



[www.dreibelbisfarm.org](http://www.dreibelbisfarm.org)

February Newsletter 2023

## Join Us For a Wintertime Nature Walk — Sunday Afternoon, March 5<sup>th</sup>

The Dreibelbis Historic Farm is hosting a fun, seasonal activity, a “wintertime nature walk” with a trek into the farm’s fields and nature trail. We’ll gather at 2:00 pm in front of the old farmhouse on Sunday, March 5. Our particular focus will be on wood duck habitat and all that’s involved in maintenance of wood duck nesting boxes. We’ll walk along the farm’s nature trail down to the Maiden Creek, replacing nesting material in the boxes at the water’s edge and, perhaps, erect a new box, courtesy of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. We may even find a screech owl, using an empty box for a winter home.

We suggest that participants wear sturdy shoes or boots and be sure to dress for a wintry outdoor walk. The event will be held rain or shine, however blizzard conditions or an absolute downpour would cause us to cancel. Rain/Snow date is March 12<sup>th</sup>. This “Wood Duck Walk” is free to the public, parking is on-site, and monetary donations will be gratefully accepted.

The Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society has worked with *Berks Nature* and other organizations 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 next event will also be nature-related: a “Spring Peeper Walk” into our wetlands to hunt for tiny, singing frogs at 6:30 pm on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Historic Dreibelbis Farm is located south of the village of Virginville along Rte. 143. Our GPS street address is 356 Hard Hill Road, Hamburg 19526.

## Ice Harvest 2023

Over one hundred folks joined us on a cold February 4<sup>th</sup> to experience a bit of Pennsylvania German ice harvesting. Even with the coldest weather of the year, the ice was thin, but we were able to saw and lift a few pieces, as well as demonstrate our antique tools and equipment.



Photo by Ginnie Lodge

The authentic Pennsylvania German corn/noodle soup and hot cocoa were great, too. As in recent years, we enjoyed the magnificent Percheron draft horses and the old-fashioned wagon rides, courtesy of Steve Burkholder!



Photo by Bill Ulrich, Reading Eagle



## What’s a Wood Duck?

The Wood Duck is one of the most stunningly beautiful of all waterfowl. Males are iridescent chestnut and green, with fancy patterns on nearly every feather; the females have a distinctive profile and delicate white pattern around the eye. These birds live in the farm’s wooded swamps, and along the banks of the Maiden Creek.



In early spring wood ducks use the nest boxes we’ve built at the water’s edge to lay their eggs. Each winter, we clean out the boxes and add fresh bedding, (trying not to disturb any screech owl winter residents).

**Save the Date:**  
**Annual Farm Festival**  
**Saturday, August 26.**

For more information, visit us on Facebook or our website [www.dreibelbisfarm.org](http://www.dreibelbisfarm.org), call Mark Dreibelbis at 610-488-7896 or email us at [DreibelbisFarm@gmail.com](mailto:DreibelbisFarm@gmail.com).