

Friends of DWGNRA Newsletter

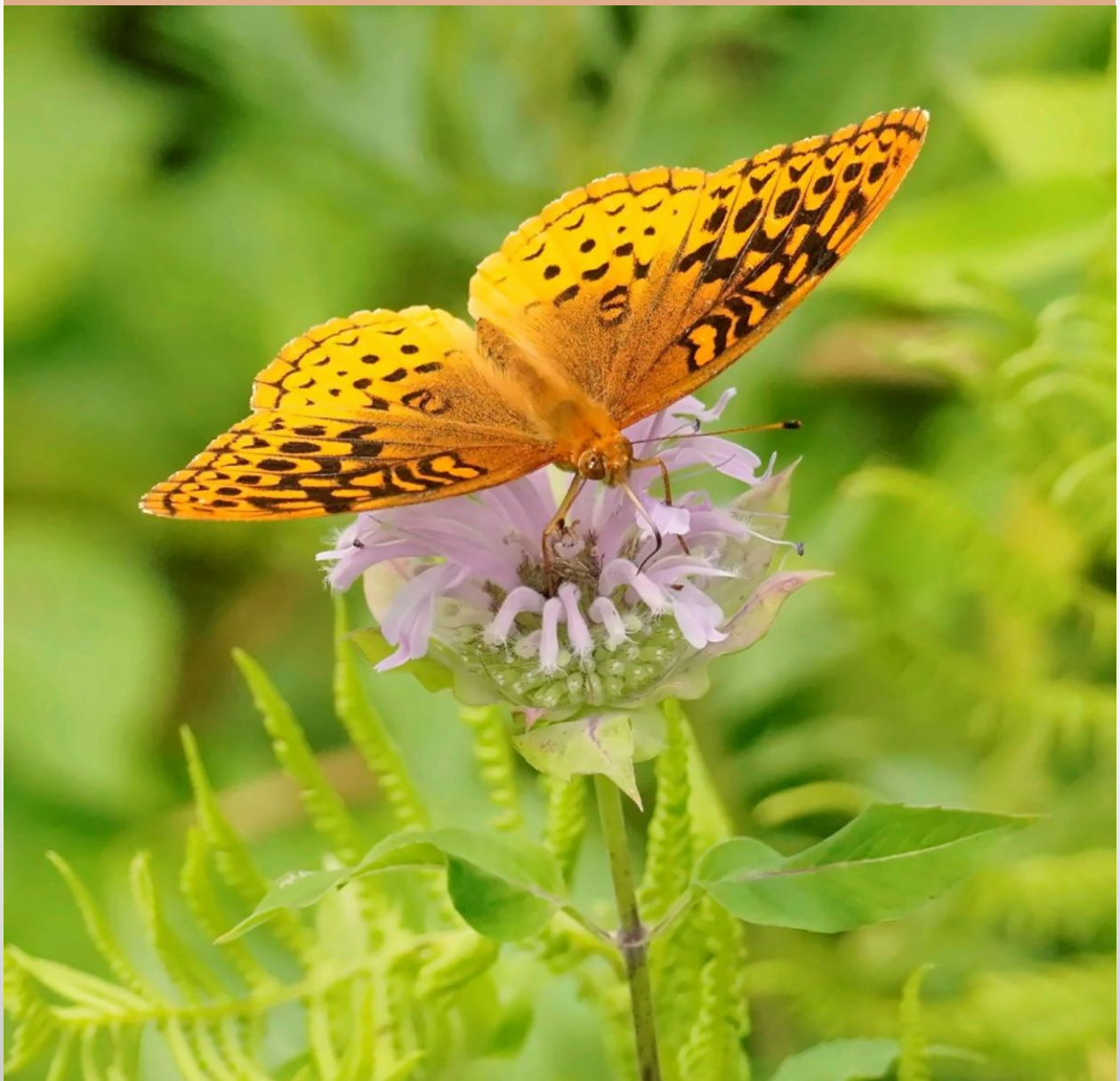
Summer- 2025

Become a Friend Today, and Help Protect Tomorrow



[Visit Our Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)



Hello Mathilda,

Welcome to the summer 2025 Friends of DWGNRA Newsletter!

We hope everyone is looking forward to enjoying summer here in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA).

As you plan your trips to the park, remember that the weather and construction during this time of year can offer a challenge to just getting around. So it is always a good idea to check out the Park's FaceBook page for up-to-date information on parking and other conditions in the Park before visiting. Check out the current Park's alerts at

<https://www.nps.gov/dewa/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>.

Photo: Great Spangled Fritillary Butterfly by Stephen Warshaw

Our Events have begun JOIN US

Those of us at the Friends of the DWGNRA have put a schedule of events together for the Spring and Summer months that we hope will be of interest to our members and others.



Held April 26th at PEEC



The Friends were there!



peec.org/discover-peec



Mastodons, Trilobites, and Dinosaurs

presented by Dr. Paul Kovalski

May 24 Saturday 2-4 PM

**Middle Smithfield
Community Center**





**DWGNRA
Volunteer
Training
at PEEC May 9**

June 14 Saturday Zimmermann Open House



Fishing the Delaware

Thursday, June 19 - Presentation
at Middle Smithfield Township Community &
Cultural Center 6:30 - 8:00 PM



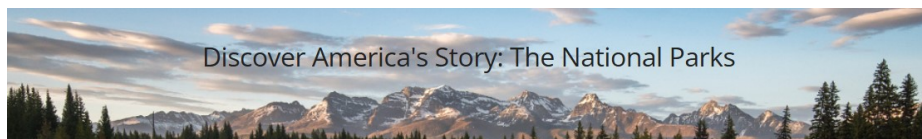
Up and Coming Friends Events



Living on the Wild Side

A Walk and a Talk with Charlie Fineran and
Stephanie Sherman

Saturday, July 19 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM
at Middle Smithfield Township Cultural Center



Adventures in Our National Park Service

Presentation with Dr. Paul
Saturday, August 23 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM
at Middle Smithfield Township Cultural Center

Laser Map the Gap:

A Look at the Geology and
History of DWGNRA

Presentation by Jonathan Malzone

Thursday, September 11, 6:30 to 8:00 PM
at Shawnee Inn



Friends Fundraisers and Tips

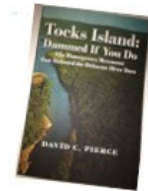


Our 2025 Calendar

\$12 for members

\$15 for non-members

<https://friendsofdewanps.org/calendar-purchase>



Copies of Tocks Island:
Dammed If You Do
by David Pierce

\$16 for Softcover

\$26 for Hardcover

Order from Amazon

Reminder to
invited guests



The 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Event will be held on Sunday, September 14th at the



THE SHAWNEE INN



PLANTS YOU CAN PROPAGATE FROM CUTTINGS

@AdrianneHunt.herbalist
www.hensandgrit.com



				
Mulberry	Blackberry	Raspberry	Passion Flower	Hemp
				
Hawthorn	Elder	Hops	Rosemary	Grapevines
				
Lemon Verbena	Ginkgo	Jasmine	Rose	Hibiscus
				
Magnolia	Azalea	Tarragon	Dogwood	Lilac

Bites & Stings

Itches of the outdoors



Mosquito

Size: 16mm (.6 in.)



Tick

Size: 2-3mm (.078-.137 in.)



Chigger

Size: 0.17-0.21mm (.007-.008 in.)



No-See-Um

Size: 1-4mm (.0625 in.)



Black Widow

Size: 38mm long x 6.4mm (1.5 in. x .25 in.)



Fire Ant

Size: 2-6mm (.08-.24 in.)



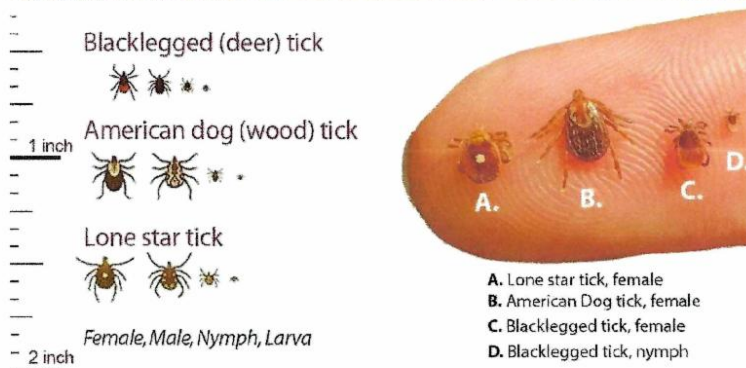
Hornet

Size: 2-3.5cm (.79-1.38 in.)

General Protection:

- Wear long sleeves and pants when spending time outdoors
- Use a trusted insect repellent
- Wash clothing & gear immediately after coming indoors

Information brought to you by **tecnu**
www.teclabs.com



- A. Lone star tick, female
- B. American Dog tick, female
- C. Blacklegged tick, female
- D. Blacklegged tick, nymph



DWGNRA News

Dingmans Falls - including the access roads, visitor center and trail system - is closed for Summer 2025. Contractors will remove and replace a bridge that

crosses Dingmans Creek on the access road into the site. The park anticipates bridge construction to be completed by the fall. Simultaneously, the park's trail crew will work on much-needed repairs to the staircase that leads to the Dingmans Falls observation area. During construction, ALL traffic is prohibited, including pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicle traffic.

While Dingmans Falls Visitor Center is closed, Bushkill Meeting Center (BMC) on Route 209 in Lehman Township will serve as Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area's visitor center. Starting May 23, visitors can find information, park souvenirs, maps and books, NPS passport stamps, exhibits, Junior Ranger activity books and more at BMC. The visitor center will be open Fridays through Mondays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Some ranger-led programs that were previously held at Dingmans Falls will be relocated to George W. Childs Park, which reopened last year after extensive repairs. Visit the park's website for updates and information on visitor center operations and ranger-led programs.

Contractors are also working on repairs to the bridge over Van Campens Brook on Old Mine Road in Hardwick Township, NJ, just south of Van Campens Glen. The road will remain open, with single-lane traffic during working hours. Visitors may experience delays. The park intends to complete these repairs by the fall.

The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area offers year-round recreation including hiking, paddling, fishing and hunting. Go to <https://www.nps.gov/dewa/planyourvisit/index.htm>



Supporting our National Recreation Area

by Karen Tiesling-Keenan, President of the Friends of DWGNRA

Our mission at Friends of the DWGNRA – to support the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area – is even more important now.

Every National Park Service unit has been hit with staff cuts, financial freezes, and stress over what may come next. The National Recreation Area, also known as DEWA, has lost not just key staff, but money already allocated for some projects that has been frozen. This means even though permission was granted to spend the money, that spending has since been put on hold until further notice.

So how can you help?

Friends of DWGNRA is the only partner group authorized to give money directly to the National Recreation Area. The Friends continue to support ongoing programs, including the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held to honor hundreds of volunteers who apply their labor and skills to such things as trail maintenance, preservation of historic structures, visitor center staffing, and live educational presentations. The Friends are also striving to fill some of the funding gaps for educational or recreational programs whose funds are on indefinite hold.

Each one of us, whether in the Friends group or not, is able to volunteer for the recreation area. Visit <https://www.volunteer.gov> to sign up as a registered volunteer and learn what opportunities are available. If you don't like the paperwork, join or just donate to the Friends of DWGNRA by visiting our website, <https://friendsofdewanps.org/>. Or join other groups like the National Park Foundation for a wider reach at, <https://www.nationalparks.org/> or the National Park Conservation Association for a more outspoken approach, <https://www.npca.org/>.

The easiest way to help our park is to be a good steward when visiting DWGNRA – simply by picking up trash as you hike, bike, or paddle your way through. Notify the park when you see obvious misuse, major trash dumping, trees down across the road, or any other issue you encounter by calling the main office at 570-426-2452. If you're unable to reach a live voice, be sure to leave a message.

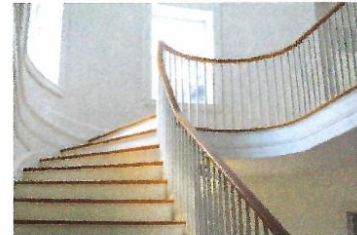
Don't try to police the issue yourself or move a downed tree – call the park office, please. And always practice Leave No Trace by packing out all you pack in. Visit <https://lnt.org/> for more information from the Leave No Trace organization.

The Friends of DWGNRA will support the park as long as it exists, no matter what happens politically or organizationally. We are here to do what we can while we can, so that all may enjoy the special natural resource that we have been so blessed to have in our backyard.

FRIENDS AT MARIE ZIMMERMANN HOUSE



Built in 1912, the stone mansion of Marie's design was the country getaway of the Brooklyn based Zimmermann family and eventually the full-time home of the artist and her partner Ruth Allen. Surrounded by forest, waterfalls & gardens and steeped in history, the 9-bedroom home is a private sanctuary now available for exclusive private events.



IT'S AN ANT'S LIFE

By *Steph Sherman*



As summer officially arrives, I find myself once again contemplating another insect that is a quintessential harbinger of the season: Ants. My husband and I knew the weather was kitchen counters. While we keep a tidy house, these industrious scouts are literally tireless in their patrol for sustenance. A habit I

admire, as I too am food motivated. Yet with everything happening in this world, I find myself quite sympathetic to these small pests anymore. Perhaps we're all just leading a bug's life in this great big world. You have to admit the similarities can be convincing.

Feeling generally tired? Haven't slept a good night's sleep in forever? Work life can be exhausting and we all understand the typical nine-to-five grind. A power nap is usually our go to for a recharge but what would be a 20 minutes is just 1-6 minutes for an ant. These little gals (yes, all workers are girls as males fly the nest to find a new queen) can take up to 250 power naps per day. Scientists have clocked these naps to adding up to anywhere from 4 to 9 hours total in a day. Most of the time these ants are more in a "low power mode" than fully unconscious, perching themselves on the ceiling, against a tunnel wall or even parking it in the middle of traffic if need be. Personally, this makes me feel a little better when I have 8 hours to try to get comfortable in bed each night.

Feel like you're always blazing a new trail? Many times we see a solo scout ant in the sink or a couple ants roving around the floorboards, but these ants aren't rookies. Young ants stay in the nest to help with the next brood generation. Yes, even ant girls have their first gig as babysitting. As they age, older ants will take on the roles of foragers or defenders for the colony as well as any general needs in the nest. With older ants taking on the riskier tasks adventuring, they keep the future of the nest safe from intruders and disease as they search for food and new habitat. Just like we as humans have unique skills based on our individual traits and age, ants divide their labor similarly. Guess that means the adventure continues as my middle-aged self continues to grow. Don't worry, we all find our spots even if it seems chaotic.

When you think about it, as single ant will have a demanding and daring life from working in the colony to exploring the wide world beyond. The one thing I am most amazed is their hard work ethic and their capacity to build. A single ant can move up to 20 times their body weight, but can you imagine the power of a colony? Some ants have been seen to even create supercolonies where ants of the same species with different queens will cohabitate to create vast underground networks of tunnels. The largest discovered being Europe's Argentine ants, who build a colony stretching nearly 3,700 miles!

A lot of times I do feel like a single ant adventuring, and life can certainly make you feel small. The best thing is to remember that with plenty of help from your friends, family, neighbors and community, we can accomplish great things. So, whether it's not getting enough sleep or the work expectations are feeling too demanding, remember at least you're not asked to lift a car (without help) on a regular basis and have a chance to sleep in a bed for 8 hours. Sometimes we all just need to sit back, enjoy the sunshine and remember that all of us are hard working animals, even if that little ant just wants to clean up your picnic crumbs



Madison DeGerolamo is leaving park service as Community Volunteer Ambassador June 15.



COMMON NORTH AMERICAN BATS

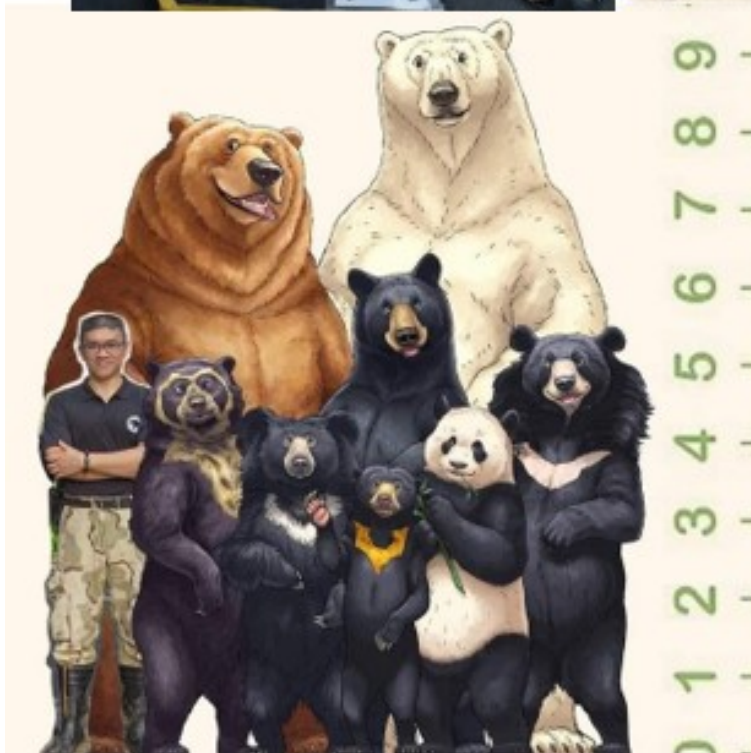


WELCOME TO THE
BATCAVE

Check Out
The Bat Cave
Simulation
at Peec's
ECOZONE

Build a Bear

Unique exhibit at the
Pocono Environmental



What's coming up with our park partners and others



PEEC
Pocono Environmental
Education Center

PEEC in Dingman's Ferry is the perfect place for learning, exploring, getting away, and connecting. With six hiking trails, weekend educational programs, and summer camps, PEEC is a great place for nature lovers of all ages, families,

friends, photographers, youth and adult groups, scouts, students.

PEEC has many events throughout the summer!

Check their calendar on their *website under programs or click here!*

For things to do with other DWGNRA partners:

Visit PEEC at their website, www.PEEC.org.

Visit Peters Valley School of Craft, www.petersvalley.org.

Visit the Walpack Historical Society, www.walpackhistory.org.

Visit the Millbrook Village Society, facebook.com/Millbrook-Village-Society-413672305431861

Visit the Friends of Marie Zimmermann, friendsofmariezimmermann.com

Visit the Montague Grange # 140 , facebook.com/profile.php?id=100085700530211

ABOUT US



Our Mission

The Friends strive to preserve the natural, historical, recreational, and cultural features of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA).

By gathering donations and finding volunteers, the Friends are able to provide funding for vital park projects, as well as support day-to-day operations.

Donate Today

Volunteer



Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter. Remember to contact us via the website or Facebook with your thoughts and suggestions.

Sincerely,
Friends of the DWGNRA

Friends of Delaware Water Gap National
Recreational Area

Email Us: info@friendsofdewanps.org

Visit Our Website: <http://www.friendsofdewanps.org>

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