

# Seedling

Spring 2024

PA NATIVE SPECIES DAY

**THREE MORE FARMS  
PRESERVED**

DRINKING WATER WEEK

HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY CELEBRATES 90 YEARS



SMOKEY BEAR  
CELEBRATES 80 YEARS



## Editor's Note



Spring has certainly “sprung” when you see much activity going on that SCD has a role in playing. From the construction on Rt. 61 north to the interstate to trees being planted on a mine reclamation, we’ve got a busy schedule.

One item that is exciting news is the upcoming addition of Frog Hollow to the county park system. SCD’s Drew Kline manages Sweet Arrow Lake and looks forward to the site’s official designation as a park. Volunteers, especially from the Schuylkill County Conservancy, are working hard to provide a wide range of programming for all ages.

Of course, Frog Hollow needs TLC and volunteers are working hard to add luster to the site’s shine. You can visit the Schuylkill County Conservancy’s website to get more program information: [Schuylkill County Conservancy \(ourschuylkill.org\)](http://ourschuylkill.org)

The conservation district’s annual Schuylkill County Envirothon occurs on May 1 at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds. This team-oriented event involves young people being tested on their knowledge of a wide range of natural resource topics. Good luck!

## ***Congratulations to the Schuylkill County Fair!***



Coming out of the 2024 Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs Convention, held recently in Hershey, Schuylkill County Fair officials received the following honors:

1st Place – Scrapbook Cover  
3rd Place – Brochure

The county fairgrounds is home to the Dr. James S. Shadle Nature Center and Weston Pavilion. Dr. Shadle is the founder of the conservation district. Mark your calendars for the county fair from July 29 to August 3. We’ll have programs at the pavilion!

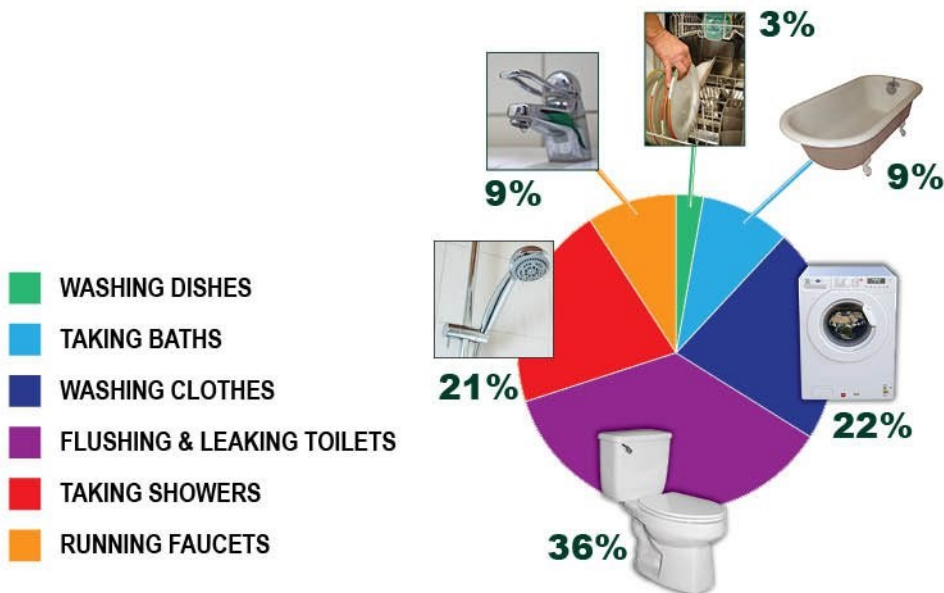




# Drinking Water Week 2024

May 5–11, 2024

## Average Water Use in the Home



**“We can live longer without food than we can without water” is a basic tenet in wilderness survival. Think of all the ways that water is used in your day. Water is very important for local industry too!**

Schuylkill County is fortunate to have a decent supply of fresh and clean water that is made available by local municipal water authorities or from your own personal well. The county’s largest provider is the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority. We are thankful that SCMA continues to support our annual Schuylkill County Envirothon.

**Click here for more information:** [Drinking Water Week | American Water Works Association \(awwa.org\)](https://www.awwa.org)





Established by the Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council in 2022, [Pennsylvania Native Species Day](#) seeks to showcase Pennsylvania's native species on land and in water, while highlighting the importance of reducing invasive species to sustain Pennsylvania's biodiverse ecosystem and all that depends on it. The council created Pennsylvania Native Species Day to celebrate the state's diverse native species and increase Pennsylvanians' understanding of the importance of protecting them against the proliferation of invasive species.

#### Why protect Pennsylvania's native species?

Pennsylvania is home to diverse native plants, trees, insects, fish, birds, and mammals that originated thousands of years ago and thrive in mutual dependence. This native ecosystem provides us with natural resources that benefit our lives by enabling agricultural food production, recreation, fisheries, timber, and more.

As humans have increased worldwide commerce and travel, nonnative species have crisscrossed the world with us. When species are transported to areas outside their native range, they have no natural predators. They often invade, crowding out and threatening the survival of native species.





# SEEDS

In backyard settings, old tires are one of the biggest risk factors of mosquito breeding. Just one tire can breed thousands.



Cross Section of a Typical Rain Garden



## Make physical activity fun!



**go roller skating**



**go biking**



**have a dance-off**



**go ice skating**



**go hiking**



Graphic is from our friends at: (click here for more info:)





[Schuylkill County's VISION - Home \(schuylkillvision.com\)](http://schuylkillvision.com)



# How to build a mini wildlife pond

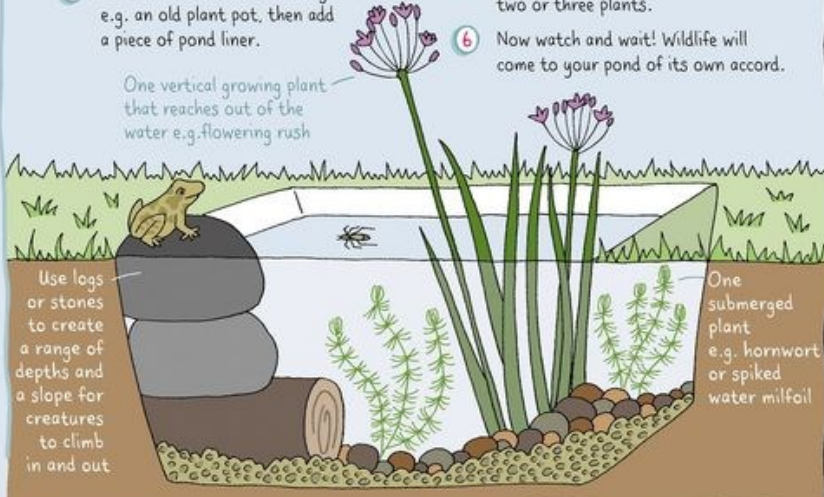


**You will need:**

- a watertight container\* 
- old bricks, rocks and pebbles 
- pond plants 
- spade 

\* Is there anything that you can upcycle? It could be an old washing-up bowl, sink or even a plant pot. Aim for 20-30cm deep.

- 1 Choose a spot. Your pond will need light, but not full sunlight all day. You can dig a hole and sink your container, or just have it sitting on top.
- 2 If the container isn't watertight, e.g. an old plant pot, then add a piece of pond liner.
- 3 Add a layer of gravel and rocks.
- 4 Fill your pond with rainwater (tap water contains chemicals).
- 5 Start planting... you only need two or three plants.
- 6 Now watch and wait! Wildlife will come to your pond of its own accord.



[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

Don't introduce frogs, fish or even water from another pond as this can spread disease.

## HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY TURNS 90 IN 2024

### The first refuge for birds of prey

**Founded in 1934, Hawk Mountain is the oldest and largest, member-support raptor conservation organization in the world.**

*Hawk Mountain Sanctuary is a landmark in the American conservation movement.*

In the 90 years since its inception, Hawk Mountain has welcomed and educated thousands of visitors. The Sanctuary was founded in 1934 by Rosalie Edge, a conservationist who saw the impact of overzealous raptor hunting on the Kittatinny Ridge. Edge originally leased 1,400 acres for the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association. It has since grown to 2,600 acres, with over 60,000 visitors per year and more than 9,000 members that keep the Sanctuary's mission alive. HMS straddles the Schuylkill/Berks county line on top of Blue Mountain.

**Click below for information on their summer camps:**

[Summer Camps | Hawk Mountain Sanctuary: Learn Visit Join](#)





# THREE MORE FARMS PRESERVED!

Kelse Brown serves as the conservation district's Agricultural Program Coordinator. One of his many duties includes the Farmland Preservation Program. He announces that three more farms have been added to the tally of preserved farms in the county.

These are the latest additions:

- Baron and Robin Heatherington #2, Union Township, 50-acre crop farm.
- William K. Stump #1, Wayne Township, 157-acre crop farm.
- Carl H. and Edith E. Wehry and Carl J. Wehry #1, Barry Township, 84-acre crop and live-stock farm.

Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of farms and acres permanently preserved for agricultural production. The program guarantees a future food supply and contributes to a healthier economy. It also assures a way of life that Pennsylvanians cherish will continue for generations to come.

Since 1988, when voters overwhelmingly supported the creation of the Farmland Preservation Program, the state has protected 6,336 farms in 58 counties from future development, investing more than \$1.69 billion in state, county, and local funds.

According to the state, two of the newly-preserved Schuylkill County farms will trigger additional investment of federal dollars through the US Department of Agriculture's Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

The farms are along the Kittatinny Ridge (aka Blue Mountain), an area rich in farmland and forestland, that is critical not just for producing food but for providing wildlife habitat and improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay, and with it, the water supply of the Mid-Atlantic.



# SMOKEY TURNS 80 THIS YEAR!



On August 9, 1944, the creation of Smokey Bear was authorized by the Forest Service, and the first poster was delivered on October 10 by artist Albert Staehle. The poster depicted a bear pouring a bucket of water on a campfire. Smokey Bear soon became popular, and his image began appearing on more posters and cards. By 1952, Smokey Bear began to attract commercial interest. An Act of Congress passed which removed Smokey from the public domain and placed him under the control of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Act provided for the use of collected royalties and fees for continued wildfire prevention education.

Though he has already accomplished so much, Smokey's work is far from over. Wildfire prevention remains crucial, and he still needs your help. His catchphrase reflects your responsibility: Only you can prevent wildfires. Remember that this phrase is so much more than just a slogan: it's an important way to care for the world around you.



The DCNR Service Forester for Schuylkill County is Will Thomas. Will said that there were over 300 wildfires in Schuylkill County last year alone.

But, it used to be worse! There used to be up to 500 in a year!

For more Smokey Bear info click here:

[Home](#) | [Smokey Bear](#)







## Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County

[schuylkillmg@psu.edu](mailto:schuylkillmg@psu.edu)

570.622.4225 ext. 23

### "From the Greenhouse Column" by Master Gardener Tom Reed

Spring is approaching and early perennial plants and flowers are starting to grow and already blooming. We are slowly leaving the bare sights of winter for the flush of renewal in nature. This means it is soon planting time for flowers, vegetables, and our cool season grasses will begin to grow and mowing time too.

There are always things to do but spring is a very busy time and there are not enough hands or hours available to get everything accomplished. Let us review the "to do" items if you are not already at this point:

- Power equipment cleaned up, blades sharpened, oil checked, fuel, and does it start! Do not wait until you need a power tool or machine to see if it is ready.... be prepared.

- Seeds in hand for seed starting. Follow the packet or catalog when seed starting. If it says start indoors four to six weeks before transplanting, do not go early you will end up with "leggy" and weak plants.

- If you are setting transplants, they require "hardening off" before going into the garden. This is the process to get the plants acclimatized to the growing conditions in



your garden. A week to ten days gradually getting your plants ready to go into the garden.

## How to start a garden on a budget

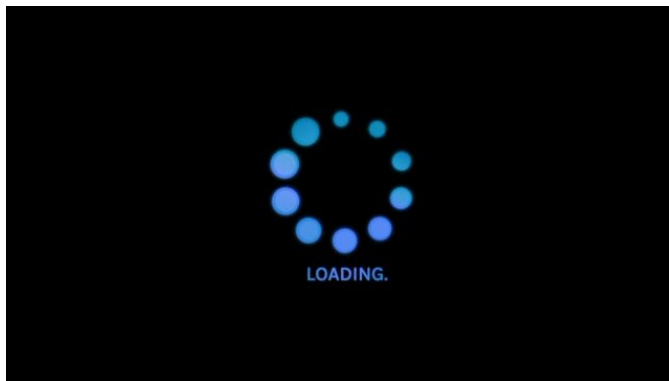
 <p><b>Start Small</b> Try a small sunken bed or 1-2 containers</p>	 <p><b>Reuse &amp; Recycle</b> Use items you already have as planters</p>	 <p><b>Swap Seeds &amp; Plants</b> Trade seeds or cuttings with others</p>
 <p><b>Make Your Own Compost</b> Compost scraps &amp; yard waste</p>	 <p><b>Choose Perennials</b> They come back year after year</p>	 <p><b>Grow from Seeds</b> It's cheaper than buying transplants</p>
 <p><b>Use Mulch</b> You'll use less water! (Try Chipdrop for free mulch)</p>	 <p><b>DIY Trellises</b> Build or use what you have on hand</p>	 <p><b>Water Wisely</b> Water in the morning to reduce evaporation</p>
 <p><b>Choose High Yield Crops</b> Grow veggies that produce a lot of food</p>	 <p><b>Use Natural Pest Control</b> Use companion planting to help with pests</p>	 <p><b>Learn as You Grow</b> Experiment &amp; learn from your mistakes</p>

- When direct seeding or planting potatoes, sweet potato slips, and onions do not work wet soil. That causes compaction and will damage your garden soil. Check by picking a handful of garden soil, rub it in your palms. If it forms a ball or is slimy, it is too wet so wait to dry out better.

- Air and soil temperature is also important. The seed packet or catalog might say plant (direct seed or transplant) when night temperature stay above 55 degrees and soil temperature is at least 60 degrees. Warm season veggies could become stunted and poor yields if planted when air and soil temperatures are too cold. Check soil temperature in the early morning prior to the sun hitting the garden.

This is a partial spring list there is always something to do. Follow seed packet and catalog instructions, if you have questions call the Master Gardener Hotline 570-622-4225, Mondays, and Wednesdays 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.





## CLICKWORTHY VIDEOS FOR YOU TO VIEW!

- <https://youtu.be/sRoM2LrLO98?si=j-0qhIev73LS1FS8>  
Potter County Conservation District featuring “Introduction to Benthic Macroinvertebrates”
- <https://youtu.be/0QzPphO5jy0?si=PtjJ9zzdlJse-Czw>  
Wandering Woodsman speaks about the “Return of the Wood Frog”
- <https://youtu.be/8lOu5rz9DVE?si=TvCFKIJa8qTivHv->  
Hiking with Aaron hikes at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
- <https://youtu.be/6devXqHGOV0?si=kW3nk0zhNj3YiWkD>  
Kellie’s Hoya speaks about “Herbal Tea Garden Seed Plan”
- <https://youtu.be/q5VfrHUG4fs?si=iM-DTWcaX77uCjvS> TreeVitalize presents  
“12 Pennsylvania Native Trees that Local Wildlife will Love You for Planting”

### Schuylkill Conservation District Board and Staff

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- District Chair:  
Scott Graver
- Vice Chair:  
Dennis Daubert
- Directors:
- Commissioner Gary Hess
- Stanley Fidler
- Glenn Luckenbill
- Dottie Sterner
- Eric Leiby
- Glenn Hetherington
- Russell Wagner

#### ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

- Chris Bentz
- Robert Carl, Jr.
- Frank Zukas
- Mike Begis
- Dr. Aaron Clauser
- Mandy Fitzpatrick
- Jason Jenkins
- Jerry Bowman

#### STAFF PHONE EXTENSIONS FOR 570.622.3742

- Jenna St. Clair, District Manager, 3335
- Martie Hetherington, Ag Project Coordinator, 3328
- “Porcupine Pat” McKinney, Education Coordinator (part time), 3326
- Missy Seigfried, Conservation Fiscal Technician, 3324
- Stephanie Lubinsky, Conservation Program Technician, 3329
- Robert Evanchalk, Assistant Parks and Recreation Supervisor (part time)
- Janelle Wilde, Conservation Program Technician, 3327
- Wayne Lehman, County Natural Resources Specialist, 3333
- Kelse Brown, Agricultural Program Coordinator, 3325
- Vacant, Conservation Program Coordinator, 3330
- Drew Kline, Parks & Rec. Supervisor, 570.527.2505
- Alexa Smith, Natural Resources Conservationist, 3336
- Kyle Schutt, Insect Management Technician, Cell: 484.331.4499



Sweet Arrow Lake County Park hosts a wide variety of programming for many audiences. Check out their website to see the latest in what is happening! Click below:

[Events & Programs](#)



SPRING 2024  
Page 11