

Dues

Active Member \$10
Family Membership \$15
Sustaining Member \$15
Junior Member \$5

Dues: Yearly membership dues start in September. Dues may be paid at the first meeting or sent to the treasurer: Jane Wolfe 3326 Pricetown Road Fleetwood, PA 19522.

Officers and Directors

Ryan Woolwine	President (484-883-6461)
Peter Wolfe	Vice President
Karl Gardner	Secretary
Jane Wolfe	Treasurer
Linda Ingram	Director
Jill Kemp	Director
Jim Eckert	Director
Stan Kemp	Director
Kathy Grim	Past President

Web Page

For more information on our programs visit
"[www.berkscountynature.org/
pagemengel.html](http://www.berkscountynature.org/pagemengel.html)"

The dues form and this brochure are available
from the above page.

For our field trips download
Butterfly - Bird - Botany walks
www.berkscountynature.org/bwalks2026.pdf

MENGEL NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Mengel Natural History Society originated as the Natural History Hikers in the 1930's, was renamed the Mengel Natural History Society in 1941, and incorporated as a non profit organization in 1956.

The By-Laws state: "**The purposes of the Society are the stimulation of interest and study in natural history in all its branches, the promotion and diffusion of scientific knowledge, and the creation of the scientific spirit.**"

The Society meets once a month from September through April at McConnell Hall at Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center. Usually the fourth Friday of the month. Except in November we meet jointly with the Berks Mineralogical Society (on the second Tuesday at the Reading Museum) and in December we meet jointly with the Baird Ornithological Club (on the second Friday). In May we meet at a local restaurant for a dinner meeting. We also sponsor field trips.

The public is welcome to all activities.

For information 484-883-6461
(rwwoolwine@gmail.com).

In case of inclement weather you may call
about cancellation.

Updated 4-1-2026

MENGEL NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meets at **McConnell Hall**

Nolde Forest

Environmental Education Center
located on PA-625 south of Reading
2 miles south of PA-724.
(3025 New Holland Road, Reading, PA.)

Programs & Field Trips 2025 - 2026

Public Welcome

(All meetings and field trips are open to
the public and are free.)

- ✓ Monthly Meetings with Lecture
- ✓ Field Trips for Wildflowers,
Butterflies, Dragonflies etc.
- ✓ Annual Wildflower Exchange
and Give-aways
- ✓ Annual Seed Exchange
- ✓ Show & Tell plus Members'
Night for your participation
- ✓ A place to meet other people
interested in the natural world

2025 - 2026 MEETING DATES

September 26, October 24, November 11,
December 12, January 23, February 27,
March 27, April 24, May (?).

Check our Field Trips!

Programs for 2025 - 2026

Programs begin at 7:30 pm at McConnell Hall at Nolde Environmental Education Center (3025 New Holland Road, Reading, PA.)

September 26, 2025 Friday 7:30 PM
"Insects Rule (The Entire World Rides on the Backs of Bugs)" by Keith Williams, Vice President of Engagement and Education, Lancaster Conservancy. Insects play critically important roles in nature that directly impact us. Things like food pollination, decomposition and soil fertility are all roles insects play. The world could not survive without insects. Unfortunately, insects are declining in abundance and diversity, and we risk losing the critically important functions they perform. This presentation will explore the amazing beauty and diversity in the insect world, will discuss the ecological roles they play, and will present solutions, including the importance of native habitats in our landscaping, that will stop their decline. Program followed by Fall Native Plant Exchange and Give-away.

October 24, 2025 Friday 7:30 PM
"Odonata of Berks County Part 2: Damselflies" by member Todd Underwood. His presentation will provide an update on the species of Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) recorded in Berks County. He will discuss the original county-wide survey by local naturalists and explore the 60 species of damselflies by sharing recent photographs and observations. Followed by Fall Seed Exchange and Give-away.

November 11, 2025 TUESDAY 7:30 PM
At the Reading Museum
"The Beginning of the Reading Public Museum, Levi Mengel, Sam Gundy, and More" by Dr Ivan Bub. Joint meeting with the Berks Mineralogical Society with BMS hosting the program. Enter at the back of the Museum on South Parkside Drive.

December 12, 2025 Friday 7:30 PM
"Avian Conservation in an Urbanized Fragmented Landscape" by Dan Ardia, Ph.D., Professor of Biology at Franklin & Marshall College. Dan will lead a conversation about his research studying how birds and mammals respond to rapid environmental change in a man-made landscape.

January 23, 2026 Friday 7:30 PM
"Members' Night" Members' opportunity to present. Program will consist of three or four short programs by members. See an officer if you have a program to share.

February 27, 2026 Friday 7:30 PM
"Local Science Students Symposium" Programs to be announced closer to February.

March 27, 2026 Friday 7:30 PM
"Wildlife of South Africa" by Jim Scheirer. An exciting 80 day self-driving safari in Kruger Park and Kgalagadi Park led to many encounters with lions, leopards, cheetah, elephants, hippos, rhinos, buffalo as well as many species of antelope and birds. Images culled from nearly 10,000 shot on the trip will be presented.

April 24, 2026 Friday 7:30 PM
"An Environmental History of Pennsylvania" by Dr. Allen Dieterich-Ward, Director of The Graduate School and Professor of History at Shippensburg University. The talk will especially highlight the development of Nolde Forest and its connection to the state's conservation and environmental movements. Program followed by our annual Spring Wildflower Exchange and Give-away.

May (?) 2026 ? Banquet. "To be announced." Joint meeting with Baird Ornithological Club. Details later.

Field Trips for 2025 – 2026

Most trips last under 2 hours. You may call the leader or (484-883-6461, rwoolwine@gmail.com) to confirm the trip, other information or weather cancellation status.

March Herp Helper Night for Spotted Salamanders. Contact Lori Soroparu (sallyrallyvolunteer@gmail.com) to volunteer and get on e-mail contact list. Emergence is weather dependent. Often a windy or foggy night, always rainy. This migration only occurs on a few nights a year at scattered locations.

May 2, 2026 Saturday 10 AM
Neversink Mt. - Butterflies, Birds, and Botany. (BOC) Meet at S 10th St. & South St. in Reading. Park on South St. Leaders: Ryan Woolwine 484-883-6461 and Karl Gardner 610-987-3281.

June 6, 2026 Saturday 10 AM
Butterfly Identification Walk at Green Hills Preserve (553 Gunhart Rd. Mohnton, PA) (BOC) Take PA-10 south to PA-568. Turn right (west) for 1/2 mile to Gunhart Rd. Turn right. Park on right in about 1/4 mile. Leaders: Karl Gardner 610-987-3281 & Ryan Woolwine 484-883-6461.

June 13, 2026 Saturday 10 AM
Dragonflies & Damselflies at Hay Creek-Birdsboro Reservoir (BOC) Meet at Old 82 Parking Area at 2000 Hay Creek Rd, Birdsboro, PA. From traffic light at Rtes. 568 and 724 in Gibraltar, take 568 west about 1.5 miles and turn left on White Bear Rd. Drive 4 miles through 2 stop signs and turn left on Hay Creek Rd. Drive to the dead end and park on the shoulder. Coordinators: Mike Slater paplantings@gmail.com, Todd Underwood (underwoo@kutztown.edu), Karl Gardner 610-987-3281.

July 11, 2026 Saturday 8:30 PM to ?
Moth Night at Nolde Environmental Education Center. (BOC) "Introduction to Moths" Presentation starts at 8:30 pm followed by moth watching. Bring flashlight and camera. Meet at main parking lot. Leaders: Jim Eckert 610-401-1695 and Ryan Woolwine. 484-883-6461.

July 18, 2026 Saturday 10 AM
Wildflowers and Pollinators: Union Meadows West, (BOC) A meandering path through this former ball field converted to a pollinator meadow provides good access for observing and netting a variety of species. Route 724 (East Main St., Birdsboro). Turn opposite St. Michael's Cemetery, parking in the ball field lot. Coordinators: Mike Slater & Linda Ingram (610-621-7473).

August 1, 2026 Saturday 10 AM
Butterfly Identification Walk: Blue Marsh Lake. (BOC) Meet at the Blue Marsh Visitor's Center off Palisades Drive. Leaders: Karl Gardner 610-987-3281 & Ryan Woolwine 484-883-6461.

August 15, 2026 Saturday 10 AM
Butterfly Identification Walk at Angelica Park (BOC) Take PA-10 south from Lancaster Avenue 1-1/4 miles. Turn right at the park entrance road at the big masonry sign for Alvernia University. Park at the first parking area on the right. (575 St. Bernardine Street) Leaders: Karl Gardner 610-987-3281 & Ryan Woolwine 484-883-6461.

(BOC) means joint event with Baird Ornithological Club