

Seedling

Spring 2018

Bear Creek Festival information

Purchase tree seedlings to support Sweet Arrow Lake County Park

Get ready to garden this spring—Master Gardeners

Farm show pix

Give Us Your Best Shot Photo Contest submissions being accepted



PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES



Red buds will be ablaze soon and sure add color to the landscape. Be sure to check out the red buds on Rt. 443 just east of Pine Grove. This breathtaking display will surely put "spring" into your step! Enjoy!



Jenna St. Clair, District Manager

Did you know that all water-holding containers surrounding your home such as empty flower pots, bird baths, aluminum cans, plastic bags, garbage cans, and old tires have the potential to be mosquito breeding habitat? With no natural predators in these man-made containers, the potential for disease-carrying mosquito populations is high.

You can learn all this and more starting this spring when the Conservation District begins a countywide Mosquito-borne Disease Control Program with a grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

The Schuylkill County Mosquito-borne Disease Program seeks to implement an effective integrated pest management program through public education, reduction of mosquito breeding habitat, larval mosquito control and, if necessary, adult mosquito control.

A seasonal technician will trap and collect mosquitoes throughout the county. Collected mosquitoes will then be sent to DEP labs for identification and disease testing. The technician will also respond to complaints and conduct public education. If population control is needed, this can be done by removing breeding habitat (water-holding containers) or conducting larval spraying. If disease is detected and control of adult mosquitoes is needed, adult spraying will be conducted by DEP in conjunction with the county technician.

In the past, the county program was administered through the Penn State Ag Extension office, but that program ended due to reduced state funding. DEP has continued to conduct limited surveillance and monitoring in the county, but funding is available once again for us to have a more robust, locally-controlled program.

I welcome your thoughts, ideas, concerns, and questions about the Schuylkill Conservation District and can be reached at (570)622-3742 x3335 and jstclair@co.schuylkill.pa.us.



Follow us on Instagram
[@SchuylkillCD](https://www.instagram.com/SchuylkillCD)



Like us on
Facebook

Spring into your latest edition for the news



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Spring 2018
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BEAR-CREEK FESTIVAL

Sunday, June 3rd
12:00 to 4:00
Schuylkill County Fairgrounds



Celebrating all things
Environmental **NATURAL** *Agricultural* **OUTDOORS**
in Schuylkill County

FREE ADMISSION—FREE ACTIVITIES—FREE PARKING



Like us on Facebook for #BearCreek2018 updates

Schuylkill Conservation District

570-622-3742

www.schuylkillcd.com



4th Annual
"Give Us Your Best Shot"
Photo Contest



Grab your camera and start snapping photos, because Friday, April 6, 2018 marks the final day for local photographers to submit entries for the "Give Us Your Best Shot" Photo Contest. This is the perfect chance to practice nature photography and capture the beauty of Schuylkill County. Photographers of any age and skill level can enter their best photos in two categories.

Theme 1– "Wildlife of Schuylkill County" focusing on the beauty of the wild birds and animals of our county.

Theme 2 – "Why Nature Matters to Me" highlighting the connections that people have with nature and why those connections are important to them.

Contest Rules

- Photos must have been taken in Schuylkill County between January 1, 2017 and April 6, 2018.
- Submissions must be the original work of each photographer.
- There is no entry fee but please enter only one photo per theme.
- All submissions should be via email or unframed prints via US mail and include the name, address, phone number and email address of the photographer as well as the type of camera used to take the photo. Email a JPEG file to lreichert@co.schuylkill.pa.us or mail an 8" x 10" print to the Schuylkill Conservation District, 1206 Ag Center Drive, Pottsville, PA 17901. Photos will not be returned.
- Judging is based on originality, technical quality, creativity and natural beauty.
- Winners will be notified on April 23, 2018. All photos will be posted on the District's Facebook page.

Prizes

There will be a Grand Champion and Runner-up. Three cash prizes for each theme will also be awarded.

- * Grand Champion - The winning photo will be enlarged, matted, framed and presented to the winner at the Conservation District's Annual Awards Ceremony in August.
- * Second Prize - \$50
- * Third Prize - \$35
- * Fourth Prize - \$25
- * Runner-up - The winning photo will be printed on the cover of the Conservation District's Annual Report.

The Photo Contest is co-sponsored by



Get clickin'!



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www.schuylkillcd.com



www.schuylkillconservancy.org

For more info contact "Porcupine Pat" McKinney at porcupinepat@yahoo.com or 570-391-3326.



43rd Annual Seedling Sale



Your seedlings will increase property value, enhance wildlife habitat, beautify the landscape, improve the environment, and can provide a source of income. The Sweet Arrow Lake Conservation Association (SALCA) and the Schuylkill Conservation District cooperate together to make this sale possible. ***Your support for Sweet Arrow Lake is appreciated!***

- **DOUGLAS FIR:** Beautiful, symmetrical evergreen that makes an excellent Christmas and landscaping tree. Grows fast in moist, well-drained soil. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 7-14"
- **NORWAY SPRUCE:** Fastest growing of all spruces. Develops pyramidal shape and strong graceful branches that are covered with dark green needles. Ideal windbreaker that likes full sun and grows in various soils. Matures at 60 feet and has a beautiful 25 foot spread. 4 year old seedlings. Size: 10-24"
- **COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE:** Handsome ornamental or Christmas tree with blue-green needles. Great for wildlife cover. Likes ordinary soil, average moisture, and full sun. 4 year old seedlings. Size: 9-18"
- **AMERICAN ARBORVITAE:** This slow-growing tree prefers full sun to partial shade but adapts to a variety of soil conditions. Prefers moist soils but withstands drought. It grows to a mature height of 25-40 feet, and has a mature spread of 10-15 feet. Good wind-block and provides cover for all types of wildlife year round. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 5-10"
- **EASTERN WHITE PINE:** Great ornamental or Christmas tree with soft, long blue-green needles. Excellent for wildlife cover. Likes ordinary soil, average moisture, and full sun. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 5-10"
- **AUSTRIAN PINE:** Good landscaping tree with 4-6 inch long and stiff needles. Grows to a medium-sized tree with a very dense crown. Nice brown to gray bark color. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 10-16"
- **PIN OAK:** Named for a characteristic where small, thin, dead branches stick out like pins from the main trunk. This is among the most widely planted and fastest-growing native oaks. It tolerates drought, poor soils and is easy to transplant. Popular because of an attractive shape and trunk. The green, glossy leaves show brilliant red to bronze fall color. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 10-20"
- **WHITE FLOWERING DOGWOOD:** Prolific, large, pure white, overlapping petal-like blooms in spring, dark green foliage in summer, red-purple leaves in fall and glossy red berries that persist into winter make this a lovely ornamental tree for all seasons. It has a short trunk, horizontal branches, and a moderately globe-shaped crown. The dense branching provides shade and nesting sites, fruit and buds are a favorite with dozens of bird species, and the nectar and pollen attract butterflies. Dogwoods prefer acidic, moist, well drained sites with partial shade, but will take full sun. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 10-24"
- **RED BUD:** Red Bud grows as a small tree with an abundance of purple blossoms in the spring. It has large heart shaped leaves during the summer, and long seed pods in the fall. Popular landscaping tree. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 15-30"
- **AMERICAN CRANBERRY:** Excellent deciduous shrub for screening up to 10 to 12 feet high. It grows to a width of 8 feet with very dense growth of up to 3 feet per year in full sun or part shade. This bush has showy white flowers in spring followed by red berries in fall and winter. Berries hang through mid winter making excellent bird feed. This shrub has very few insect problems and prefers good, well-drained soil. For best growth, provide supplemental water during dry periods. For a solid screen, plant bushes 2 to 3 feet apart. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 15-30"
- **WINTERBERRY:** Winterberry is a deciduous shrub growing 6-15 feet tall and often as wide. It develops a rounded habit through suckering, eventually growing into a sizeable colony of upright stems. The stems tend to be dark brown and often develop a pleasing gray sheen. The 3 inch long, elliptic, toothed, and pointed leaves vary from light to dark green, taking a yellow hue in autumn. Offers bright red berries in late summer. The berries, for which the common name was derived, remain after leaf fall and persist into the winter months to provide food for wildlife. Winterberry prefers evenly moist, acid soils in full sun to partial shade. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 10-30"
- **POND CYPRESS:** Similar to Bald Cypress except with finer foliage, thicker bark and always found in non-flowing bodies of water. These trees maintain a desirable straight trunk and develop thick calipers towards the base. Relatively maintenance free requiring minimal pruning. Will grow 50-60 feet tall with a 10-15 foot spread. Likes wet, poorly drained acidic soil. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 10-20"

43rd Annual Seedling Sale Order Form—2018

All proceeds directly benefit Sweet Arrow Lake County Park

ORDER DEADLINE: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 or while supplies last!

PICK UP: Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in the Clubhouse parking lot at the park.

NOTE: Seedlings are bare root and healthy at pick up. No guarantees after this date.

INFO: "Porcupine Pat" at 570.391.3326 or porcupinepat@yahoo.com or Mike Stefanick at 570.345.4963 or mikastefanick@comcast.net



Date _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (night) _____

Email _____



ITEM	# PER BUNDLE	# DESIRED	COST/BUNDLE	TOTAL
Douglas Fir	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
Norway Spruce	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
Colorado Blue Spruce	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
American Arborvitae	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
Eastern White Pine	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
Austrian Pine	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
Pin Oak	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
White Flowering Dogwood	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
Red Bud	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
American Cranberry	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
Winterberry	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
Pond Cypress	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
			Total Sale =	
			Please be sure to pay 6% sales tax =	
			Grand Total =	

- Please make your check payable to SALCA*. Mail check and this form to: SALCA, PO Box 143, Pine Grove, PA 17963.
- SALCA stands for Sweet Arrow Lake Conservation Association.
- We appreciate your support of Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. For more information: www.sweetarrowlakepark.com *Thank you for your order!*





2018 WALK SCHEDULE



Schuylkill On the Move is a project of Schuylkill County's VISION and promotes positive steps toward good health through walking and an appreciation of the natural beauty and fascinating history of our area. For more information on each walk: porcupinepat@yahoo.com

- **Sunday, January 28th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., "Stump Dam"**. "Hiker Jim" Murphy will take you to the Gumboot then Black Diamond Road to Blackwood and then Stump Dam. You'll follow the old Lehigh Railroad to Silverton. Meet at Llewellyn Hose parking lot. (9 miles, easy) This walk goes on even with light snow on ground.
- **Sunday, January 28th, 2:00-4:30 p.m., "Fort Dietrich Snyder and Appalachian Trail"**. Located on top of Blue Mountain at Rte.183. A short hike to a monument for the fort location. See a natural spring along an abandoned farm pond and continue to hike the AT. Meet at Rte. 183 on top of Blue Mountain. (3 miles, easy)
- **Saturday, February 24th, 10:00-11:00 a.m., "Cabin Fever Walk"**. "Porcupine Pat" guarantees that this walk will cure your fever! Meet at the Waterfall Road parking lot of Sweet Arrow Lake Park. (3 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, February 25th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., "County View"**. "Hiker Jim" offers plenty to see including the "88" and diversion canal plus "The Old Jerk" and a spectacular view of County Schuylkill. Meet behind Mt. Pleasant Hose Company in Buck Run on Rte. 901. (8.4 miles, easy)
- **Sunday, March 11th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., "Broad Mtn. Bench Trail"**. Trek the old Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railbed and historic Centre Turnpike with "Hiker Jim." There is a lot to see on this dog friendly hike. Meet at 806 Valley Road, Pine Knot. (10.6 miles, easy)
- **Sunday, March 25th, 2:00- 4:00 p.m., "Tri-Valley Trail Trek"**. "Porcupine Pat" takes you on a wilderness-like experience in the outskirts of Hegins. Meet in front of Tri-Valley High School in Hegins. (3 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, April 8th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., "West Creek Headwaters and Waterfall Hike"**. Start on Old Airport Road with "Hiker Jim" as you follow the stream to the waterfall and end in Forestville. The downhill is rocky in spots. Meet outside of 901 Pub on Old Airport Road. (8 miles, moderate)
- **Saturday, April 14th, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., "Rausch Gap"**. State Park Education Specialist Robin Tracey takes you on a hike up the mountain and across to the Village of Rausch Gap. There will be one difficult stream crossing. You'll be taken back in time! Meet at the concrete pad at the state game lands parking lot on Gold Mine Road off Rte. 443 outside of Pine Grove. Bring a lunch and dogs are welcome but must be leashed. (9.5 miles, difficult)
- **Sunday, April 15th, 1:00-3:30 p.m., "Peak Experience"**. Traverse the top of the Blue Mountain above Port Clinton on this trek that features an overlook and charcoal history. Meet "Porcupine Pat" at the entrance to Conrad Weiser State Forest along Rte. 61 northbound just north of Port Clinton. (3-4 miles, moderate)
- **Saturday, April 28th, 1:00-4:00 p.m., "Spring Wildflower Walk"**. Naturalist Mike Centeleghe helps you to enjoy the many beautiful flowers of Frog Hollow which is managed by the South Schuylkill Garden Club. Meet in the parking lot of Frog Hollow on Stone Mountain Road just outside of Friedensburg. Open to all ages. (2 miles, easy)
- **Sunday, May 6th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., "Dyer Run Gorge"**. "Hiker Jim" leads you on this Gorge Trail that was re-opened in 2014. Walk in a wilderness area then downhill on "Stephen's Road." Meet at 806 Valley Road in Pine Knot. (7 miles, moderate)
- **Saturday, May 19th, 10:00 am.-3:00 p.m., "Silver Creek Fire Tower & Reservoir Hike"**. Meet Robin Tracey at the Locust Lake State Park parking lot to carpool. We'll go to the reservoir then down to the fire tower for lunch. Bring a lunch and dogs are welcome but must be leashed. (8 miles, difficult)
- **Saturday, May 19th, 1:00-3:00 p.m., "SCEETR Sojourn"**. Visit the site of a major watershed improvement project managed by Schuylkill Headwaters. "Porcupine Pat" leads this walk that features mine water drainage being cleaned before it empties into the nearby river. Meet at the New Philadelphia Post Office along Rte. 209. (3 miles, moderate)
- **Saturday, June 9th, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., "Cold Springs"**. Cold Springs at Hawk Watch, Fort Indiantown Gap. **You must register for this walk by calling Robin at 570-467-2506.** Bring a lunch. **No dogs please.** Meet at the AT parking lot at Rtes. 443 & 72 to carpool. (8 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, June 10th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., "Mine Hill to Mine Hill Gap"**. "Hiker Jim" offers another view of Broad Mountain. See strip mine regrowth, the "black desert", Mine Hill Gap and views of Heckscherville Valley. Meet at Sunbury Road and Hillside Road. (7 miles, easy)
- **Saturday, June 16th, 1:00-4:00 p.m., "St. Anthony's Wilderness Walk"**. Hike Pennsylvania's second largest roadless area with Mike Centeleghe who will also teach you about the trees of Penn's Woods. Open to all ages. Meet in State Game Lands 211 parking lot on Gold Mine Road. (3 miles, moderate)
- **Saturday, July 7th, 2:00-4:00 p.m., "Rte. 61 Schuylkill River Trail Segment"**. Hike a new stretch of the Bartram Trail, aka Schuylkill River Trail, with "Porcupine Pat". Scenic views from Tumbling Run to Seven Stars. Meet at the Schuylkill County Ag Center for carpool to the trailhead. (2 miles, easy)
- **Saturday, July 21st, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., "Sweet Arrow Splash"**. Join Mike Centeleghe for a walk around the lake at our first county park. End up at the Waterfall Pavilion area to catch and observe some aquatic critters. Open to all ages. Meet at the Waterfall Road parking lot. (3 miles, easy)

- **Saturday, July 21st, 10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., "Trout Run"**. Robin Tracey leads you on this hike near the creek that includes a visit to the Bordner Cabin. Dogs must be leashed and bring a lunch. Meet at the Trout Run Trailhead located just off Rte. 443 in Swatara State Park. (8 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, July 22nd, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., "Broad Mt. Bench Trail"**. Trek the old Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railbed and historic Centre Turnpike with "Hiker Jim." There is lots to see on this dog friendly hike. Meet at 806 Valley Road, Pine Knot. (10.6 miles, easy)
- **Saturday, August 11th, 1:00-4:00 p.m., "Swatara State Park Stroll"**. Hike the Swatara State Park with Mike Centeleghe to view natural beauty and see some of nature's edibles. Open to all ages. (3 miles, moderate)
- **Saturday, August 18th, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., "Long Loop Hike"**. You will hike with Robin Tracey on most of the trails in Tuscarora State Park. See great lake views and cross the dam breast. We finish our hike on the Spirit of Tuscarora Trail. Dogs must be leashed and bring a lunch. Meet at the Crow Trail parking lot at Tuscarora State Park. (8 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, August 19th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., "West Creek Headwaters and Waterfall Hike"**. Start on Old Airport Road in Mt. Pleasant with "Hiker Jim" as you follow the stream to the waterfall and end in Forestville. The downhill is rocky in spots. Nice shady walk! Meet outside of 901 Pub on Old Airport Road. (8 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, August 26th, 2:00-4:00 p.m., "Frackville Foray"**. Hike leader John Domalakes showcases the grave of Frackville founder Daniel Frack and then an awesome overlook of the Mahanoy Valley. Meet at St. Joseph's Church on North Line Street, Frackville. (3 miles, easy)
- **Monday, September 3rd, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., "Wolf Creek Falls & Reservoir Hike"**. Meet Robin Tracey at the east end of the Wal-Mart parking lot in Saint Clair. **You must register for this walk by calling Robin at 570-467-2506.** A hidden gem! Bring a lunch and dogs must be leashed. (7.5 miles, difficult)
- **Sunday, September 9th, 1:00-4:30 p.m., "Mystical Red Hole Ramble"**. Hike leader John Domalakes leads this tour that features this historic site from the 1750's French and Indian War. Meet in the parking lot of the Schuylkill County Ag Center, Rte. 901, Pottsville for carpool to the trailhead. (3-4 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, September 16th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., "Mine Hill to Mine Hill Gap"**. "Hiker Jim" offers another view of Broad Mountain. See strip mine regrowth, the "black desert", Mine Hill Gap and views of Heckscherville Valley. Meet at Sunbury Road and Hillside Road. (7 miles, easy)
- **Saturday, September 22nd, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., "The Pinnacle"**. Gorgeous views from the top of Blue Mountain. Meet Robin Tracey in the State Game Lands parking lot off Rte. 61 south near Port Clinton to carpool. **You must register for this walk by calling Robin at 570-467-2506.** Bring a lunch. **No dogs please.** (11 miles, difficult)
- **Saturday, October 6th, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., "Lebanon Reservoir and Swatara Furnace"**. Robin Tracey leads you on this historic and scenic tour. Meet at the concrete pad at State Game Lands off Gold Mine Road. See a large reservoir and follow the old railbed and then drive to the Swatara Furnace. Bring lunch and dogs are welcome. (7 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, October 7th, 1:00-4:00 p.m., "Walk in Penn's Woods—Tuscarora State Park"**. Walk in Penn's Woods aims to get people out to enjoy the woods and to learn about how these woods work for us – from recreation and wildlife habitat to seeing the outcomes of timber harvests. Last year every county in PA hosted this kind of walk and this year is no exception. Meet at the office of Tuscarora State Park. Open to all ages. (2 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, October 14th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., "County View"**. "Hiker Jim" offers plenty to see including the "88" and diversion canal plus "The Old Jerk" and a spectacular view of County Schuylkill. Meet behind Mt. Pleasant Hose Company in Buck Run on Rte. 901. (8.4 miles, easy)
- **Sunday, October 21st, 1:00-4:00 p.m., "Peddler's Grave"**. Visit the site of the first murder in our area along a turnpike from the late 1700's. Meet in the parking lot for the Coal Miner's Memorial on the north side of Shenandoah for carpool to the trailhead. (5 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, November 4th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., "Dyer Run Gorge"**. "Hiker Jim" leads you on this Gorge Trail that was re-opened in 2014. Walk in a wilderness area then downhill on "Stephen's Road." Meet at 806 Valley Road in Pine Knot. (7 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, November 4th, 1:00-3:00 p.m., "Bartram Trail North Stretch"**. Some nature, some history on this trail section. Meet at the Auburn Trailhead on Rte. 895 just before the river to travel to hike start location. (4 miles, easy)
- **Saturday, December 1st, 10:00-11:00 a.m., "Sweet Arrow Sojourn"**. "Porcupine Pat" leads us on a different path for a jaunt around the park that includes some nice scenes of the water. Meet at the Waterfall Road parking lot of Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. (3 miles, easy)
- **Sunday, December 9th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., "Stump Dam"**. "Hiker Jim" Murphy takes you to the Gumboot then Black Diamond Road to Blackwood and then Stump Dam. You'll follow the old Lehigh Railroad to Silverton. Meet at Llewellyn Hose parking lot. (9 miles, easy)

Many thanks to our sponsors. Learn more about our sponsors by visiting their websites.



PEOPLE * CONSERVATION * RESOURCES
www.schuylkillcd.org



www.schuylkill.org



www.schuylkillvision.com



www.schuylkillhistory.org



www.schuylkillconservancy.org

Work to create the Schuylkill River Trail!



**SUMMER
JOB**

**Interested in getting hands-on experience,
exploring careers and enjoying the
outdoors?**



Join the Heritage Conservation Corps in completing a segment of the Schuylkill River Trail from Saint Clair to Frackville. Corps members will conduct trail work, assist local parks and recreational sites and receive career development. This is a paid 30 hour per week position for residents ages 16-24 years old. Positions run from June 18 to August. **Must apply to PA Career Link at Pottsville.**



**Call or visit the PA CareerLink at Pottsville
for eligibility and application.**

570.622.5253 ext. 149



Out With Litter

Schuylkill Keep It Pretty

Spring 2018 CLEANUP
April 17 thru April 22

REGISTRATION FORM

(due by Tuesday, April 10. See contact info below)

Group/Individual Name: _____

Contact: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

of Adults: _____ # of Youth (to age 18): _____ Total in Group: _____

Please describe the route #, etc. of the location you will be cleaning:

All bags collected must be placed on a Pennsylvania state highway within the Penn DOT right of way which is normally in front of guard rails or no further back than telephone polls. Penn DOT will NOT pick up any bags that are outside of their "right of way."

Please check (v) the box below noting the location you will pick up your supplies and all supplies must be picked up **prior** to cleanup:

- ASHLAND: Heizenroth Funeral Home, 901 Center St.
- MAHANOY CITY: Borough Hall
- ORWIGSBURG: Borough Hall
- PINE GROVE: Guilford /Gold Mills
- POTTSVILLE: Schuylkill Conservation District, Ag Center, Gordon Nagle Trail
- SCHUYLKILL HAVEN: Borough Hall
- SHENANDOAH: Tri-Vet Design & Fabrication
- TAMAQUA: Municipal Building

CONTACT INFORMATION:

- Mail to: SKIP, P.O. Box 18, Orwigsburg, PA 17961
- Or email to: ddolzani0531@gmail.com
- www.skiplitter.org
- 570-449-4760





LandSCAPES



“A heritage worth saving is a legacy worth protecting”

Conservancy creates email address to improve communications with public



Conservancy board member Joe Anczarski used his tech knowledge to create an email account for the conservancy. “This is an account that the public can use to connect with us,” said Anczarski.

The email address is:
SchuylkillCountyConservancy@gmail.com

TO DO LIST

- Blackwood Trail development
- Program for Mahanoy Area fifth grade
- Membership development and direct their interests
- Aid Hawk Mt Sanctuary with viewshed
- Present Roland Bergner Land & Nature award

Like us on:



Search *Schuylkill County Conservancy* and check out our stories project. You will be interested to see the variety of stories listed and you are cordially invited to leave one too!

Mother Nature's Neighbors

Spotlighting Alexa Kramer who works as natural resource conservationist for the Schuylkill Conservation District. She wears many hats for her job and serves as an inspiration for young people interested in this field.

What was your inspiration to pursue a career in conservation and natural resources?

I grew up going to my family's cabin in upstate PA where we would spend most of the summer season outside, whether it was swimming in the creek or going for hikes around the area. I think just spending a lot of time outdoors as a kid and young adult was what led me to know I wanted a job that gave me the option to work outside and help to protect and restore our area's natural resources.

You serve as natural resource conservationist for the conservation district. What is your favorite project and why?

One of my favorite projects is the Schuylkill Acts & Impacts (SAI) program that I help coordinate. SAI is a weeklong watershed expedition for high school students in the Schuylkill River watershed. Throughout the week, students study different water quality impacts such as abandoned mine drainage and agricultural runoff, and explore how these impacts can be mitigated. The students perform daily water quality sampling, go on tours, meet with conservation professionals, and have a great time camping and kayaking! It is really an extraordinary opportunity for high school students, and I love seeing the impact this program has on the students who go through it.

You were born and raised in Schuylkill County and you were able to find a job in the field that you studied right here in our county. How were you able to do this?

The process started with completing a summer internship with the Schuylkill Conservation District while I was still in college. I met Bill Reichert at the SCD, who also is the president of Schuylkill Headwaters Association. Upon graduating college, I reached out to Bill and learned of the AmeriCorps VISTA program, and that SHA had a position opening up. I was lucky enough to get that position and serve 3 years with SHA. Again, it just so happened that as my time with SHA was coming to an end, a position at SCD opened up and here I am. In truth, I ended up meeting the right people, and the timing of things couldn't have been better!



What is challenging about your job?

Looking at it from a broad perspective, I think it can be challenging to not get disheartened with everything that is happening in the environmental world. We always hear about the negative things, such as all the invasive species, or funding cuts, or diseases that are killing the forests. I think it's important to focus on all the good that is happening too, especially right here in Schuylkill County, and keep a positive attitude.

Do you have any suggestions for a young person who wants a career in the environmental field?

Do what you can to learn and gain experience! There are a lot of volunteer opportunities out there with different conservation and environmental groups, whether it be tree plantings, clean ups, or assisting with educational programs. The more you gain experience in the field, the more you will learn about your likes and dislikes, and that could help lead to your perfect career.

Porcupine Pat staffed the display of the PA Association of Conservation Districts during the annual Farm Show held this past January in Harrisburg. The butter sculpture was a popular display. Other displays included mushrooms, bees, plus young people had a chance to show and have their livestock be judged. The vegetable soup and potato doughnuts were amazing!



Here's my selfie!



Spotted Lanternfly



Public Information Session

Confused? Concerned? Worried about this new insect threat?

Schuylkill Master Gardeners are presenting a **FREE** public information session two times in March.

There is **NO** fee but registration is requested so that enough materials are prepared. **(570) 622-4225 x 23**



Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2018
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Location: Penn State Extension
1202 Ag Center Dr.,
Conference Room, Lower Level
Pottsville, PA 17901

Fee: FREE

THIS SESSION IS ALSO REPEATED ON

Date: Thursday, March 22, 2018
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Location: (See address above)
Fee: FREE



YOUNG



ADULT

Master Gardeners have been trained to bring you accurate and up to date information and are here to help you to:

1. Identify the insect
2. Evaluate the threat to the landscape
3. Learn control methods
4. Provide telephone/website for reporting



*We are here
to help you!*

Let us help to clarify the issues, give you materials to identify the insect, and discuss the appropriate times and methods of insect control and the removal of Tree of Heaven. You will take home a handy and extensive list of places to search for the insect throughout the year and we will explain how to capture and report them.

Direct your gardening questions to: Penn State Master Gardeners schuylkillmg@psu.edu (570)622-4225 ext. 23

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of the workforce.



We made it easy for you to search for something about conservation and the environment and also practice using your new Smartphone too!

- www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov - The opioid epidemic is immensely impacting Schuylkill County. Share this site that is the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration site. Show that you care about someone!
- www.stroudcenter.org - Since 1967, Stroud™ Water Research Center has focused on one thing — fresh water. We seek to advance knowledge and stewardship of freshwater systems through global research, education, and watershed restoration. Conservation district staff sometimes work with Stroud.
- www.conserveland.org - For the latest conservation-oriented news pertaining to open space issues and habitat protection. The site for the PA Land Trust Association.
- www.skiplitter.org - Schuylkill Keep It Pretty (aka SKIP) facilitates two cleanups in the county with one in spring and the other in fall. Volunteers receive all equipment needs from bags to gloves and also trash removal by PennDOT.
- www.spottedlanternfly.com - This is one bad bug! They multiply like crazy and damage much of the landscape and have been found here in our county. Check out this site for more information!
- www.earthsky.org - A nice clear early spring evening is ideal to check out the stars that make up our night skies. Find the North Star, the Dog Star, the Big and Little Dipper and more.

Schuylkill Conservation District Board and Staff

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The Annual Seedling Sale is now underway. You can help benefit Sweet Arrow Lake County Park by making a purchase. Look for a flyer inside this issue.



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