

Welcome to Bob's Woods!

We hope you enjoy your visit to this special nature preserve that has been managed for wildlife by Berks Nature for more than 40 years. This 30+ acre property is home to many beautiful native wildflowers, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and is a great site for birding! Explore and enjoy.



You may wonder, who is Bob? Robert C. "Bob" Fleming lived in the forested Oley Hills region (not too far from here) of Berks County and was extremely fond of the outdoors, nature and forests. Bob enjoyed learning as much as possible while out in nature, and had great enthusiasm for sharing his knowledge of nature with those around him.

In August 2018 Bob passed away unexpectedly. His loving family worked with Berks Nature to make improvements to this special nature preserve as a way to honor Bob's love for nature. For those that knew him, they would always say, "A walk in the woods with Bob meant you would learn something new." So, today as you connect with nature during your visit, take a moment to learn something new or simply stop and enjoy the forest as Bob did for many years.

The history of this nature preserve:

The rich soils of this property provided a successful working farm and apple orchard up until about 1970. The farm sold vinegar, cider, potatoes, eggs and butter. No buildings remain from those farming days, and much of the land has returned to a natural forest.

The property was donated to Berks Nature in the late 70's and was originally named the Earl Poole Sanctuary in honor of Dr. Earl L. Poole (1891-1972) famed ornithologist and artist. Dr. Poole's illustrations have graced the pages of many books and endeared the peering eyes of many to the birds of Berks County.

Dr. Poole was an artist, scientist, teacher, and author. In 1930, Poole wrote *The Bird Life of Berks County, Pennsylvania* and in 1932 he wrote *A Survey of the Mammals of Berks County*. Poole was one of the founders of Baird Ornithological Club, still active locally today. In 1947, Poole's *A Half Century of Bird Life in Berks County* was published by the Reading Public Museum. Dr. Earl Poole's legacy lives at this nature preserve which continues to be a haven for the many birds and mammals he wrote about many years ago!



Nature, essential to our quality of life.

BOB'S WOODS AT THE EARL POOLE SANCTUARY

TRAIL GUIDE

At Berks Nature we believe that nature is essential to our quality of life. We are your local non-profit conservation organization, and invite you to become involved by visiting berksnature.org and:

- Becoming a Member!
- Attending a fun event listed at berksnature.org!
- Making a donation to help us protect nature.
- Signing up for our Enews updates!
- Sending the children in your lives to summer Eco-Camp or Berks Nature Preschool.



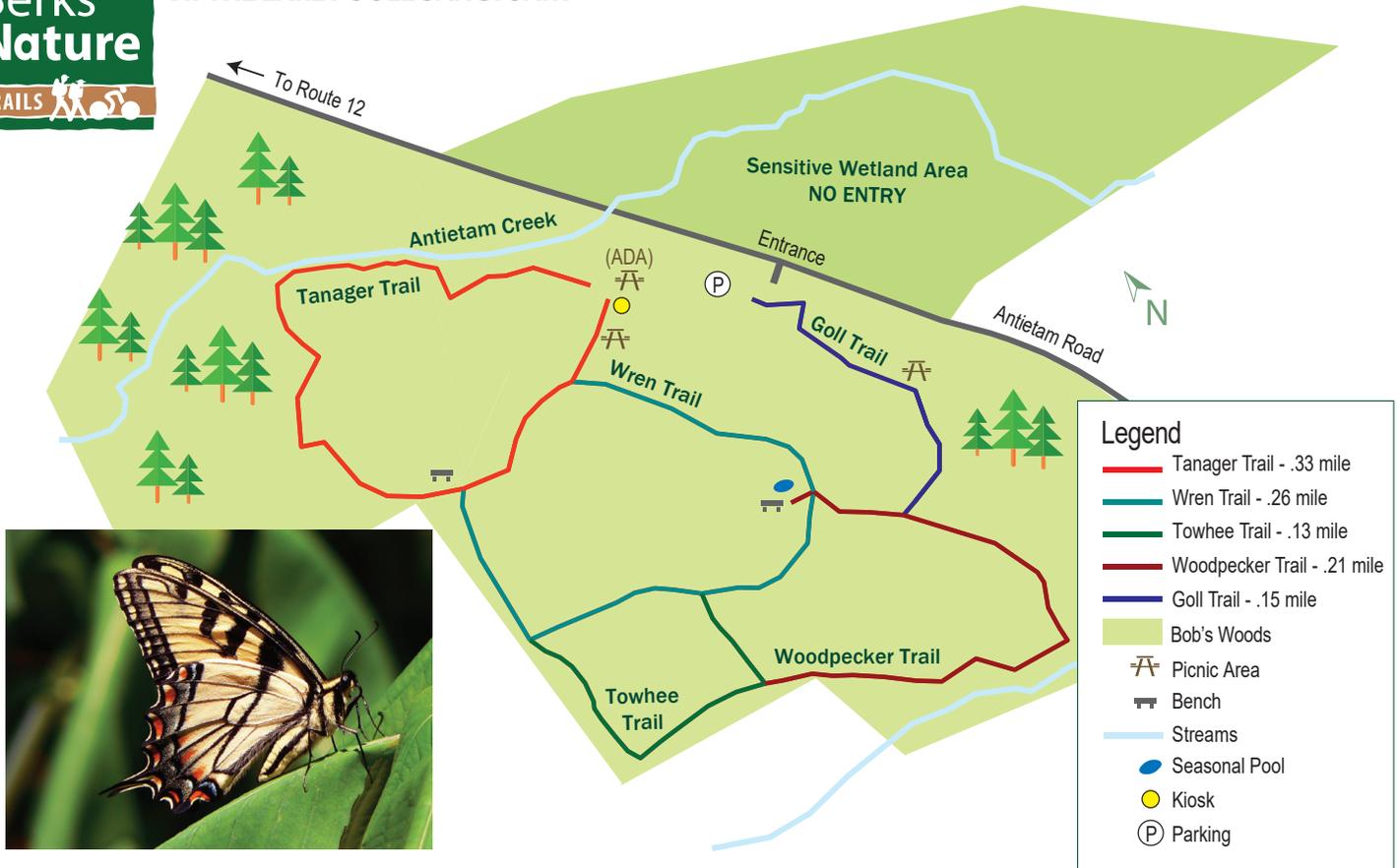
Learn more at BerksNature.org!





BOB'S WOODS

AT THE EARL POOLE SANCTUARY



Bob's Woods includes a variety of habitats for wildlife - including woodlands, meadows and successional fields. Invasive plants have been replaced with native species of shrubs, trees and wildflowers to encourage indigenous birds and wildlife.

The nature preserve is a headwater of the Antietam Creek providing cool sourcewater downstream into Antietam Lake in Lower Alsace Township. Birdwatchers can spot numerous species here, including the Scarlet Tanager, Downy Woodpecker, Baltimore Oriole, Wood Thrush and Towhee. Seasonal pools serve as breeding grounds for amphibians such as the Wood Frog.

Trail Safety

- Open dawn to dusk.
- No restroom facilities, drinking water, or telephones currently exist on the preserve.
- Motorized All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) or dirt bikes are not permitted on the trail system. VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED.
- Dogs are allowed on the property. All dogs must be under control and must not be allowed to run at large. Please pick up and dispose of dog waste properly.
- We recommend that you carry a phone with you during your visit. In case of an emergency, dial 9-1-1.
- Please follow LEAVE NO TRACE principles by packing in and packing out. Pack out all trash.
- Help us keep this a special place for wildlife and people!

Directions to Bob's Woods

Antietam Road, Alsace Township

From Pricetown Road (Route 12):

Enter Antietam Road (across from Giannotti's Restaurant) next to Alsace Manor Fire Company and travel 1.2 miles to Bob's Woods. Entrance will be on your right between Beckers Road and Blankenbiller Road. Please note there is not a sign at the entrance, only a gravel driveway.

From Lower Alsace/Mount Penn region:

Follow Antietam Road north into Alsace Township. Bob's Woods will be on your left, 0.7 mile from the intersection of Antietam Road, Basket Road, and Church Hill Road between Blankenbiller Road and Beckers Road. Please note there is not a sign at the entrance, only a gravel driveway.

