



www.dreibelbisfarm.org

July Newsletter 2014

Join Us For the Wetlands Walk — Sunday Afternoon, July 20th

The Historic Dreibelbis Farm is happy to hold our second “wildflower walk” with a trek into the farm’s wetlands. We’ll gather at 2:30 pm in front of the old farmhouse on Sunday, 7/20. Like last year, our naturalist–guide will be Dr. Frank Muzopappa, who holds a Ph.D. in Microbiology from West Virginia University and is professor emeritus at Kutztown University. Dr. Muzopappa will lead the walk and introduce us to the many invasive species of plants that are recent “residents” at the farm. We’ll see wildflowers and more— plants that are “indicators” of wetlands, those whose presence help define what areas are truly wetlands.



Because this is a “walk on the wild side” of the historic farm, we suggest that participants wear sturdy shoes or boots... waterproof, if possible. The event will be held rain or shine...we **are** going into wetlands, after all... however lightening and severe thunderstorms would cause us to cancel.

The Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society has worked with the Berks County Conservancy to protect the farm from future development, preserve the historical resources of the site, and enhance the ecological value of wetlands and endangered species habitat onsite. Our non-profit corporation was founded to make the resources of the farm available to the public. The Historic Dreibelbis Farm is located outside of the village of Virginville along Rte. 143. Our GPS street address is 356 Hard Hill Road, Hamburg 19526. The Wetlands Walk is free to the public, parking is on-site, bottled water will be available, and monetary donations will be gratefully accepted. Bring insect repellent and bring a friend, too!

What's been happening at the farm?

Since our April Spring Peeper Walk, we’ve been busy preparing for a family wedding celebration. It’s amazing how beautiful an old barn and the alfalfa field can look! Berks County’s May 22nd storm didn’t cause us hail damage, but did wreck one of the barn doors we’d just repaired and rehung. We keep inching closer to reroofing the barn. As for programming, we’re trying to develop lots more ways of involving children in what we do. If you’ve got suggestions, ideas, or would like to volunteer, please call Mark!

What's an Invasive Species?

Invasive plants grow quickly and aggressively, spreading and displacing other plants. They are usually introduced by people, either accidentally or on purpose, into a region far from their native habitat. In their natural range, these species are



kept in balance within their ecosystem by environmental, pest or disease conditions. When introduced into an area where these limitations are absent, some species have the ability to grow wildly out of control.

**Coming Soon....
Annual Farm Festival
Saturday, August 23.**

For more information, contact Mark Dreibelbis at 610-488-7896 or DreibelbisFarm@gmail.com.