

# BRE<sup>The</sup>EZE

BUCK HILL FALLS PA



HOLIDAY 2014

## Community Services Committee Supports Fire Company's Response to Manhunt Needs

The Buck Hill Falls Community Services Committee sends a heartfelt THANK YOU to the many residents who have so generously supported the 2014 campaign. Your contributions allowed us to make a \$5,000 contribution on behalf of the Buck Hill community to our local volunteer fire company to offset costs incurred in connection with the manhunt emergency.

"As the manhunt moved to Barrett Township and the fire house became the staging area for law enforcement, we were feeding up to 2,800 people a day," said Ralph Megliola, Chairman Barrett Township Board of Supervisors and volunteer fireman. "The immediate and generous response from the Buck Hill community was absolutely overwhelming. Words can't explain how much this meant to us at that time, and we are so grateful to Buck Hill Community Services Committee for their rapid response to our need."

To date, approximately 30% of our cottagers have responded, and there's still time to send your contribution. You can send your check to Buck Hill Community Services Committee, PO Box 453, Buck Hill Falls PA 18323. If you have a PayPal account, or wish to use a credit card, you can access our PayPal account at [https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=2978Y7WSEU8VY](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=2978Y7WSEU8VY)

Let's all do what we can to continue this great Buck Hill tradition of supporting those local agencies that provide food, shelter and other health and human services to our residents and community.

**We extend to you best wishes  
this holiday season and a happy,  
healthy and prosperous New Year!**

Buck Hill Falls Company  
Buck Hill Falls PA 18323



## Before well-to-do Philadelphians jetted off to Colorado they motored to Buck Hill for winter fun

Before you load up your SUV this winter, with your heated boots and parabolic skis to head to a nearby mountain, take a moment to reflect on how Buck Hill's winter sport offerings have changed over the years.

The Inn was first open for the winter season in 1913-1914 and with that the guests needed to be entertained. A number of winter sports were organized including tobogganing, skating, skiing and sledding. For those less athletically inclined, sleigh rides, hikes to the falls and winter picnics were other popular winter pastimes. Buck Hill Falls was one of the earliest resorts in the region to be open in the colder months and to offer such a diverse array of winter activities. The Inn's General Manager, Charles Thompson, is credited with much of this early focus, which also included winter carnivals and hockey tournaments. The success of these early activities helped the Inn stay full throughout the year and helped boost the popularity of many of these sports in the Northeast.

In its early seasons, Buck Hill shuttled skiers from the Inn to the Golf Course on a sleigh bus, bringing all their gear with them. After skiing down the Swarthmore Hill, the skiers had to take their skis off and carry them on their shoulders back up to the top. In 1925, a number of skis with leather bindings were available to rent for 35 cents a day. In the 1930s, ski jumping and ski races were organized at Deer Lake and likely the first rope tow in Pennsylvania was installed.

New skis were purchased for rental with spring type bindings, for a cost of between 50 to 70 cents a day. In the 1940s, skiing had really taken off as the premier winter sport in Buck Hill and a second rope tow was added. For \$1.50, skiers could choose from 300 pairs of skis available for daily rental, along with 150 pairs of ski boots. The rope tow cost an additional 50 cents. Skiing continued to flourish in Buck Hill into the 80s – with three Poma lifts, ski school and snow making machines coming on to the scene in the late 50s and early 60s.

Marina Ottaway recalls of skiing in the late 70s with her children "You had to hold very young kids in your arms because the Poma was too high and it started with a jerk, lifting you and the child clear off the ground! It was definitely more challenging to ride up than to ski down."

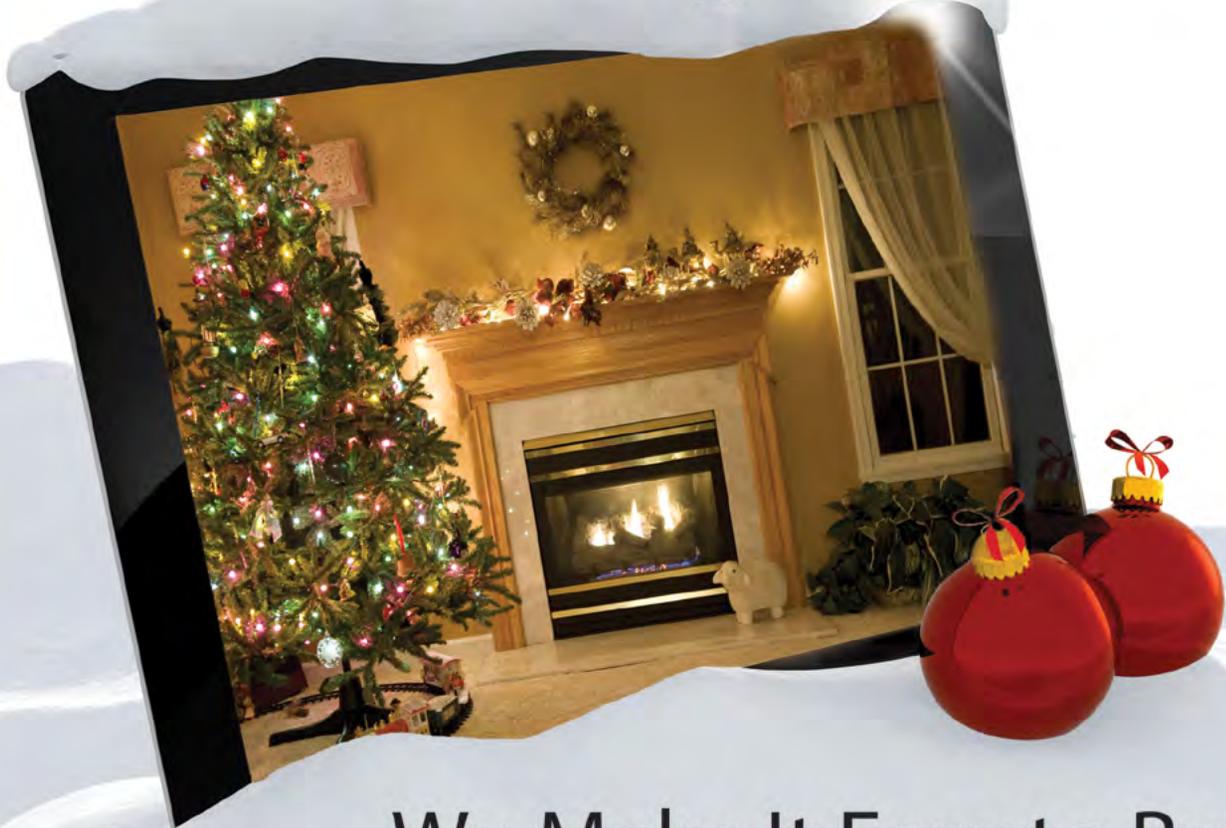
In the late 40s and early 50s there was also a toboggan slide down Chestnut Mountain, across

Deer Lake and half-way across the number three hole of the White Course. The slide was an old rickety wooden structure which could hold four to five kids and that made a lot of noise as it picked up speed. This was reportedly a "terrifying experience because you really went fast.....so everybody was shouting and screaming as we zipped down the mountainside and across the lake."

During the 1970s and 80s the Ski Chalet (which we now call Paiste Pond Center) continued as the nucleus of winter activities. The patrician teacher, Johnny Martin, was an

*(continued on page 5)*

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*BuckHill Resident references available upon request.*

## Ronayne-Ferguson Engagement

Laura Ronayne of Buck Hill Falls and Glen Rock, NJ is pleased to announce the engagement of her son, Patrick John Ronayne, to Elizabeth Chandler Ferguson, both of Stuart, Florida.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Lisa Jo Ferguson of Seattle, Washington and Henry Robert Ferguson of Boca Raton, Florida. Ms. Ferguson graduated with a BS and MBA from Lynn University in Aviation Management. She is employed as a project manager for Gulfstream Aerospace.

Patrick, the son of the late James P. Ronayne Jr. is a graduate of Keiser University, and holds a degree in Golf Management. He is a member of the PGA of America and is employed as an assistant professional and outside operations manager at Piper's Landing Golf and Yacht Club in Palm City, Florida. A May 2015 wedding is planned.



## Dear Cottagers:

Please be aware of the Company policy that dictates a charge be implemented to include but not be limited to the following requests: Opening of cottages (whether you forgot your key or locked yourself out), granting a contractor access to enter your home after hours, turning heat on or off, delivery of packages to a cottage, etc., the fee for these services is \$20 per occurrence. If Security is called for these types of services we have asked them to keep a list and you will be billed at the end of the month.

Local towing companies or AAA should always be called first for vehicle problems, our staff is not equipped nor are we insured for these types of services. Security is needed on premises and should not be called off premises for vehicle assistance as this could put a fellow cottager who would need their services in an emergency situation in danger.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Have a safe and wonderful holiday season.

*Buck Hill Falls Company Management*

## Platform Tennis Anyone?

Saturday, December 6	1:00pm	Children's Clinic (ages 8-14)
Sunday, December 7	10:00am	Adult Clinic (ages 15 and up)
Saturday, December 13	1:00pm	Children's Clinic (ages 8-14)
Sunday, December 14	10:00am	Adult Clinic (ages 15 and up)
Saturday, December 20	9:30am	Men's Round Robin (ages 15 and up)
	11:00am	Ladies Round Robin (ages 15 and up)
	3:00pm	Children's Round Robin (ages 8-14)
Sunday, December 21		Open for Free Play
Friday, December 26	10:00am	Adult Clinic (ages 15 and up)
	1:00pm	Children's Clinic (ages 8-14)
Saturday, December 27		Holiday Championship Tournament
Sunday, December 28		Round Robin Finals (ages 15 and up)

CONTACT Anthony Bowe anthony.c.bowe@gmail.com  
Jeff Kenny timemax@me.com



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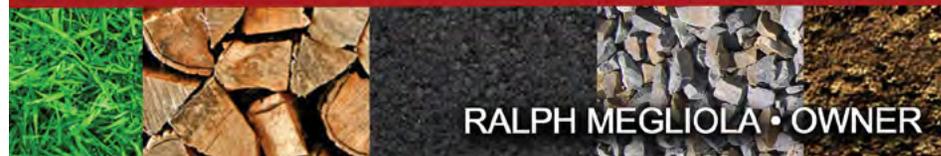
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Lot and Cottage Owners' Association cordially invites you to join your Buck Hill friends for a bite to eat and a holiday toast...

**Annual Lot & Cot  
Member's Holiday Party  
Saturday, December 27  
6:00pm to 8:00pm  
Fairway Grille**

• Complimentary Hors D'oeuvres • Cash Bar

RSVP by December 19 to 570.595.7511 or [info@buckhillfalls.com](mailto:info@buckhillfalls.com)

NOTE: Complimentary child care is available at Paiste Pond during the event. Please indicate if you will be participating in this program when you RSVP.



## Lawn Bowling

Happy Holidays from the Buck Hill Falls Lawn Bowling Club! We wish all lawn bowlers, volunteers, Angels, Lot and Cot, and the employees of the Buck Hill Falls Company a beautiful and safe holiday.

May 2015 be happy and find you all on the bowling greens. Happy New Year!

## Updated 1902 Buck Hill Cottage

248 Old Hemlock Lane, Cottage 64

Splendid mountain views from most rooms; great deck; open main floor with great room, separate dining room and wall of windows across both. Granite and butcher block in kitchen with island.



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Call Lee at 570-595-2844



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ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1924

The Foxhove Association thanks the community for its wonderful support in 2014. We appreciate both your generous contributions and faithful attendance at our events. The board of directors is finalizing the 2015 summer season and we have some fantastic speakers lined up. There's still time to make a 2014 contribution which entitles you to attend our season kick-off cocktail party over Memorial Day weekend. You can send your check to The Foxhove Association, P.O. Box 373, Buck Hill Falls, PA 18323. Looking forward to having you join us in 2015!

## Thank You Buck Hill Security!

We want you to know that your extra efforts during the Eric Frein search were appreciated. Knowing that you were here making sure our community was safe gave us all a sense of comfort and peace of mind!

Sincerely,

*All of Buck Hill Falls*

I would like to personally thank each member of my staff for your professionalism during the several weeks of the Eric Frein manhunt. Your support of PSP in searching the community for this wanted fugitive, the extended shifts/hours you worked without complaint made the members of the Buck Hill community and I as your Chief, very proud and you too should be proud of all you did.

Sincerely,

*Andy Andrejcisk*



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155 Vireo Road - \$345,000  
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*May all the Joys and Happiness  
of the Holiday Season be yours  
throughout The New Year!*



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## Safety in Our Woods

Both hunters and non-hunters need to be educated and do their part to keep the outdoors safe for everyone.

### Know the Rules

- Before you head for the woods and trails, know the rules and hunting season dates for any areas you'll be hiking, running, biking, or traveling in. Dates for hunting seasons vary year to year and by type of game and weapon. For more information visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)

### Be Very Visible

- Wear plenty of bright/blaze orange, visible from all angles including a hat, vest or jacket, and covering for your pack (a vest, pack cover, or large bandana will work). You can find bright/blaze orange items at your local outdoor, sporting goods, or general store. Stock up and wear those items every time you take to the trails, woods, or nearby fields. If you don't have any or enough orange clothing, bright reds and yellows are other potential color options (though on overcast days they can appear black, so use carefully). Avoid any brown, tan, earth tones, and

especially white. You do not want to look anything like the flash of a deer's tail. During turkey season, avoid red and blue.

- If you hike with your dog, put a fluorescent orange vest, collar, leash, and/or bandana on your pooch too and always keep them leashed.

### Be Aware

- Hunters are active from early dawn to dusk and in between. You're more likely to meet hunters closer to roads and trailheads (within a half mile) and in valleys. However, expect that you can meet them anywhere at any time.
- If possible, avoid the most popular hunting days, like opening weekend. Consider hiking on days of the week when hunting is not allowed (Sunday). And choose trails and areas that are off-limits to or unpopular with hunters. Stick to established, marked trails. Skip the bushwhacking during popular hunting seasons. Hunters are more likely to expect hikers on trails.

### Make Yourself Heard

- Always let someone know when you are going out, where you plan to be and when you expect to return.
- Be sure hunters can hear you well before they see you. While many of us enjoy running or hiking on a quiet trail, hunting season is not the time to practice your stealth moves. You needn't be excessively loud, but keep up a steady conversation with a partner. If you're alone, whistle, sing, or talk to make yourself heard.
- If you are hiking with your pooch consider putting a bell on them.
- If you hear hunting taking place near you, make yourself known to the hunters.

### Respect One Another

- Be courteous and respectful of all outdoor enthusiasts, hunters and non-hunters alike.
- Before you head out during hunting season, educate yourself about safe hunting and be prepared. Above all, use common sense and do your part to share the woods safely. Hunters and hikers both have the right to pursue their chosen outdoor recreation safely. Respect each other and the land we share.

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## The Friendly Community Center

The New Year means new programs at The Friendly Community Center! Beginning in January we will be offering two Yoga classes per week – Tuesdays from 10-11AM and Saturdays from 10:30-11:30AM. Learn common poses and breathing techniques in a relaxing atmosphere while increasing strength and flexibility. If you're looking for all of the benefits of yoga with the support of a chair, attend Chair Yoga on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3-4PM.

Back by popular demand, Great Decisions will begin February 17th and continue every Tuesday from 7-8:30PM through April 7th. Join the Great Decisions group to discuss critical global issues. For more information on the Great Decisions program visit [www.fpa.org/great\\_decisions](http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions).

Want to get involved in The Friendly Community Center? Visit The FCC's website at [www.thefriendlycommunitycenter.org](http://www.thefriendlycommunitycenter.org) or call 570.481.4330 to become a member and register for classes. Already a member? Invite a friend! Keep an eye out for the complete January-April 2015 schedule of programs on our website and in January's issue of The Village View.

### Weekly Programs

- Cardio Sculpt: Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30PM
- Chair Yoga: Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00PM
- Dance & Movement: Thursdays from 3:00-4:00PM
- Knitting: Thursdays from 1:00-2:30PM
- Mah Jongg: Thursdays from 12:00-3:00PM
- Mindful Meditation: Tuesdays from 11:15AM-12:30PM
- Open Door Café: Thursdays from 12:00-3:00PM
- Qi Gong: Thursdays from 9:00-9:45AM
- Yoga: Tuesdays from 10:00-11:00AM, Saturdays from 10:30-11:30AM
- Zumba Lite: Thursdays from 6:00PM-7:00PM

### Monthly or One-Time Only Events

- Acoustic Jam Club: Sunday, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 15 & April 19 from 2:00-3:30PM
  - Armchair Travel: Feb. 27, March 27, April 24 at 6:30PM
  - Folk Music Sing Along: Sunday, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 15 & April 19 from 3:30-5:00PM
  - Great Decisions: Tuesdays, Feb. 17-April 7 from 7-8:30PM
  - Vintage Mourning Fashions & Lore: Sunday, April 26 from 1-2:30PM
- ...and many more! Visit our website in January for a complete list of programs.

## Winter at Paiste Pond

### December Hours

Saturday & Sunday - 10am to 6pm

### December Holiday Hours

Thursday, December 25 - CLOSED

Friday, December 26 through Sunday, January 4 - 10am to 6pm

### January Hours

Saturday & Sunday - 10am to 6pm

(NOTE: Paiste Pond WILL BE OPEN New Year's Eve and New Year's Day 10am to 6pm)

### January Holiday Hours

Monday, January 19 - 10am to 6pm (Martin Luther King Day)

### February Hours

Saturday & Sunday - 10am to 6pm

### February Holiday Hours

Monday, February 16 - 10am to 6pm (Presidents Day)

### March Hours

Saturday & Sunday - 10am to 6pm

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## Annual Ladies' Holiday Luncheon

*The halls are decked with boughs of holly...*



now it's time for fun and folly! So don once again your favorite festive sweater and/or holiday Liztech pin and celebrate the season with your (girl) friends and neighbors.

Make your reservation now for the annual Buck Hill Ladies' Holiday Luncheon to be held on Saturday, December 20th, at noon at The Fairway Grille. The all-inclusive price per person is \$25 plus cash bar, and of course guests are welcome.

In keeping with the spirit of the season and our tradition, a collection will be taken to support the work of a local charitable organization.

Reservations can be made by contacting Fran Durst at fldurst@gmail.com or 570-595-3057. The deadline is Monday, December 15th. Be there with (jingle) bells on!

## Buck Hill Golf Shop Holiday Sale Spectacular

Everything for the golfer on your Christmas list!  
Don't miss the amazing bargains!

**Saturday & Sunday, December 13-14**

**Saturday Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

> Tom's chili on Saturday!

**Sunday Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

For more information: 570-595-7730 or buckhillgolf@ptd.net



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## The Consequences of Feeding Wild Cats

**PLEASE DON'T FEED WILD CATS!**

Yes, it's fun to do! Many people feel good doing it. They think they're helping the cats. They get a warm fuzzy feeling inside. But **FEEDING WILD CATS HURTS THEM.** Feeding wild cats can lead to horrific cases of diseased and malnourished packs of cats as a result of people leaving out food for them. This is because feeding causes a bunch of cats to get together, and dependent on human feeding, and then they breed, which leaves you with a lot of cats in one small area, they fight, they spread disease between each other, and the population grows too large to manage, which causes starvation and death. Wild cats also referred to and known as feral cats, are untamed felines that live in the outdoors. These animals are not accustomed to human interaction, and due to their need to find their own food prefer to live as the carnivores that felines are. Animal lovers who have wild cats close by tend to want to feed them as a way of protecting the animals. However, there are consequences to feeding wild cats, and before you feed any wild animal, even cats, you should know what they are.

**BREEDING** - Wild cats, even though many live in packs, may live individually in an area. If you begin to feed outdoor cats, you will probably attract additional feral cats from other areas. Once the cats have realized that regular food is available at a location, they will consistently return to that same spot to be fed. The issue of breeding comes in to play since wild cats are not spayed or neutered. Because of this, the mingling of males and females will eventually result in kittens, thus increasing the overall wild cat population. One other consequence does exist for those who have indoor/outdoor domesticated cats -- the potential for the feral cats to breed with your house cat could also pose problems if not controlled.

**DANGER** - Feral cats are wild animals. Although they may appear to be as tame and friendly as an indoor house cat, the instinctive nature of the animal makes them potentially dangerous to both humans and other animals. If you feed wild cats, do not attempt to hand feed, touch or pick up feral cats as they may bite or scratch you. Since wild cats have not been vaccinated, you could contract a disease from them. Wild cats also pose a threat to your other animals, even indoor pets that do not come outside as wild cats can claw through screen doors and windows if provoked.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE** - If you feed wild cats on your property, you potentially run the risk of property damage by the cats. As they are wild animals, they will scratch and chew items on your property. If you have patio furniture and the cats wander around the area, they could chew cushion, chairs and even plants. The problem of cat waste is also an issue; although cats will not defecate where they eat, they will use your outdoors as an area to urinated and defecate, which could cause smells and spread parasites. Additional damage could occur by cats clawing at wooden structures, scratching vehicles or even

males spraying hard surfaces. In addition, cat urination, high in ammonia, can cause stains and decay of surfaces, such as soft cushions, wooden furniture and plants.

**NEIGHBOR COMPLAINTS** - Feeding wild or feral cats will draw the animals close to your property. If you have neighbors, you also run the risk of the cats causing similar damage and destruction to adjoining properties.



### Firewood Available

The Buck Hill Falls Company has firewood for sale. Please call the Company office at (570) 595-7511 to place an order. 72 hours advance notice is required.

## BUCK HILL BIRDER



By Frank May

On Halloween evening this year, rather than spending time with Linus and Snoopy waiting in a pumpkin patch, I took a walk, with the dog, up to my favorite place in all of Buck Hill, Metzgars Farm. This stroll to the top of the hill was particularly exhilarating as we had not been able to safely venture out into the woods for seven weeks due to police activity as a result of the recent unfortunate events.

The trees were well past their height of color but the muted browns and dark yellows were in splendid contrast to the lowering grey clouds highlighted by the late sun. In front of me to the north and east lay the whole panorama of the verdant crescent that forms the "roof" of Monroe County; Chestnut Mt., Spruce and Middle Mountains, Mt Wismer and West Mt. through Sky Top, Bright Creek and beyond to the Delaware State Forest and the heights of New Jersey and New York in the far distance. On a clear day, with the sun behind you, you can see the obelisk at Highpoint Park N.J., over twenty-five miles away.

As I approached the picnic area, a small flock of turkeys quickly sensed my presence and dispersed into the woods. At the edge of the meadow, a flock of small, unidentified sparrows (possibly Savannah Sparrows) flitted in and out of the red and yellow berries of a bittersweet vine. A Blue Jay flew by to light on the tall Blue Spruce tree that sits, incongru-

ously, in the field below me. At its feet lay the remains of MacArthur, "Noble Steed Fleet of Foot", fabled "Ghost Horse" of Camp Club legend.

I reflected on the many memorable natural moments that I have experienced here over the last thirty-five years or so: The Thanksgiving day I tracked a lone turkey in the snow to finally see it trotting away in the distance, a survivor of the fall hunt.

I remember a bitterly cold afternoon in January, when I rounded the trail coming out of the game lands to see a whole hillside covered with forty or more deer who were feeding on dried grass that the wind had revealed under the snow. I remember one early spring morning as I crouched low in the bushes waiting for a turkey, when a yearling bear crashed through the brush and darted right by me at full speed. There was the morning in May when I watched as a whole progression of warblers, including my first Buck Hill Parula, working their way up a hedgerow towards me like shoppers on an escalator.

Several years ago, Ginny and I went up to Metzgars in late March to watch the courtship display of the American Woodcock. We positioned ourselves, at dusk, in the meadow near where the old farm house once stood and watched as the ardent male spiraled high into the sky to come crashing down all in an attempt to attract a prospective mate. Then there was the brief appearance of a Brown Thrasher on successive years, in the same location. We were hoping to observe breeding behavior so we could list the species in the Breeding Bird Atlas for the Buck Hill quadrant. We're still hoping.

Many of us have treasured memories of Metzgars Farm some old and some maybe as recent as this past year. Who is it that doesn't find joy in watching a field full of a hundred or more children playing games on the 4th of July? Three legged races and egg throwing contests and water balloon tosses and tug of war, much as Americans have been doing for over two centuries now. Maybe it was a first overnight sleep out at Camp Club or maybe a family camp out, or perhaps a Labor Day cookout with bluegrass music courtesy of Foxhove.

We at Buck Hill have many blessings to be thankful for not the least of which has been the restoration of the quiet peaceful enjoyment of our rural surroundings, which had been temporarily disturbed this fall. We are also thankful and grateful to our forefathers who had the prescience to purchase and maintain such a marvelous, natural treasure as Metzgars Farm for us all to enjoy.



## Conservation Foundation

On Sunday, October 12, a small but brave group of five joined hike coordinator, Mary Ruvane, on our annual Leaf Peepers hike. With Eric Frein still on the loose, we visited nearby Skywood Park, just six miles from Buck Hill and outside of the active search area. It was a beautiful sunny day and the view of Delaware Water Gap was spectacular.

Towards the end of our loop around the park's fitness trail we spotted a budding photographer, John Yates, a fellow Buck Hiller and Junior at Pocono Mountain East HS. He was kind enough to take the group photo shown, standing in front of a car he and his friends had staged amidst remnants of the old stone foundation once part of the employee dormitory for PMI in the Sky (aka Pocono Mountain Inn). Skywood Park is open year round and offers sledding and ice skating during the winter months.

### Upcoming BH Conservation Foundation Events:

Hike – Saturday, November 29, 1:00 PM. Led by naturalist, Jackie Speicher.

*For additional information about The Buck Hill Conservation Foundation, our upcoming events, and to become a member visit [www.buckhillconservation.org](http://www.buckhillconservation.org)*





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