

Minsi Lake

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and they appear to be content. He Checked on the four Barred Owl boxes we installed at the Gap & the Swamp over the past couple months. "We put them up late in the breeding season & didn't really expect any nesting activity. And there wasn't any. Hopefully next year."

Tree Swallows have started seriously considering setting up housekeeping in the Purple Martin tower on the West Shore. So we put the covers back on the 18 gourds on the West Shore tower. There were no swallow eggs or nesting material in any of them. But it was just a matter of time. There was no swallow activity at the East Shore tower, so we left those gourds open in case martins do show up. There is some swallow activity at the bluebird boxes, which they're welcome to use.

LVAS & other volunteers & I will monitor all the nest boxes we have & will continue to put up in the Minsi Greenway. So successful clutches will be recorded &

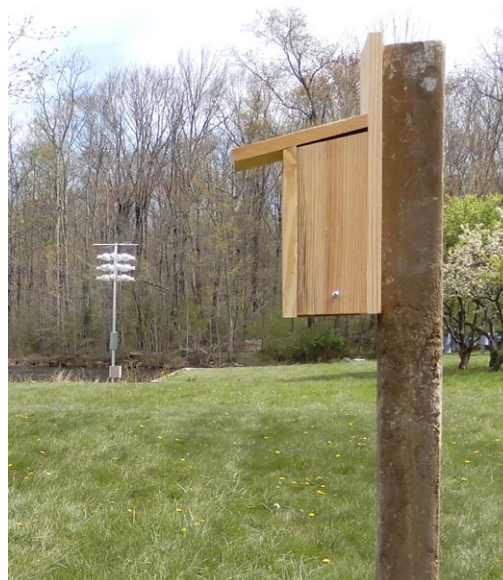
the boxes will be maintained into the future.

Wilson did some bushwhacking in the woodlands & wetlands along East Fork Martins Creek at Bear Swamp after they finished installing the boxes. He discovered a sizeable Great Blue Heron rookery there. About 20 nests & they all appeared occupied and also came upon a family of Red Foxes.

The Lake was crazy busy, as it is most days. Lots of kayakers & anglers. Most parking spaces were taken. "We'll need to address parking & traffic control issues with PFBC, once their staff is back to work.

There's no boat trailer parking spaces in either lot & trailers & trucks were backed up & blocking one of the travel lanes in the West Lot. There's no handicap parking spaces or directional arrows at all in the West Lot. "I'll address all this parking lot stuff with PFBC to see what they might do to help out.

I had a unique photo opportunity at a second osprey couple nesting in Upper Mt. Bethel over the weekend. Both birds left the nest together and flew about 50 yards diameter around the nest for about 5 minutes. Usually one always stays by the eggs, but not this time.



Left: Great Blue Heron nests

Top: Blue Bird Boxes

Bottom: Another Osprey nesting couple in Upper Mt. ethel



Paycheck Protection Program Extended

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - The U.S. Small Business Administration has just approved an additional \$310 billion to extend the Paycheck Protection Program. This funding is designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. The SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities.

Applications can be submitted today from participating program lenders and is on a first come, first served basis.



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Paycheck Protection Program

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**An SBA loan that helps businesses
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SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest or utilities.

You can apply through any existing SBA 7(a) lender or through any federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union, and Farm Credit System institution that is participating.

You should consult with your local lender as to whether it is participating in the program. Lenders may begin processing loan applications as soon as April 3. **The program will be available through June 30, 2020.**

Learn more at
www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options



Life Jackets Mandatory for All River Users Due to High Water

By Kathy Sandt

BUSHKILL, PA –Due to high water and rising river levels, wearing a properly-fitted and fastened US Coast Guard-approved life jacket is mandatory for all river users within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Life jackets are required to be worn any time the river level at the Montague gauge reaches 8 feet. As of 5 pm today, the river level is hovering around the 8-foot mark and is expected to crest at 16 feet by Saturday morning before dropping again over the next few days. The Delaware River and all access points are closed when the river reaches 15 feet. The current forecast is for the river to rise through the night on Friday and begin dropping early on Saturday morning. A river closure is not anticipated at this time however river users should monitor water levels closely and be aware of the thresholds. Bushkill Access is closed as of this evening because the service road is expected to be inundated during the day on Friday.

Higher river levels bring colder water temperatures, swifter currents, and increased sediment and debris. The water temperature is currently in the upper 40- to lower 50-degree range.

According to our partners with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, cold water shock is a major factor in boating fatalities when water temperatures are less than 70 degrees F. Cold water shock causes an involuntary gasp reflex (often resulting in aspiration of water), hyperventilation, breathlessness and a reduced ability to control breathing and to swim. Those wearing a life jacket when exposed to cold water have potentially life-saving advantages such as insulation from the cold, buoyancy and reduced risk of aspiration of water. Wearing a properly fitted and fastened US Coast Guard-approved life jacket can save your life, but only if you wear it.

River levels can be monitored at

<https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=bgm&gage=mtgn4>.

HOW TO MAKE A HOMEMADE MASK OUT OF FABRIC OR CLOTH



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Fabric (100% cotton is most effective)
- Fabric ties
- Scissors
- Sewing machine or a needle and thread



INSTRUCTIONS:

- Measure and cut two pieces of fabric in a rectangle pattern to fit snugly around the face (size 12 inches by 6 inches is standard for adults)
- Tightly sew both layers together on all edges
- Cut fabric ties to fit around the ears
- Sew the ties to the insides of the mask on the smaller edge, repeat on both sides
- Resew the sides to ensure a tight seal between both pieces of fabric and the earpiece



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