults Only

It's Valentine's Day, and love is in the air—for animals too. Bring a date, a group of single friends, or go stag for a unique and hilarious evening at Briar Bush Nature Center! Start the night off by tantalizing your taste buds with decadent desserts. Then Briar Bush educator and animal curator Katie Fisk will regale you with the bizarre behaviors and natural histories of amorous animals. We'll talk faking orgasms, orgies, bizarre endowments, just how DO porcupines mate, courtship methods, and yes, who really is the biggest in the animal kingdom (hint: it's not you). You'll meet some live animals up close and personal as well! *This is a BYOB event.*



Date: Friday, February 10, 2023

Time: 7:30pm-9:00pm

Cost: FREE for Briar Bush Members (Registration is required.)

Children's Programs

Registration is required. To register, visit www.briarbush.org or call (215) 887-6603.

Programs take place indoors and outdoors for varying durations of time dependent on the weather. Due to Township regulations, masks may be required indoors. Visit our website for updated information.



Magic Mornings

2-5-year-olds with adult

Hey, toddlers! Bring your favorite adult for walks, animal encounters, activities, and more! Each week features a new theme, which repeats throughout the week (register for one day per week).

Day: Tues, Wed, Thur, or Fri (See chart for dates.)

Time: 10:30am-11:30am

Cost per Session:

- Participant: \$12.50
Additional child in same household: \$7.50
- Abington Resident: \$11.25
Additional child in same household: \$6.75
- Briar Bush Member: \$10.00
Additional child in same household: \$6.00

	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
JAN	3	4	5	6
	10	11	12	13
	17	18	19	20
	24	25	26	27
	31			
FEB	7	1	2	3
	14	8	9	10
	21	15	16	X
	28	22	23	24
MARCH	7	1	2	3
	14	8	9	10
	21	15	16	17
	28	22	23	24
		29	30	31
APRIL	X	X	X	X
	11	12	13	14
	18	19	20	21
	25	26	27	28

Nature Pioneers

4-6-year-olds

Children are invited to 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).

Day: Wed or Thur (See chart for dates.)

Time: 1:00pm-2:30pm

Cost per Session:

- Participant: \$15.00
- Abington Resident: \$13.50
- Briar Bush Member: \$12.00

	WED	THUR
JAN	4	5
	11	12
	18	19
	25	26
FEB	1	2
	8	9
	15	16
	22	23
MARCH	1	2
	8	9
	15	16
	22	23
	29	30
APRIL	X	X
	12	13
	19	20
	26	27



Children's Programs

Registration is required. To register, visit www.briarbush.org or call (215) 887-6603.

Programs take place indoors and outdoors for varying durations of time dependent on the weather. Due to Township regulations, masks may be required indoors. Visit our website for updated information.



Woodland Explorers Grades K-5

Connect with fellow nature lovers in Briar Bush's Woodland Explorers After-School Club! Children will experience the wonders of their favorite backyard nature center through live animal encounters, guided hikes, nature play, crafts, and more.

Day: Tues and Thur (See chart for dates.)

Time: 4:00pm-5:30pm

Cost per Session:

- Participant: \$15.00
- Abington Resident: \$13.50
- Briar Bush Member: \$12.00

	TUES	THUR
JAN	3	5
	10	12
	17	19
	24	26
	31	
FEB	7	2
	14	9
	21	16
	28	23
MARCH	7	2
	14	9
	21	16
	28	23
APRIL	X	X
	11	13
	18	20
	25	27

School's Out, Get Outside! Grades K-5

When school is not in session, students can spend a day at Briar Bush exploring the outdoors, meeting live animals, making crafts, playing in nature, and more. Be sure to pack a lunch, snacks, water bottle, and full change of clothes.

Day: Select Holidays (See chart for dates.)

Time:

- Full-Day Session: 8:30am-3:30pm
- Half-Day Session: 1:00pm-3:30pm
- After-Care Session: 3:30pm-5:30pm

Cost per Session:

- Full-Day:
 - Participant: \$75.00
 - Abington Resident: \$67.50
 - Briar Bush Member: \$60.00
- Half-Day:
 - Participant: \$30.00
 - Abington Resident: \$27.00
 - Briar Bush Member: \$24.00
- After-Care: \$12.00

	DATE	TIME
JAN	16	Full-Day (MLK, JR. Day)
FEB	17	Full-Day (President's Day)
	20	
APRIL	3	Half-Day (Spring Break)
	4	Half-Day (Spring Break)
	5	Half-Day (Spring Break)
	6	Full-Day (Spring Break)
	7	Full-Day (Spring Break)
	10	Full-Day (Spring Break)

Programs for All Ages

Registration is required. To register, visit www.briarbush.org or call (215) 887-6603.

Programs take place indoors and outdoors for varying durations of time dependent on the weather. Due to Township regulations, masks may be required indoors. Visit our website for updated information.

Family Nature Night

Children with sensory processing disorders and families



Join Briar Bush for a night complete with live animal encounters and interactive stations relating to the theme - all at your own pace. Family Nature Nights are now featuring a forest therapy segment!

*Sponsored by Child Development Foundation.
Activities developed for early childhood education.
Light snacks will be provided.*

Spring Program Theme: Spring to Life

Date: Friday, April 14, 2023

Time: 6:00pm-7:30pm

Cost: FREE (Registration is required.)

Briar Bush Festivals 2023

All Ages



Everyone is invited to Briar Bush's annual festivals to enjoy a variety of activities including guided hikes, animal encounters, games, Nature Playdates, crafts, and more! (Registration is not required.)

WinterFest 2023 - Cold weather family fun!

Date: Sunday, February 12, 2023

Time: 1:00pm-4:00pm

EarthFest 2023 - Celebrate Earth Day at BBNC!

Day: Saturday, April 22, 2023

Time: 1:00pm-4:00pm

Briar Bush Members can participate in a special members-only activity at this year's EarthFest!



Weekend Walks

All Ages

Visit Briar Bush for a guided hike or seasonal activity!
Topics available closer to each event.

Day: 3rd Saturday of the Month

Time: 9:30am-10:30am

Cost: FREE (Registration is not required.)



Nature Playdates

All Ages

Families are invited to join us at the BBNC Nature Playscape for unstructured nature play. Special play materials will be provided by BBNC staff and volunteers during each event.

Dates and Times: View the chart below.

Cost: FREE (Registration is not required.)

Nature Play Workshops

Adults

These workshops will focus on realistic ideas for including nature play in the lives of kids and provides a fantastic chance to learn, discuss, brainstorm, and, yes, PLAY! (Free childcare is available.)

Dates and Times: View the chart below.

Cost: FREE (Registration is required.)

Call ahead during inclement weather.

Sponsored by

	DATE	TIME
FEB	12	1:00pm-4:00pm - WinterFest
	25	10:00am-12:00pm - Nature Play Workshop
MARCH	11	10:00am-12:00pm
	26	10:00am-12:00pm
APRIL	8	10:00am-12:00pm
	22	1:00pm-4:00pm - EarthFest & Nature Play Workshop
MAY	13	10:00am-12:00pm
	21	10:00am-12:00pm



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THE GIVING ARM
OF BLB&B ADVISORS

Programs for Adults

Registration is required. To register, visit www.briarbush.org or call (215) 887-6603.

Programs take place indoors and outdoors for varying durations of time dependent on the weather.

Due to Township regulations, masks may be required indoors. Visit our website for updated information.

SAGE Sessions

Adults

Join Briar Bush for an afternoon discussion of interesting and relatable environmental topics. *Light refreshments will be served. Ample parking is available.*

A Journey to Backyard Biodiversity

Date and Time: Friday, April 14, 2023 from 1:00pm-2:00pm

Cost: Participant: \$6.25; Abington Resident: \$5.56; Briar Bush Member: \$5.00

How do you take a tangled mess of a backyard and turn it into a wildlife oasis? Join native gardening geek, Katie Fisk, as she shares her two year journey to renovate her yard into her own nature preserve.



Adventures in the Field

Adult Birding Series

Time spent in nature can be both relaxing and stimulating. Join us for enriching nature experiences and field trips. This season we will connect with Briar Bush's roots in bird conservation. Beginning birders will learn basic identification techniques and apps, while more seasoned participants can join our efforts to collect data for community science projects. (See below for each session's details.)



Photo by Alison Larsen

Waterfowl at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge

Date and Time: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 from 8:45am-1:30pm (*Rain Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023*)

Cost: Participant: \$30.00; Abington Resident: \$27.00; Briar Bush Member: \$24.00

Welcome some of the first spring migrants to the Philadelphia area at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. Just a stone's throw away from the busy Philadelphia airport, John Heinz is a hotspot for migrating waterfowl such as northern shovelers and green-winged teals. Waterfowl are a great way to practice your birding skills; they are relatively stationary, large, and have distinguishing identification marks, so you won't have to wing it! On land, sightings may include the refuge's nesting pair of bald eagles and marsh wrens.

Notes: Participants will meet at Briar Bush at 8:45am, then travel in the Briar Bush van to John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. This session will require a long walk on level, paved trails. Be sure to bring your camera, binoculars, and a bag lunch.

Warblers at Briar Bush Nature Center

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 from 1:00pm-2:30pm (*Rain Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023*)

Cost: Participant: \$15.00; Abington Resident: \$13.50; Briar Bush Member: \$12.00

You don't have to go far to find a variety of spring warblers in our area; Briar Bush is bursting with the songs of warblers at this time of year! Warblers teach us that there are always far more birds around us than you will ever notice with your eyes. A listening ear can reveal the identities of black-throated blue, black-and-white, and black-throated green warblers. We may also hear sparrows, vireos, thrushes, towhees, and other songbirds that call Briar Bush home in the summer. Join us as we put the Merlin app's song identification feature to the test!

Notes: This session will require a short walk of a few hundred feet on level trail, with an optional short hike on steeper, rougher terrain along the Briar Bush trails.

Did you know? You can donate some or all of your Required Minimum Deduction from your IRA tax-free to the Friends of Briar Bush as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

Consult with your financial advisor to find out more about this charitable giving opportunity.



1212 Edge Hill Road
Abington, PA 19001

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

Electronic Service Requested



Briar Bush Nature Center Week-Long Camps 2023

June 12th - September 1st from 9:30am - 4:00pm

FOBB Members-Only Registration begins Monday, January 30th at 7:00am.

Friends of Briar Bush Members receive 20% OFF!

Registration opens to everyone on Tuesday, January 31st at 2:00pm.

Abington Township Residents receive 10% OFF!

Seedlings Half-Day Camps for Ages 4-6

AM & PM session options each week.

Saplings Full-Day Camps for Ages 6-7

All day fun at Briar Bush!

Full-Day Travel Camps for Ages 8-9

Regional field trips each week!

Full-Day Travel Camps for Ages 10-12

Regional field trips each week!

Overnight Camp for Ages 11-15

Tent camping at Hickory Run State Park!

Summer Camp Aide Program for Ages 13+

Have fun while building leadership skills and earning service hours!



*For more information or to register, visit our website.
For questions or to request a brochure, please call us M-F 9:00am-5:00pm.*