

THORNBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC)



FIND OUT ABOUT THE EAC AND THE EXCITING PROGRAMS IN THORNBURY TOWNSHIP May 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS – ALL ARE WELCOME

MONTHLY TRAIL CLEARINGS - SUMMER - JUNE 9TH, JULY 14TH

Stream Ecology Program - JUNE 16TH 10AM-1PM

The EAC will be hosting a special Stream Ecology Program led by the Ashland Nature Center at Luchenback Trail Park at the Locksley trail Head

BIRD WATCHING EVENT – SEPTEMBER 29th 10 AM—Locksley Road Parking Lot

HISTORICAL HIKE LUCKENBACH TRAIL – OCTOBER 2018 TIME TBD

GEO CACHE – DATE, TIME AND PLACE - TBD

MONTHLY TRAIL CLEARINGS

9AM—NOON

Volunteers Needed!

Please join us for this trail marking and maintenance event. See the beautiful natural surroundings our Township has to offer while helping to enhance the extent and accessibility of our trail system. Each month we focus on a different trail.

Meet at Cheyney Post Office on Station Road at 9:00



MILKWEED AND THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY

**FIND OUT
ABOUT OUR
TOWNSHIP
AND THE EAC**

- MISSION STATEMENT
- EAC PROGRAMS
- PAST EVENTS
- TRAILS



Monarch Butterfly Project:

In 2016, the EAC began a new project to address the growing concern about the drastic decline of the Monarch butterfly population to near extinction levels. Milkweed plants are essential for the ability of Monarchs to thrive and reproduce but these have been greatly reduced in number by increased development as well as by the use of herbicides. We are attempting to create Monarch waystations by preserving known stands of milkweed plants on township property by signposting these areas and not mowing them during the growing season. In addition, new milkweed seedlings were planted in select locations such as in the field adjacent to the Thornbury township Farmer's Market to further encourage monarch habitats. We are pleased to report that numerous residents participated by informing us of existing milkweed plants and informing us when Monarchs were sighted.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Environmental Advisory Council shall have the following powers:

Identify environmental problems.
Recommend plans and programs to the appropriate agencies for the promotion and conservation of the natural resources and for the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment within the area of Thornbury Township.

Make recommendations as to the possible use of open land areas of the Township of Thornbury.
Promote a community environmental program.
Maintain an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned including, but not limited to, flood prone areas, wetlands and other unique natural areas.

Advise the appropriate local governmental agencies in the acquisition of property, both real and personal.
Undertake such other environmental tasks as requested by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Thornbury.

Meeting are held the second Thursday of each month at 7pm. All are welcome!

EAC Sponsored Community Outreach and Education Programs

Every year the EAC hosts a Community Education Program at the Township Building. In 2016, we sponsored a **Composting Seminar** presented by Sam Barnett of the Master Gardeners and Penn State Extension. The first 10 residents to sign up received a free composting bin.

On April 8, 2017 from 11am -12pm, we hosted a **Watershed/ Storm water Run-off Educational seminar** presented by Vail Ryan of the Master Watershed Program and Penn State Extension. The seminar was held in the Township Building and the first 10 residents that signed up received a free rain barrel.



Stormwater and Rainbarrel Seminar



Historical Hike

EAC Special Events

Special events are scheduled several times a year on Saturday mornings to showcase our wonderful trail system and all residents are welcome to participate.

On several separate occasions, we have hosted a **Scavenger Hunt** on the Luckenbach Trail for our younger residents. Stream ecologists from the Ashland Nature Center have come equipped with fishnets, field microscopes and water testing kits. Participants learned to identify a variety of micro invertebrates inhabiting Chester Creek and to learn about their life cycle. Local arborists led informative tours along the trail as youngsters searched for hidden treats.

Historical Hike:

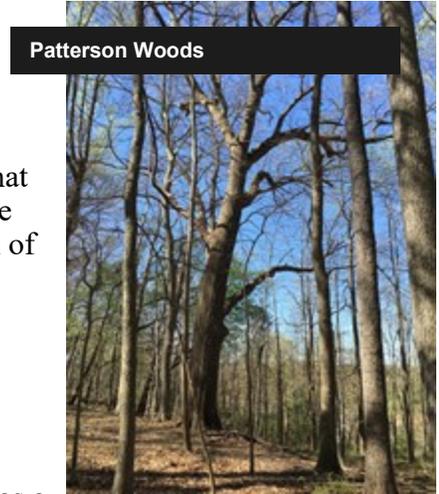
For several years, the EAC has sponsored hikes along the Luckenbach Trail and in Bonner Park led by local historians Sam Neumann and Walter Cressler. The 2017 Historical Hike along the Luckenbach Trail took place on May 6 and highlighted the industrial heritage of our township as exemplified by the extensive ruins of mill operations along Chester Creek and the stone crusher plants related to the John T. Dyer Quarry.

Bird Watching Event:

Begun in 2016 and to be repeated this fall, "Introduction to Birding" is led by local resident John Mercer who leads bird walks for West Chester Bird Club, Longwood Gardens and The Friends of Exton park. This is a wonderful way to learn the basics of bird identification and bird calls. Next Bird Watching Event: September 29th, Locksley Rd. Parking Lot

THORNBURY TOWNSHIP TRAILS

The EAC has established and oversees several lovely trails within the township that allow residents to savor the beauty of our natural surroundings. Special events are scheduled several times a season to expand upon our knowledge and appreciation of their unique features. Check the EAC link for further information on upcoming events. For more information on the Trails check the Township Trails Link.—
www.thornbury.org



Patterson Woods

Luckenbach Trail

Extending along the East Branch of Chester Creek, this wooded trail provides a scenic waterfront hike that passes numerous historic ruins attesting to this region as a vibrant center of industry during the 18th and 19th centuries. Remnants of foundations from former sawmill and gristmill operations and the sluiceways that provided the water to power them are plainly visible. The trail extends to the sites of 2 old stone quarries once belonging to the John T. Dyer Quarry Company where remnants of the original stone crushing plant are prominently visible adjacent to the railroad tracks. The fern covered basin of the original quarry surrounded by its soaring rock walls makes this a very pleasing destination. Bonner Park Trails can also be accessed from this location.

Patterson Woods Trail

A scenic trail that meanders through a very attractive mature woodland to summit at the crest of a ridge with a seasonal broad overlook. Access is adjacent to the entrance of the Tall Trees development at the intersection of Creek Rd and Station Rd.

Barrett's Meadows

30 acres at Creek and Tanguy Road's currently undergoing PennDot wetlands remediation and when completed will revert to Township ownership; Existing trails have been somewhat obscured or obliterated during this remediation but will be re-established upon its completion.

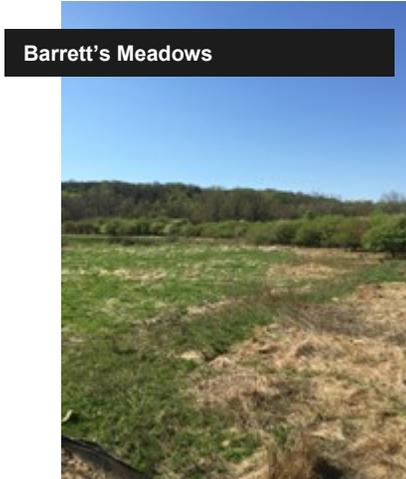
This is a unique wetland meadow flanked by the banks of Chester Creek. In spring and fall, it is filled with wildflowers. Several outstanding trees are located at this site: a very large shagbark hickory, a sycamore tree measuring more than 15 ft in circumference and a relatively rare indigo bush.

Palmer Trail

Trail begins at the back of the Palmer Arboretum, passes through a beautiful mature woodland and exits to Westtown-Thornton Rd via an easement through the Blantyre Development . Parking is available at the entrance to the Palmer Arboretum. Efforts will be underway this spring to more clearly mark the full extent of this trail.



Ruins - Luckenbach trail



Barrett's Meadows



Palmer Trail