

## Bushkill Township 200th Anniversary 1813-2013



Fall 2013

After over a year of planning and selling bicentennial memorabilia to raise funds to host the township's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, the Anniversary Committee's hard work culminated on August 17 when crowds of people came to participate in the celebration. And what a day it was!

The day began with a meaningful opening ceremony that took place at the newly planted bicentennial tree at the Bushkill Township Recreation Complex. White birds released by Kevin Yany and his eight year-old daughter Olivia captured the attention of those attending, ninety-five year-old resident Willard Werkheiser cut the ribbon surrounding the tree, and fifteen year-old Erica Biechy offered a lilting a cappella rendition of *America The Beautiful*. Nine proclamations and congratulatory letters presented to the township by elected officials and representatives set the tone for the day---Bushkill Township is now 200 years old!

The celebration started early in the day as Bushkill Township's Volunteer Fire Company served their popular breakfast buffet as well as lunch and snacks throughout the day. Just outside the building was an impressive display of our police and fire vehicles and equipment, along with fire trucks from neighboring municipalities. Who can forget that moment when the Life Flight helicopter landed providing some interesting reactions to the downdraft, or the excitement of watching the police K-9 demonstration! Families appreciated information, displays, and conversations on drugs, alcohol, bullying, gangs and crime prevention provided by the District Attorney's Office and Center for Humanistic Change, while our police department offered fingerprinting and photographs. Much laughter came from the Pet Parade tent—lots of pups, of course, but also African frogs, hermit crabs, a bearded dragon, bunny, and goat. Nearby was the 4-H exhibit along with its pair of alpacas who talk to each other and have a mind of their own. The music was excellent! Claude Shappelle had people tapping their toes, and the day ended with the Nazareth Area Community Band's Patriotic Concert that included some very touching pieces along with a rousing edition of *Stars and Stripes Forever*.

Additional activities took place at Bushkill Elementary School. Those who visited were treated to train rides, vintage clothing dress-up, miniature horse and carriage demonstration, farm implement and produce display along with banjo music, and a singer and accordion offering children's songs. Tours of the school and highlights of days past plus a glimpse of the environmental center were also offered.



Supervisors Brien Kocher and Jason Smith receiving a 200th Anniversary Proclamation from State Representative Hahn.

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For most adults the highlight of the day was the trolley tours. The volume of riders far exceeded our expectations (over 750!) and caused long lines and an hour-long wait. But it was a beautiful day and the wait was worth it, even fun for those who met old friends and made some new ones as they chatted and waited patiently. The tours passed some 27 historic sites and much of our preserved land throughout the township. Kudos to our tour guides who were quite knowledgeable as they gave brief overviews and answered many questions. Some of the comments heard indicated that most everyone learned something on the trip even if they have been a life-long resident.

Vintage photos were displayed at the grove and the souvenir table. Many people were drawn to pause and reflect upon the photos as they searched for familiar schools, landmarks, and faces, often with surprising success. A special photo display was created for the lower level of the Gun Museum at Jacobsburg. Memorabilia for sale included commemorative Westerwald pottery crocks, calendars featuring vintage photos, and Jim Wright's *The History of Bushkill Township* book. Please call the township office for information on items still available.

Saint Luke's United Church of Christ, Belfast, Bushkill Township's oldest church, hosted a closing worship service Sunday evening. As those assembled prayed together, sang together, laughed together, and gave thanks together it proved to be a fitting closing to a grand celebration. Delicious refreshments were shared in the church pavilion afterward where everyone continued to share stories, both old and new, well into the evening.

A sense of pride and community spirit could be felt throughout the day Saturday, and again Sunday evening, as residents and friends gathered to mark the 200 year milestone. A special thank you is offered to each and every one who worked long and hard to make our township's Bicentennial Celebration an enjoyable and memorable event!



## Veterans Remembrance



**RED, WHITE, AND BLUE** were the colors of the day and many flags were on display as Bushkill Township hosted a Veterans Remembrance and Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Veteran's Flagpole on May 26. Over 200 residents and



friends attended this patriotic event marking a day to celebrate our country, our township's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and to remember and honor our Veterans and active military members. Emcee Bill Brackbill provided a smooth transition through the ceremony from his welcome to his closing remarks. Boy Scouts from Troops 74 and 44 read 135 individual dedications to Veterans while a flag for each of them waved in the breeze. Other participants included The Sheriff's Dept. Honor Guard, Ray Greene (former Veterans Director), speakers David Venditta (Author and Morning Call Editor) and Freddie Ramirez (County Veterans Director), and the Nazareth Community Chorus. Pete Miller of Troop 74 offered the Flag Retirement Ceremony, but unfortunately due to high winds the flags could not be retired by burning as planned. Erica

Biechy sang the traditional version of *The National Anthem*, and the ceremony ended with Nazareth American Legion's Firing Squad 21 gun salute and trumpeter Randy Baxendale playing *Taps*. We have received many requests to continue the tradition. Bill Brackbill and Susan Kirk have agreed to coordinate the event for 2014. Watch for details on the website and in your Spring newsletter!

# 200th Celebration



Just a reminder that the collection of historical photos of the Township remains available for public viewing in the basement of the Jacobsburg Historical Society's Pennsylvania Long Rifle Museum. The Museum is located at 402 Henry Road and is open weekends from noon to 4PM through the end of October.

## Keller Road Bridge & 2013 Road Paving Project

This summer the Bushkill Township Public Works Department took on replacing the Keller Road Bridge. The new bridge is a Contech Precast Arch Bridge with a precast foundation which is set in the streambed. In August the foundation pieces were installed and the arches were delivered the following week. In preparation for the installation, one of the challenges was diverting Sober's Run tributary and the existing streambed had to be excavated and free of any stream flows. The total project cost was roughly \$150,000.00, of which \$50,000.00 was from grant funding through the Northampton County Gaming Authority. Keller Road is a commonly used road which connects Belfast Road to state Route 512. The existing bridge consisted of two 60" boiler pipes under Keller Road and were installed in the 1950s. In 1993 concrete was poured over the pipes in an effort to reinforce the structure and this held until 1996. The bridge was closed from 1996–2000 and from 2005 to present due to extreme flooding from Hurricane Ivan. With the help of Col-



lura Engineering Associates and William Gray from Contech, the Bushkill Township Public Works Department did an outstanding job on the project!

Recon Construction Services of York was awarded the 2013 township road paving project to reclaim Lahr Road, Blue Ridge Drive, Highland Road and Cross Hill Drive. Full Depth Reclamation, FDR, is the rehabilitation technique in which the full thickness of the asphalt pavement and a predetermined portion of the underlying materials (base, subbase and/or subgrade) is uniformly pulverized and blended to provide an upgraded, homogeneous

base material. Treatment depths vary depending on the thickness of the existing pavement structure, but generally range between 4 to 12 inches (100 and 300 mm). FDR consists of pulverization/reclamation of the existing materials, adding more materials (when necessary), mixing, initial shaping of the resultant mix, compaction, final shaping or "tight blading," and application of a bituminous surface or wearing course. In the case of the above mentioned roads, a 4% cement mixture was used to strengthen the sub base and paved with a 19mm wearing course.

## Howard E. Kostenbader—1945-2013

Howard E. Kostenbader, passed away on August 29, 2013, at St. Lukes University Hospital, Fountain Hill, surrounded by loving family and friends. Born on the family farm known as Hillcrest Farms in Bushkill Township on August 4, 1945, he was a son of Robert W. and Irene Kostenbader. Howard was a graduate of Nazareth High School, class of 1963. A life-long resident and dedicated public servant of Bushkill Township, Howard joined the police department in 1969 and served as the longest tenured Police Chief from 1973 to 2002. After retiring from the police department, Howard proudly worked with the township road crew. Since 2002, Howard served on the Board of Supervisors of Bushkill Township. He was active in Boy Scouts and in 1974, served as the Committee Chairman of Troop 74, Bushkill Township. Howard was a member of several local area social clubs, attended Schoeneck Moravian Church, and was an avid Green Bay Packers and New York Yankees fan. His genuine acts of kindness, and his profound willingness to help others in their time of need, will be deeply missed by all who truly knew and loved him.



## Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center

Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center is pleased to announce the opening of their new visitor center and administrative offices in October. The building is located at 400 Belfast Road, adjacent to the main parking lot. It replaces the aging administrative offices at 835 Jacobsburg Road and provides indoor classroom space, which the center has not had up to this point. The visitor center will also feature additional parking, restrooms, and a gift shop. We will be seeking a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Certification from the Green Building Council. The “Green” features of the building include radiant floor heat, local building materials, geothermal heating and cooling, a passive solar lighting design that utilizes windows and sky lights, and internal materials such as flooring and partitions that are made in large proportion from post-consumer waste. Outside the building there are solar panels that generate electricity, a live roof that is planted with sedums, and a permeable parking area where water can soak into the ground and grass can continue to grow.

In addition to serving as a working example of environmentally conscious design, the visitor center will host many upcoming programs. A photography exhibit is on display in the classroom to showcase our neighbors who inhabit Jacobsburg. Families will be welcome to visit in the evenings one Friday a month to watch a movie and take part in a craft project. The classroom is already scheduled to host guest speakers and training workshops, and in December we will have a Holiday Open House, complete with crafts, refreshments, nature and history walks. Stop in this fall to see the new addition to Jacobsburg! For more information on upcoming programs check our website, [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us), or follow us on Facebook.



*Congratulations*  
to  
**Bushkill Township**  
**on your 200 Year celebration.**  
Thank you for being such great supporters  
of the Nazareth Soccer Club.

**2014 Spring Season Registration**  
starts in January for Boys and Girls ages 4-18  
Check us out at [www.nazarethsoccer.org](http://www.nazarethsoccer.org)



**Corporate Sponsorships are currently available. If you are interested, please contact us at [info@nazarethsoccer.org](mailto:info@nazarethsoccer.org). Thank you to all of our current sponsors and volunteers!**

## Jacobsburg Historical Society

Jacobsburg Historical Society's annual Market Faire and Rendezvous is traditionally held during the last full weekend of October on the grounds of the Boulton Historic Site, just outside of Nazareth, Pennsylvania. This year's Rendezvous will fall on Saturday, October 26 (10 am to 5 pm) and Sunday, October 27 (10 am to 3 pm). Parking is available in the pasture behind the John Joseph Henry House at 402 Henry Road, just off the Belfast Exit on PA Route 33. This event is an all-encompassing, all-inclusive, family-friendly living history encampment exhibiting many periods of American history, including the Pre-Colonial, Colonial, and Fur Trade Eras. Demonstrations and events include primitive archer, blacksmithing, black powder demos, hearth cooking, a historic woods walk, children's games, a scavenger hunt, an array of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century traders, a museum gift shop, and individual blanket traders.

The newly finished Early American Craft Education Workshop, the John Joseph Henry House Museum, the Nicholas Hawk Log Cabin Workshop, and the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum will all be open to the public during this event.



Please contact the Jacobsburg Historical Society office with any questions or for further information at 610-759-9029, or by email at [Jacobsburg@rcn.com](mailto:Jacobsburg@rcn.com). A collection of historical photos of Bushkill Township remains available for public viewing in the basement of the Society's Pennsylvania Long Rifle Museum which is located at 402 Henry Road and is open weekends from noon to 4:00pm.

## Open Space Initiatives

Northampton County's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Open Space Initiative has been guiding the County's programs for municipal parks, natural areas and farmland preservation is preparing for an overhaul. Northampton County will be creating a new, strategic open space plan called *Livable Landscapes – A Strategic Open Space Plan*. The plan will cover the existing framework but will look to update the guidelines to allow for more flexibility in the restoration and preservation of lands. Throughout the planning process, public input will be needed. The County wants to hear from its residents on issues ranging from land preservation and restoration to recreational amenities and new sustainable building practices. Public input from our residents will provide an outlook for the County to focus on projects that will help enhance the quality of life within Northampton County.

To date, the partnerships forged between municipalities, conservancies and the County have preserved over 130 farms on 12,713 acres and 1,050 acres of natural areas and open space. Municipalities that have an Earned Income Tax (EIT) directed to land preservation and recreation offer their residents even more possibilities to be successful. The EIT in these municipalities help provide matching funds to partner with county, state, federal and foundations to increase the potential for land preservation. Many of these municipalities are the leaders within the County for land preservation efforts. Beginning in 2012, Northampton County, as well as every other county within the Commonwealth, started to receive funds from the Act 13 – Marcellus Shale Tax. Northampton County has a plan in place to use this money that will benefit the County as whole or complete projects that will have a regional impact.

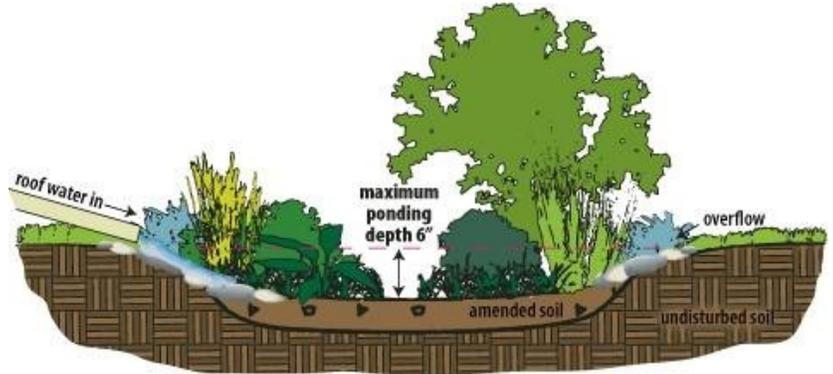


## Stormwater Management for the Homeowner

Residential Rain Gardens are an easy and effective tool that we can use to help reduce stormwater runoff from residential properties in Bushkill Township. These gardens are strategically placed to intercept stormwater runoff until it can be fully absorbed into the ground. Their design allows the rain garden to serve almost as a bowl that collects water from downspouts or overland flow across a property. The water is then able to slowly infiltrate into the underlying soil. Rain Gardens can come in all different shapes and sizes but work best when planted with native species indigenous to the area.

### How Rain Gardens Work

The existing soil within the rain garden is removed (or amended) and replaced with a more permeable soil typically consisting of a mix of sand, topsoil and compost. These soils will allow for easier water percolation. Sizing of the rain garden is dependent upon the amount of water that is expected to enter into the garden during a rain event. The garden is planted with trees, shrubs and perennials before being covered in a layer of mulch. The completed rain garden will have a slight depression that is used to temporarily collect runoff so it can infiltrate slowly. Rain gardens have the same look and feel as any other landscaped beds but with the added benefit of increased stormwater infiltration.



### Plants

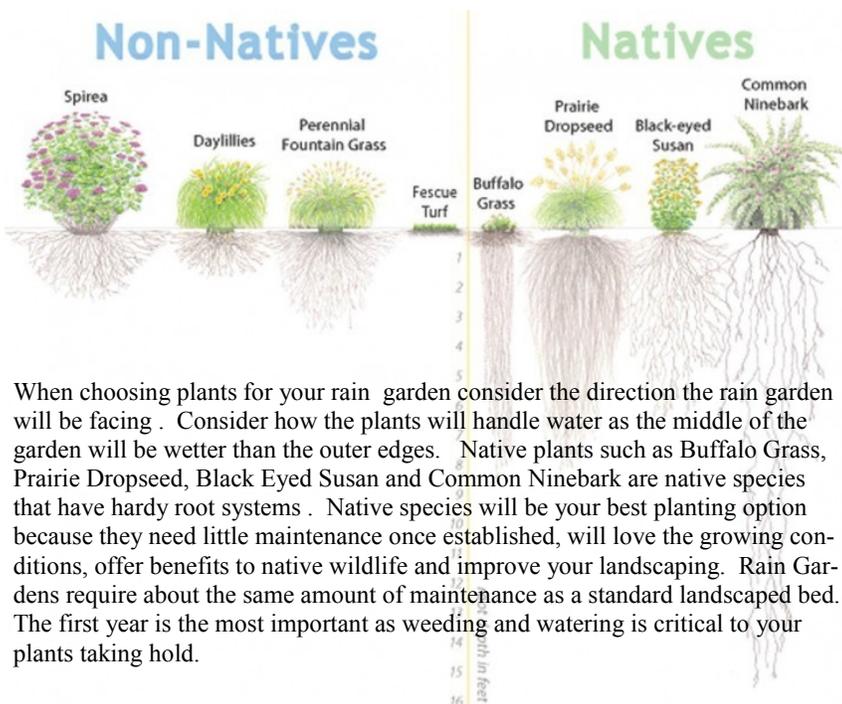
- Native species
- Consider Sun, Partial Sun or Shade
- Aesthetically pleasing

### Soils

- Loose soil for infiltration , root growth
- 50% Sand-25% Topsoil-25% Compost

### Cover

- Gravel or Mulch
- Traps moisture and moderates soil temperature
- Large stones can be used for



When choosing plants for your rain garden consider the direction the rain garden will be facing. Consider how the plants will handle water as the middle of the garden will be wetter than the outer edges. Native plants such as Buffalo Grass, Prairie Dropseed, Black Eyed Susan and Common Ninebark are native species that have hardy root systems. Native species will be your best planting option because they need little maintenance once established, will love the growing conditions, offer benefits to native wildlife and improve your landscaping. Rain Gardens require about the same amount of maintenance as a standard landscaped bed. The first year is the most important as weeding and watering is critical to your plants taking hold.

**Rain Barrels**—Rain barrels are simple structures designed to collect and hold water runoff from roof tops. By collecting rain runoff, the water can be stored easily for later use. Watering lawns and gardens with the stored water is an excellent way to reuse the stored water.

**Backyard Streams**—For homeowners with backyard streams, a vegetative buffer zone should be allowed to form. The broader the vegetative zone, the more filtration can occur before entering the stream system.

**Wildflower Meadows**—Wildflower meadows are a beautiful addition to any homeowners property and require almost no maintenance beyond choosing the appropriate site location.

**BUSINESS NAME**

Primary Business Address  
 Your Address Line 2  
 Your Address Line 3  
 Your Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-5555  
 Fax: 555-555-5555  
 E-mail: someone@example.com

Mailing Address Line 1  
 Mailing Address Line 2  
 Mailing Address Line 3  
 Mailing Address Line 4  
 Mailing Address Line 5

*For more Township information, visit our website at [www.bushkilltownship.com!!](http://www.bushkilltownship.com!!)*

***Inside this Issue: Bushkill Township 200 Years, Open Space Update, Board of Supervisors Happenings, Keller Road Bridge and more.....***

A friendly reminder that Election Day is Tuesday, November 5th and residents are encouraged to get out and vote. The Bushkill Township Board of Supervisors are elected to six-year terms of office. Supervisors play the central role in local government and are responsible for providing emergency services, recreational opportunities, enacting ordinances, formulating and adopting budgets, approving expenditures, hiring employees and guiding the future of the Township. The Bushkill Township Board of Supervisors are committed to making Bushkill Township a great place to reside and raise a family.



Board of Supervisors

Brien Kocher, Chairman; Jason Smith, Vice Chairman; Julie Bender; Carolyn Hill; and Harrison Kline. Brian Harris, Township Manager; Gary Asteak, Solicitor; Robert Collura, Engineer

Municipal Building	610-759-1250	Public Works	610-759-2758
Police Department	610-759-9588	Zoning Office	610-759-7197
Non Emergency	610-759-2200	State Senator Browne	610-502-1567
Emergency	911	Northampton County	610-559-3100