Become a Member and Receive:
- 20% discount on most programs
- FREE admission to the nature museum
- 10% discount in the Nature Shop
- Early registration for summer camps
- Invitations to members-only events
- Discounted/free admission to select nature centers across the nation
- And more!

www.briarbush.org  215-887-6603  January 2022 – April 2022

Winter 2022 Hours

Dede Long Nature Museum:
Monday - Friday - CLOSED to visitors
OPEN for Programming
Saturday & Sunday - OPEN 10am - 4pm
Timed tours for up to six people

Admission:
- Friends of Briar Bush Members - FREE
- Abington Township Residents - FREE
- Others - Pay what you can.
Restrooms are available.
Masks required for visitors ages 2+.

Griscom Bird Observatory:
Monday - Friday - OPEN 9am - 4pm
Saturday & Sunday - OPEN 10am - 4pm
Occasionally CLOSED for programs
Restrooms are not available.
Masks required for visitors ages 2+.

Trails:
OPEN daily from dawn to dusk
Occasionally CLOSED due to weather

Pond:
Monday - Friday - OPEN 9am - 4pm
Saturday & Sunday - OPEN 10am - 4pm
Occasionally CLOSED for programs

Facility hours are subject to change. Call before you visit for the most up-to-date schedule of accessibility.

Before and After a Backyard Makeover

By Katie Fisk, Briar Bush Animal Curator

For the past 13 years, I have taught many audiences how to turn their backyards and outdoor spaces into mini oases for wildlife, all the while dreaming of the day when I would finally become a homeowner and could put my own ideas into practice. In March 2021, that dream came true when I purchased a home - a home with an overgrown, ugly backyard filled with invasive shrubs and vines. It was a perfect extreme remodeling project ideal for a gardening nerd such as myself!

With the help of Briar Bush Director, Mark Fallon, we started identifying the plants that were currently growing in the yard: a tangle of rose of Sharon, Asian bittersweet, climbing euonymus, and other aggressive invaders. These plants have little to no value for our native wildlife and will spread and take over an area, choking out native plants. They all had to go. Some people golf for fun, others knit, and some play video games; I found great joy every weekend for two months ripping invasive plants out of the ground. As a sweet irony, the invasives were wood chipped and became mulch for my garden.

On to the next step: planting the natives. My biggest priorities were food and shelter. Food comes in many forms, not just bird seed, and perhaps the most important is insects. By planting vegetation that insects love to eat, you are providing food to nearly every single creature you could want to attract, especially baby birds. Seeing chewed leaves is a good thing!

(continued on page 2)
Moonlight at the Manor,
An Evening Written in the Stars

On October 1, 2021, the Friends of Briar Bush hosted the 31st Feather Our Nest Gala & Fundraiser, *Moonlight at the Manor*, at the beautiful Abington Art Center. During the evening, guests enjoyed dinner and drinks while visiting astronomy-themed stations led by Briar Bush staff including a Briar Bush StarLab program demonstration led by Senior Naturalist, Ehren Gross. Representatives from Delaware Valley Amateur Astronomers shared their knowledge and telescopes to provide amazing views of the night sky. In addition, an online auction that began two weeks before the main event, continued into the evening with an amazing variety of items contributed by local businesses, artisans, and supporters.

Thank you to all who participated! With your help the event was a great success!


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

(continued from page 1)

I removed a 4’ x 12’ section of lawn in my front yard and converted it into a native perennial wildflower patch, thanks to many plants from the garden of longtime volunteer, Sandy Fischer. (Plant nerds love to share!) In the back yard, I planted coral honeysuckle for hummingbirds along the chain link fence, American beautyberry shrubs, and native grasses to provide seed for sparrows and finches. I encouraged a patch of pokeweed along another section of fence. Pokeweed is a common "weed," but its berries are a favorite among northern mockingbirds, gray catbirds, and American robins. In addition, its large size provides shrub-like cover! As the summer progressed, a large number of sunflowers began to grow underneath my bird feeder. These not only produced beautiful blossoms, but later were magnets for American goldfinches, who dined on the seeds with their young.

It has only been one season with my fledgling native garden, but I have already witnessed wildlife enjoying their new habitat. I have seen a flycatcher gleaning insects from my boxelder tree and a migratory robin gobbling up pokeweed berries. Sparrows jump into the air to get grass seed from high stems. A trail camera has revealed that my yard is visited at night by seven skunks, three raccoons, and two Virginia opossums. I feel so lucky that I not only work at a nature center, but now get to come home to one too!
Briar Bush News and Information

New Board Member

Margaret (Maggie) Brown

Maggie has served as a nurse for over 33 years. She is nationally certified as an Advanced Holistic Nurse, a Health and Wellness Nurse Coach, and a Nature and Forest Therapy Guide and is trained to teach Mindful Self Compassion. Maggie currently holds an executive leadership position as the Director of Compassion and Caring for Colleagues of the Lehigh Valley Health Network. Introduced to Briar Bush when her children were in preschool, Maggie found herself back at BBNC guiding nurses on nature walks over the past couple of years. Maggie has experience in developing and presenting nature experiences for health and wellbeing. Wanting to help support Briar Bush and its mission, Maggie is pleased to have been invited to join the Board. In her free time, Maggie loves to stargaze, hike, and enjoy time with friends, her pup, and family.

Staff News

Will Cameron, New Part-Time Educator

We would like give Will a warm welcome as he joins the BBNC staff!

Will holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Global Environmental Change and Sustainability from Johns Hopkins University. He grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, heavily involved in the local scouting program and volunteering with local watershed non-profits. His love of the outdoors was fostered while kayaking through bay grasses on the Chesapeake, backpacking sections of the Appalachian Trail, and pulling trash out of city storm drains. Will has significant experience leading youth education and engagement programs through the Boy Scouts of America and YMCA in Maryland. He is excited to bring his talents to an organization that shares his passion for environmental stewardship and local engagement. When he’s not at Briar Bush, Will can be found hiking on a local trail, rock climbing with some friends, or snuggling on the couch with his cat.

Ehren Gross, Senior Naturalist

Congratulations, Ehren, on your new role as Senior Naturalist!

“Teaching will always be a skill I adore and carry with me. As Senior Naturalist, a person who studies the natural world and is passionate about nature, I look forward to the new title and responsibilities. Continuing the legacy, I will enjoy working outside more often and making the most of our volunteer team. This job will keep me growing like a tree, deeply rooted in Briar Bush and producing lots of good fruit for the future.”

Heidi Malizia, Environmental Educator

Congratulations, Heidi, on accepting the Full-Time Educator position!

“My journey at Briar Bush began 13 years ago as a volunteer weekend educator - perfect for a stay-at-home mom. Gradually, my role advanced into developing preschool programs, expanding the Magic Mornings program, leading summer camp, obtaining Montgomery County Head Start and Pre-K Counts contracts, and joining the Feather Our Nest fundraising team. I am excited to grow into this full-time position. A big thank you to Jeannette Noorman - I would not be here without our conversation in the Bird Observatory all those years ago!”

www.briarbush.org
Children’s Programs

Registration is required. To register, visit www.briarbush.org or call (215) 887-6603. Visit our website to review the Mitigation Plan for Modified In-Person Programming. Masks are required for all participants ages 2+.

Magic Mornings
Modified In-Person Program

2-4 year-olds (with adult)
- January - March from 10:30am - 11:15am
  Participant Cost: $10.00/session
  Abington Resident: $9.00/session
  FOBB Member: $8.00/session
  Additional child in same household: $5.00
- April from 10:30am - 11:30am
  Participant Cost: $12.00/session
  Abington Resident: $10.80/session
  FOBB Member: $9.60/session
  Additional child in same household: $6.00

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nature Pioneers
Modified In-Person Program

4-6 year-olds (This is a drop-off program.)
- January - April from 1:00pm - 2:30pm
  Participant Cost: $15.00/session
  Abington Resident: $13.50/session
  FOBB Member: $12.00/session

Children are invited to join us on their own for age-appropriate activities, walks, animal encounters, crafts, games, and more! Each week features a new theme, which repeats throughout the week (register for one day per week).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.briarbush.org
Children’s Programs

Registration is required. To register, visit www.briarbush.org or call (215) 887-6603. Visit our website to review the Mitigation Plan for Modified In-Person Programming.

Masks are required for all participants.

After-School Sessions
Modified In-Person Program

Grades K-6
- January - April from 4:00pm - 5:30pm
  Participant Cost: $25.00/session
  Abington Resident: $22.50/session
  FOBB Member: $20.00/session
Briar Bush understands the importance of nature play and scientific discovery in a child’s development. After-School Sessions offer an opportunity to safely experience the wonders of nature at your favorite backyard nature center.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Homeschool Sessions
Modified In-Person Program

Grades K-2 - Select Mondays
Grades 3-6 - Select Tuesdays
- January - April from 1:00pm - 2:30pm
  Participant Cost: $25.00/session
  Abington Resident: $22.50/session
  FOBB Member: $20.00/session
Enrich your homeschool science curriculum! Join us for engaging lessons, live animal encounters, scientific discovery, and more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday (K-2)</th>
<th>Tuesday (3-6)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School’s Out, Get Outside!
Modified In-Person Program

Grades K-6
- Select Holidays from 8:30am-3:30pm
  Participant Cost: $75.00/session
  Abington Resident: $67.50/session
  FOBB Member: $60.00/session
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. Pack a lunch and snacks.

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. Pack a lunch and snacks.
Programs for All Ages

Visit www.briarbush.org or call (215) 887-6603 for more information.
Visit our website to review the Mitigation Plan for Modified In-Person Programming.
Masks are required for all participants ages 2+.

WinterFest 2022
Cold-weather fun for the whole family!
Get outside at Briar Bush before the big game! Explore the grounds and participate in games, activities, and more! (Registration is NOT required.)

Sunday, February 13, 2022
1:00pm-4:00pm
Rain Date: Sunday, February 20, 2022

EarthFest 2022
Celebrate Earth Day with Briar Bush!
Everyone is invited to a festival of fun for all ages including games, activities, crafts, and more! (Registration is NOT required.)

Saturday, April 23, 2022
1:00pm-4:00pm
Rain Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022

Family Nature Night
Modified In-Person Program
For Children w/Sensory Processing Disorders & Their Families
Join the Briar Bush Staff for a fun night in the outdoors complete with animal encounters and interactive stations relating to the theme of the night all at your own pace! (Registration is required.)

High in the Sky
Thursday, March 31, 2022
6:00pm-7:00pm
Rain Date: Friday, April 1, 2022

Animal Homes
Thursday, April 28, 2022
6:00pm-7:00pm
Rain Date: Friday, April 29, 2022

FOBB Members’ Night Out!
Modified In-Person Program
For Friends of Briar Bush Members
Members are invited to join us at Briar Bush for a nighttime program and campfire.
Saturday, March 5, 2022
6:30pm-7:30pm
Rain Date: Sunday, March 6, 2022

Masks are required for all participants ages 2+.

Family Nature Night
Modified In-Person Program
For Children w/Sensory Processing Disorders & Their Families
Join the Briar Bush Staff for a fun night in the outdoors complete with animal encounters and interactive stations relating to the theme of the night all at your own pace! (Registration is required.)

High in the Sky
Thursday, March 31, 2022
6:00pm-7:00pm
Rain Date: Friday, April 1, 2022

Animal Homes
Thursday, April 28, 2022
6:00pm-7:00pm
Rain Date: Friday, April 29, 2022

FOBB Members’ Night Out!
Modified In-Person Program
For Friends of Briar Bush Members
Members are invited to join us at Briar Bush for a nighttime program and campfire.
Saturday, March 5, 2022
6:30pm-7:30pm
Rain Date: Sunday, March 6, 2022

Masks are required for all participants ages 2+.

EarthFest 2022
Celebrate Earth Day with Briar Bush!
Everyone is invited to a festival of fun for all ages including games, activities, crafts, and more! (Registration is NOT required.)

Saturday, April 23, 2022
1:00pm-4:00pm
Rain Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022

Masks are required for all participants ages 2+.
Programs for Adults

Registration is required. To register, visit www.briarbush.org or call (215) 887-6603.
Visit our website to review the Mitigation Plan for Modified In-Person Programming.
Masks are required for all participants.

Great Escapes
Join us in exploring natural and historic locations throughout the region. We’ll be traveling by Briar Bush van to popular hotspots, local favorites, and places well off the beaten path.

John James Audubon Center
- Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 7:00am-1:00pm
  Participant Cost: $40.00
  Abington Resident: $36.00
  FOBB Member: $32.00

Join Audubon Center and Briar Bush naturalists for a guided bird walk, guided tour of the historic house, and take a self-guided tour of the museum! Binoculars will be available for use.

The John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove is situated on a historic 18th-century site, the farm where 18-year-old John James Audubon lived when he first came to America from France in 1803. Here, he developed a technique for drawing birds "from life" that would allow him to become one of the world's best-known wildlife artists. The hundreds of life-size portraits of birds contained in his seminal work The Birds of America helped inspire the formation of the National Audubon Society. The site includes the original three-story farmhouse, built in 1762, miles of nature trails along the Perkiomen Creek, and a brand new building, featuring indoor and outdoor exhibits focused on birds, art, and conservation.

Notes: Participants will meet at Briar Bush at 7:00am. The group will arrive back at Briar Bush by 1:00pm. This trip will require walking and standing over paved or uneven terrain to participate in the guided and self-guided tours. Choosing weather appropriate clothing and comfortable shoes will contribute to a great experience. Participants are responsible for bringing a packed lunch. Although this is a rain or shine event, this trip is subject to cancellation due to dangerous weather conditions.

Vaccination is required. Proof of vaccination must be presented on the day of the program.
If you have concerns regarding COVID-19, please call Briar Bush at (215) 887-6603.
Participants must come prepared for the weather.

Walk in the Woods
Modified In-Person Program

Tailored for Adults and Seniors
- Select Thursdays & Saturdays from 2:00pm-2:45pm
  FOBB Member: FREE
  Others: $5.00

Join Briar Bush educators on interpretive hikes around Briar Bush and Alverthorpe Park.
Participants are required to wear masks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>7 (Alverthorpe Park)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>12 (Briar Bush)</td>
<td>14 (Briar Bush)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Briar Bush Nature Center Week-Long Camps 2022

June 21st - September 2nd from 9:30AM - 4:30PM

FOBB Members-Only Registration begins Monday, January 31st.
Friends of Briar Bush Members receive 20% OFF!
Registration opens to the public on Monday, February 7th.
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
Overnight at Hickory Run State Park!

Summer Camp Aide Program for Ages 13+
Build skills in leadership and earn service hours while having fun!

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.