

**Briar
Bush**
NATURE CENTER

Become a Member and Receive:

- 20% discount on 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!



Newsletter and Calendar

www.briarbush.org

215-887-6603

September - December 2024

Nature Center 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:

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

Pond:

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

Trails:

OPEN Daily: Dawn to Dusk

Remain aware of trail closures.

Admission:

- Briar Bush Members: Free
- Abington Residents: Free
- Others: Donations accepted.

Admission fees are subject to change.

Facility access is subject to change to accommodate privately scheduled programs/events. Call before you visit for the most up-to-date BBNC hours.

**Calendar of Events
begins on page 4.**

*The Dede Long Nature Museum, Griscom Bird Observatory, and Pond will be CLOSED on Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.
Trails are always OPEN from dawn to dusk.*

Whatcha Eating?

Different animals eat a lot of different things, just like different people eat a lot of different things. Recently I polled a group of elementary students on their favorite foods, and I got answers ranging from pizza and chicken wings to macaroni and cheese and even broccoli (her mom would be proud!). Me, I'm a popcorn girl. I eat so much of it that my friends call me a "cornivore."

One of my favorite things about science is that scientists have to give special names to everything. They can't just call it a lot of hornets, they call it a bike. They can't just say winter dormancy and summer dormancy, they call it hibernation and estivation. The same thing goes for animal diets. For just about any kind of animal diet out there, there is a special scientific term for it. Today, I offer a quick-draw version of science-speak trivia for you to use to wow your friends (or at least make them roll their eyes at you)!

(Continued on page 2)



Briar Bush News and Information

Term: What it eats (example)

Carnivore: Meat (red-tailed hawk)

Herbivore: Plants (Russian tortoise)

Omnivore: Plants and meat (rat)

Insectivore: Insects (giant anteater)

Frugivore: Fruit (fruit bat)

Nectivore: Nectar (ruby-throated hummingbird)

Granivore: Seeds (rock pigeon)

Folivore: Leaves specifically (koala)

Piscivore: Fish (bottlenose dolphin)

Planktivore: Plankton (blue whale)

Gumnivore: Tree sap/gum/resin (pygmy marmoset)

Coprophagy: Feces (eastern cottontail rabbit)

Hematophagy: Blood (female tiger mosquito)

Scavenger: Dead animals (turkey vulture)

Detritivore: Dead plants (American cockroach)



Now, know that for nearly every single term I have listed, there are exceptions. For example, although tortoises are considered herbivores, they have been known to eat dead tortoises, and although hummingbirds are known for their love of nectar, they also eat insects. These terms are used to describe the main component of an animal's diet. And now they can also be used to earn another point on your geek card! Go out and use your new-found powers, perhaps at a meal with your favorite omnivores and herbivores. But stay away from those who practice coprophagy, alright?

By: Katie Fisk, Briar Bush Animal Curator



Many thanks to Superior Fence and Rail of Southeast Pennsylvania! Briar Bush Nature Center now has two beautifully crafted trailhead fences at our Grovania entrances. The teamwork and efficiency of this team was amazing!



Did you know? If you have an IRA, you can donate some or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA tax-free to the Friends of Briar Bush through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)? This simple process benefits both you and the organization by reducing your taxable income. It's a win-win!

Speak with your financial advisor to learn more about this giving opportunity.

Briar Bush News and Information

Briar Bush
NATURE CENTER

Get Involved

Bring Your Passion

**Wanted:
Volunteers**



- Board Members
- Hike Guides
- Building and Grounds Maintenance
- Community Events

Join a Dynamic Team!

Scan for more information:
Interested?

Email volunteer@briarbush.org.



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

2-5-year-olds with Adult

Hey, toddlers! Bring your favorite adult to Briar Bush 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: MOST Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays
(Visit our website for the full schedule.)

Time: 10:30am - 11:30am

Cost per Participant/Session: \$12.50 | Abington Resident: \$11.25 | Briar Bush Member: \$10.00

Add'l. Child (Same Household): \$7.50 | Abington Resident: \$6.75 | Briar Bush Member: \$6.00



Nature Pioneers

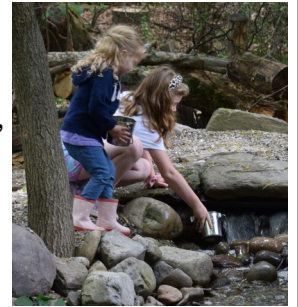
4-6-year-olds

Children are invited to join us on their own for age-appropriate activities, walks, animal encounters, and more! Each week features a new theme.

Day: MOST Thursdays
(Visit our website for the full schedule.)

Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Cost per Participant/Session: \$15.00 | Abington Resident: \$13.50 | Briar Bush Member: \$12.00



School's Out, Get Outside!

Grades K-5

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

Day: Select Holidays and In-Service Days
(Visit our website for the full schedule.)

Time:

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

Cost per Participant/Session:

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

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



Family Nature Night

For Children with Sensory Processing Disorders 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 now feature a forest sensory experience! Light snacks will be provided.

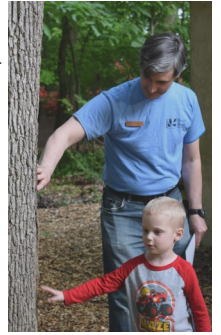
Sponsored by Child Development Foundation

Fall Program Theme: Animal Homes

Date: Friday, September 13, 2024

Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Cost: FREE



Skulls and Bones

All Ages

Become a wildlife detective! Examine real animal skulls to discover how their size, eye sockets, and teeth can reveal their identity. Then, meet some of our animal ambassadors and enjoy s'mores around the campfire. *Campfire is weather dependent.*



Date: Saturday, October 26, 2024

Time: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Cost per Participant: \$12.00 | Abington Resident: \$10.80 | Briar Bush Member: \$9.60

Fantastic Feasts

All Ages

It's the holiday season and our minds turn to delicious food! Make some tasty Mockingbird Mini Muffins for your backyard birds or our Bird Observatory. While our treats are in the oven, learn about the unique diets of some of our animal ambassadors.



Date: Saturday, November 16, 2024

Time: 10:30am - 11:30am

Cost per Participant: \$12.00 | Abington Resident: \$10.80 | Briar Bush Member: \$9.60

Animal Signs

All Ages

Scientists track animals by observing the signs they leave behind such as tracks, scat, food, nests, fur, and feathers. Become a scientist and study real animal signs in the museum and on the trails. Then meet a couple of live animals and watch them leave their own tracks behind!



Date: Saturday, December 7, 2024

Time: 10:30am - 1:30am

Cost per Participant: \$10.00 | Abington Resident: \$9.00 | Briar Bush Member: \$8.00

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.

Wildlife Habitat Hike

Adults

Habitats offer wildlife the food, water, shelter, and space they need in order to survive. Native gardening guru Katie Fisk returns this fall to guide you on the Briar Bush trails to see these concepts in action. We'll look at how the forest layers are used by wildlife, visit the Bird Observatory to study birds, gather inspiration from water sources, and discover all the life a simple log supports.

Date: Saturday, September 7, 2024

Time: 10:30am - 11:30am

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



Creating Backyard Wildlife Habitats

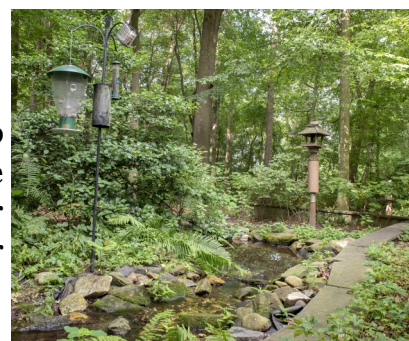
Adults

Following our September Wildlife Habitat Hike, you'll learn how to add food, water, shelter, and space to your own living space. From the basics of bird feeding to brush piles, to offering (and managing) water through a bird bath, DIY pond, or rain garden, learn how to turn your yard into a 5-star wildlife resort!

Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Time: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

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



The Nature of the Holidays

Adults

Holly, reindeer, olive oil, and pine trees: these are just some of the many symbols of the holiday season. You may know which plants and animals represent the holidays and even how they came to be holiday icons; now learn a little bit about their natural history!

Date: Friday, December 13, 2024

Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm

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



Alison Larsen
Briar Bush

Premiere of Briar Bush's Native Seed Library!

Want some help starting or improving your native garden? We will be opening our free native seed library on **October 1st!** Information sheets on the available species will be available across from the front desk in the museum. Pick out which kind(s) you would like, and the front desk staff will give you the packet(s). Fall is a great time for planting!



Ohio spiderwort
(*Tradescantia ohiensis*)

Briar Bush Special Events

Briar Bush Annual Members' Meeting and Program

Friends of Briar Bush Adult Members

All Friends of Briar Bush Members are invited to the annual business meeting and program. Learn more about the work of *your* organization and enjoy a members only program.



*The meeting and program are for adult members only.
Registration is coming soon!*

Day: Thursday, October 17, 2024

Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Cost: FREE (Friends of Briar Bush Adult Members Only)

WinterFest 2025 Save the Date!

All ages are welcome to come out and celebrate the winter season at our annual WinterFest! Enjoy a variety of activities including guided hikes, animal encounters, games, crafts, and more.

Date: Sunday, January 26, 2025

Time: 1:00pm-4:00pm

Cost: FREE



Want to support Briar Bush this giving season?

Below are two ways to help us provide affordable high quality programs for the entire community!

How to host a **Facebook Fundraiser:**



1. Open Facebook
2. Go to the Menu Options (☰)
3. Use the search bar to search for Fundraisers
4. Choose Fundraisers (❤️)
5. Click Raise Money
6. Search for or select "Friends of Briar Bush"
7. Edit your fundraiser Title
8. Share why *YOU* are asking your friends to help you support Briar Bush.
9. Double the connection by editing the image to a memory that you have at Briar Bush
10. Set a Goal and End Date
11. Click Create
12. And don't forget to thank your supporters!

Briar Bush Nature Center's Annual **Giving Tree** begins on Giving Tuesday 2024. Check out our **Amazon Wish List** for gifts that our dedicated staff feel will support our education programs, help preserve our nature sanctuary, and enrich the lives of our animal ambassadors. **Look for the link on our website December 3, 2024!**





1212 Edge Hill Road
Abington, PA 19001

U.S. Postage Paid

Nonprofit Permit

No. 719

FT Washington, PA

Electronic Service Requested

Celebrating 50 Years of the Friends of Briar Bush

Feather Our Nest Gala & Auction!

Golden Together

North Hills Country Club

Friday, September 27, 2024 from 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Individual Ticket: \$120.00 / Pair of Tickets: \$200.00

Dinner & Drinks • Auctions • Entertainment

FON 2024 Online Auction begins September 13, 2024!

Visit our Event Page:



Visit our Online Auction:

