

# Seedling

Fall 2017

**EASTERN SCHUYLKILL EXCURSION BUS BASH**

**GOOD WORK HONORED AT AWARDS CEREMONY**

**Workshop to be held at the lake**

**Fall cleanup and  
recycling event**

**Schuykill Acts & Impacts**



**PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES**



Colorful foliage, crispness in the air and shorter days speak of the new season for the year. Vivid colors can be found throughout the rolling landscape of Schuykill County with breathtaking views offered by observing reflections in the waters of lakes, ponds and streams.





## Jenna St. Clair, District Manager

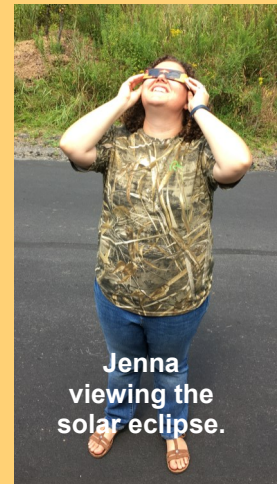
This rainy summer has been packed with events highlighting the wonderful people, places, and resources in Schuylkill County.

We worked with the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce to host the Schuylkill County Grown Cooking Competition at the Schuylkill County Fair. This event is put together by the Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee, which promotes agricultural education among the general public and works to help agricultural businesses in the county thrive.

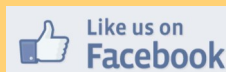
Contestants must include at least 3 "Schuylkill Grown" products, either purchased or grown, in their dishes. Luke Hinkel won the youth quick-bread category with pumpkin lavender muffins. Adults were asked to make a slow cooker dish. It was a difficult decision, but Christian Yerusavage won with "Not Your Mama's Tacos"—flank steak with warm peach and watermelon salsa. Christian is a culinary student at Schuylkill Technology Center and we enjoyed his creativity and enthusiasm, and, of course, his food!

We also celebrated many individuals and organizations at our Annual Conservation District Awards. It so refreshing every year to meet and recognize so many people, our own neighbors, who are working to improve their communities with their time and talents.

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](mailto:jstclair@co.schuylkill.pa.us).



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



View our photos: [www.instagram.com/schuylkillcd](https://www.instagram.com/schuylkillcd)

## You'll fall for this issue of Seedling



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# **Eastern Schuylkill Excursion Bus Bash**

**Saturday, October 28, 2017 — 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**\$19.00 per person**



## **TOUR ITINERARY**

- Visit the beginning of the Schuylkill River.
- See where the first fish hatchery was located in the entire United States.
- Learn about Tamaqua being the nation's third incandescent municipal lighting system.
- Stop at the oldest church and cemetery in eastern Schuylkill County.
- Yes, there was a survivor from Custer's Last Stand and was buried in Tamaqua.
- Enjoy the location of the second largest colony of Purple Martin birds in PA.
- Check out the historic railroad station.
- See a historic old mill.

- **Begins at Schuylkill County AG Center in Pottsville with free all day parking.**
- **Travel in a comfortable motor coach with AC and convenient restroom.**
- **Lunch is on your own with a stop planned at Leiby's Restaurant.**
- **"Porcupine Pat" will be your tour leader with help from friends.**
- **Info or to register: Lorie Reichert at 570.391.3316 or [lreichert@co.schuylkill.pa.us](mailto:lreichert@co.schuylkill.pa.us)**

**Sponsored by the  
Schuylkill County Historical Society,  
Schuylkill County Conservancy,  
Schuylkill Conservation District, and  
Schuylkill Area Community Foundation**





- **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:** Ryan Michlovsky of Tamaqua
- **EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR:** Randy Metzger of Blue Mountain High School
- **PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR:** Dwane Miller of Penn State Cooperative Extension
- **MEDIA CONSERVATION AWARD:** Joan Schwer of South Schuylkill News
- **FOREST STEWARDSHIP AWARD:** Stephen Zuk of Pottsville
- **ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR:** Schuylkill County Sportsmen's Advisory Board
- **CONSERVATION SERVICE AWARD-BUSINESS:** Coleman Environmental Engineering, LLC, Zion Grove
- **CONSERVATION SERVICE AWARD-PUBLIC:** Herbert and Ann Lee Schlegel of Schuylkill Haven
- **YOUTH CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR:** Luke Wynn of Williamstown
- **DR. JAMES S. SHADLE CONSERVATION FARM OF THE YEAR:** Josh and Jen Krill, Rock N' Roll Dairy Farm, Washington Township

### ***Congratulations to Craig Morgan for his induction into the conservation district Hall of Fame!***



Former Conservation District Manager Craig Morgan was inducted into the Hall of Fame for his many years of leadership and passion for the conservation of our natural resources during the award ceremonies held this past August at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. Board Chair Glenn Luckenbill paid tribute to Craig's tenure as an "innovator" that included helping start the Envirothon and embracing new conservation programs to help our county.

# I ♻️ DO YOU?

GET INVOLVED · America Recycles Day · NOVEMBER 15

For more info: [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org)



## Community Resources Guide



9 N. Centre St., Ste 301  
Pottsville, PA 17901  
as of 05/25/17

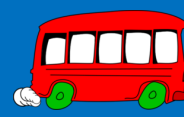


Pennsylvania 2-1-1 East is a free, confidential, non-emergency, comprehensive information and referral service that connects Schuylkill county residents with the health and human services they need. **You can reach 2-1-1 by calling 2-1-1 or 855-501-6785. 2-1-1 is not intended for emergency use. If you have an emergency, call 9-1-1.**

## COMMUTER SERVICES OF PENNSYLVANIA

*Serving Adams, Berks, Carbon, Cumberland,  
Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Monroe,  
Perry, Pike, Schuylkill & York Counties*

**For info: 1-866-579-RIDE**  
[www.pacommuterservices.org](http://www.pacommuterservices.org)



Commuter Services is a professionally staffed organization funded by federal Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality funds. Through our free services, we work to reduce traffic congestion by helping commuters find alternatives, other than driving alone, and by reaching out to employers so they can help their workforce find those options. Using alternatives also helps improve air quality, and fewer cars in rush hour can mean safer highways, too.

# Woodland Owners' Invasive Plant Identification and Control Resource

By Sky Templeton, Undergraduate Student, Penn State Department of Ecosystem Science and Management

Invasive plants are the scourge of many woodland owners. Trying to identify the pesky plants, knowing your control options, and keepin up on the latest invaders can be daunting. As an undergrad studying Forest Biology at Penn State, I am working on a summer research project with the Center for Private Forests. My project is to develop a pocket identification guide for invasive plants in PA that is easy and accessible to use out in the woods. You may be thinking, "Doesn't a resource like that already exist?" You are partially correct. While there are many plant lists and resoucrs for the treatment of invasive species available either online or in print, many landowners are still unable to identify these shrubs, vines, and forbs themselves, and indeed there is no guide specific for PA.

The purpose of this guide is not to reprint the information that is already available to you; rather, I am distilling identification facts into a straightforward, user-friendly book that will fit into your pocket. My hope is that this guide will help you to understand and use those publications better, since you will know exactly what is growing on your property. There will be a section dedicated to highlighting online resources to find extensive treatment recommendations, and, of course, expand your knowledge beyond what is in my guide.

I am now working through the first stage of development for the guide, which involves gauging landowner knowledge of and familiarity with certain plant species likely found on their property. This process involves a survey, which I invite you to take! Please note, no matter the size of your forested land, your input is important to me. Please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PAinvasiveplants> to complete the survey.

I will complete this project by fall, and I hope you will sign up to receive a copy of the guide printed by Penn State Extension. Please contact me at [sgt5067@psu.edu](mailto:sgt5067@psu.edu) or 814.863.0401 if you have questions or comments, or if you would just like to have your name added to our recipient list.



## ***Learn to Create and Enhance Natural Wooded Areas Around Your Home***

Do you have woods on your property? Penn State University research estimates that nearly half a million Pennsylvanians own a small patch of woodlands -- one to 10 acres. These patches add up to about a million or so acres, or about 10 percent, of our state's privately held woodlands.

If you are one of these landowners and you'd like to improve your land for the benefit of humans, flora, and fauna, register for the upcoming workshop on October 7 at Penn State Lehigh Valley Campus.

The "Woods in Your Backyard: Learning to Create and Enhance Natural Areas around Your Home" workshop will help you learn more about:

- Providing wildlife habitat
- Tree identification
- Tree planting and native landscaping
- Woods and water
- Forest ecology and soils
- Woodlot management techniques
- Invasive plant identification/control
- Maple syrup, mushrooms, and medicinal plants
- Landowner resources

### **The Woods in Your Backyard**

Learning to Create and Enhance  
Natural Areas Around Your Home



To register by phone, or for more information, call Penn State Extension at 570.825.1701. The DCNR Bureau of Forestry is a sponsor of this workshop.



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# The Art of Feng Shui

**Clubhouse**

**Sweet Arrow Lake**

**County Park**

**with Porcupine Pat**

**Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2017**

**7:00—8:00 p.m.**

**\$5.00**



**Sponsored by Diakon & Schuylkill Conservation District**

Learn about a Chinese philosophical system of harmonizing everyone with the surrounding environment and how to incorporate it into your life, home and business.

## FENG SHUI IS....

[www.fengshuiforus.com](http://www.fengshuiforus.com)

1



One of five branches of Traditional Chinese Medicine (the other 4 are: Acupuncture, Herbalism, Qi-Gong, and Massage)

2



The Art of Placement – knowing what to put where, and in what colors, shapes and materials, to create environments that facilitate happiness.

3



A way to produce shifts in people's lives, by making small changes in their physical space, to access the deeper mind and the self image.

## To Register

**Susan Long at Diakon:**

**570-624-3018 or**

**800-621-6325**

**[longs@diakon.org](mailto:longs@diakon.org)**







# 2017 FALL CLEANUP AND RECYCLING EVENT

## SCRAP TIRES – APPLIANCES – SCRAP METAL – BULKY ITEMS

THE COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL, IN COOPERATION WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES & BUSINESSES LISTED BELOW, IS SPONSORING A SCRAP TIRE, APPLIANCE AND BULKY ITEM DROP-OFF PROGRAM FOR **ALL** COUNTY RESIDENTS. THE PROGRAM WILL ALSO SERVE AS AN OUTLET FOR MUNICIPALITIES THAT DO NOT HAVE TIRE & APPLIANCE COLLECTION PROGRAMS.

**THERE WILL BE NO ELECTRONICS COLLECTED THIS YEAR.**

### **THE OPERATION SCHEDULE FOR EACH HOST SITE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

- **MINERSVILLE BOROUGH** - N. DELAWARE AVE. COMPOST SITE, PHONE (570) 544-2149; MONDAY SEPT. 18<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH FRIDAY SEPT. 22<sup>ND</sup> FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M., & SATURDAY SEPT. 23<sup>RD</sup> FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.
- **TAMAQUA TRANSFER STATION** - SEWAGE PLANT ROAD, PHONE (570) 668-4515; MONDAY SEPT. 18<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH FRIDAY SEPT. 22<sup>ND</sup> FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M., & SATURDAY SEPT. 23<sup>RD</sup> FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.
- **GIRARDVILLE BOROUGH** – BEHIND THE “A” ST. SCHOOL, PHONE (570) 276-1635; THURSDAY SEPT. 21<sup>ST</sup> & FRIDAY SEPT. 22<sup>ND</sup> FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M., & SATURDAY SEPT. 23<sup>RD</sup> FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
- **PORTER TOWNSHIP** – TOWNSHIP BUILDING, 309 W. WICONISCO ST., MUIR, PHONE (717) 647-4656; THURSDAY SEPT. 21<sup>ST</sup> & FRIDAY SEPT. 22<sup>ND</sup> FROM 2:00 TO 6:00 P.M. & SATURDAY SEPT. 23<sup>RD</sup> FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.
- **HEGINS TOWNSHIP** – TOWNSHIP BUILDING, 421 S. GAP STREET, VALLEY VIEW, PHONE (570) 682-9133; THURSDAY, SEPT. 21<sup>ST</sup> AND FRIDAY, SEPT. 22<sup>ND</sup> FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M. AND SATURDAY, SEPT. 23 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON
- **WAYNE TOWNSHIP** – TOWNSHIP BUILDING, RT. 183 AND MUNICIPAL ROAD, PHONE (570) 739-2629; THURSDAY, SEPT. 21<sup>ST</sup> FROM 4:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M. AND SATURDAY, SEPT. 23 FROM 7:30 A.M. TO 12 NOON
- **TREMONT BOROUGH** – BOROUGH BUILDING, 139 CLAY STREET, TREMONT, PHONE (570) 695-2199; FRIDAY, SEPT. 22<sup>ND</sup> FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON AND SATURDAY, SEPT. 23 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON
- **NEW RINGGOLD BOROUGH** – BOROUGH BUILDING, 25 N. RAILROAD STREET, PHONE (570) 640-5455; FRIDAY SEPT 22<sup>ND</sup> FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. AND SATURDAY, SEPT 23<sup>RD</sup> FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

### **ITEMS ACCEPTED & FEE SCHEDULE:**

**TIRES** – ONLY AUTOMOBILE, LIGHT TRUCK, & MOTORCYCLE/RV TIRES UP TO 16” DIAMETER ARE ACCEPTED.  
\$2 PER TIRE WITHOUT RIMS – \$3 PER TIRE WITH RIMS. LIMIT 10 TIRES PER LOAD AND NO MORE THAN 2 LOADS PER CUSTOMER

\*MUNICIPALITIES WILL ALSO BE CHARGED THE PER TIRE FEE AND ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE HOST COLLECTION SITE FOR LARGE LOADS.

**APPLIANCES – FREON BEARING** – AIR CONDITIONERS, REFRIGERATORS, DEHUMIDIFIERS – \$10 EACH  
– **NON-FREON BEARING & SCRAP METAL** – STOVES, WASHERS, DRYERS, WATER HEATERS, BICYCLES, BARBECUE GRILLS, METAL FURNITURE – *NO CHARGE*

**BULKY ITEMS** – MATTRESSES, BOX SPRINGS, ROLLS OF CARPET, DOORS AND WINDOWS – \$10 EACH.  
– SOFAS, OVERSTUFFED CHAIRS – \$5 PER CUSHION (EXAMPLE: LOVE SEAT – 2 CUSHIONS – \$10)



### **PROOF OF COUNTY RESIDENCY MUST BE PROVIDED**

NOTE: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (I.E. PAINTS, SOLVENTS, CLEANERS, POISONS) WILL **NOT** BE ACCEPTED. QUESTIONS CONCERNING DISPOSAL OF SUCH ITEMS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AT 570-628-1220



***THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
AND THE PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION***



# Seeds

## 350,000

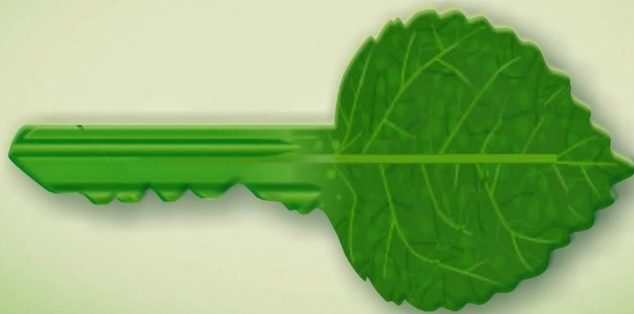
Cell phones are the most valuable material that a consumer can recycle for money, more than even aluminum cans. **Yet somehow we throw away 350,000 phones per day**, not to mention the ones we have laying around the office or garage. Cell phones are accepted for recycling at any mobile phone store, most electronics retailers and through many mail back programs. Home Depot takes them at a kiosk at the store entrance.



**The national recycling rate has increased over the past 30 years. The current recycling rate is 34%.**



The key to a greener planet is in your hands



## 180,000 and 5,000

Pennsylvania has 180,000 acres of abandoned mines and 5,000 miles of mine-polluted streams. There's work to do!



For your own pocket, and the good of the environment, don't wash half loads. Wait until there's enough to do a load and cut your laundry in half. Also, think about the water temperature. If every household in the USA switched from a hot to a warm cycle, it could save the equivalent of 100,000 barrels of oil per day.







## Make tracks to enjoy these treks! Schuylkill On the Move Fall 2017

\* **Sunday, September 24 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.:** "Bake Oven Knob and Baer's Rocks" with Porcupine Pat. Follows the Appalachian Trail to awesome overlooks! Feel as though you are on top of the world. Meets just off Rt. 309 on top of Blue Mountain on the Lehigh and Schuylkill county line. (5 miles-moderate)

\* **Saturday, October 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:** "Wolf Creek Falls Hike" Meet Robin Tracey at the west end of the Wal-Mart parking lot in Saint Clair. Registration is required by calling Robin at 570.467.2506. A hidden gem! Bring a lunch and dogs are welcome. (7 miles-difficult)

\* **Sunday, October 29 from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.:** "Girard Manor Jaunt" North of the mountain trails enthusiast Tom Pesock leads this beautiful walk in the forest of the north slope of Locust Mountain. Meet Tom at the Pumping Station parking lot for carpool to location. (4 miles-moderate)

\* **Sunday, November 5 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.** "Journey to Boxcar Rocks" Mike Centeleghe will thrill us with a trip to these massive boulders. Meets in the state game lands parking lot off Gold Mine Road south of Tower City. (3 miles-moderate)

\* **Sunday, November 19 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.** "Crystal Waterfalls Cascade" Meet "Porcupine Pat" at the Schuylkill County AG Center in Pottsville for a carpool to the start location. Wonderful water experience! (4 miles-moderate)

\* **Saturday, December 2 from 10:00-11:30 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. Meets at the Waterfall Road parking lot of Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. (4 miles-easy)

\* **Saturday, December 9 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** "Senator Rhoades Nature Trail" Meet "Porcupine Pat" on Bolich Road one mile off Dutchtown Road outside of Lavelle for this flat walk along Mahanoy Creek. (three miles-easy)

*Thank you sponsors for your support!*



PEOPLE CONSERVATION RESOURCES

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



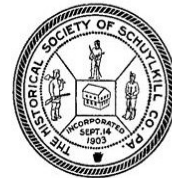
[www.schuylkill.org](http://www.schuylkill.org)



[www.schuylkillvision.com](http://www.schuylkillvision.com)



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



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



**Tom and Carolyn Pesock of Hazle Township enjoying the Tow Path Trail along the Schuylkill River near Port Clinton. The Schuylkill On the Move hike was held this past August and featured a canal lock. (photo from Republican Herald—Dave McKeown)**



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***“A heritage worth saving is a legacy worth protecting”***

## ***Rt. 61 Schuylkill River Trail project advances***

A Heritage Corps consisting of a crew of five has been busy installing trail posts for a fence to insure safety by cordoning off the trail from Rt. 61. Travelers along the highway can see their handiwork. The crew worked hard for a five week stint which is when the program ended this past summer. Trail post installation should be completed by this fall for this 1.5 mile stretch of the Schuylkill River Trail. The conservancy will ride herd on maintaining the trail through a cadre of volunteers that includes a team from Blue Mountain High School and inmates from the county prison.



## ***Sign up for this resource.....***

You can now receive free monthly updates called *The Environmental Synopsis* from the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee. Learn about committee events, new research and more by following the Joint Legislative Conservation Committee on social media. Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/jointconservationcommittee](https://www.facebook.com/jointconservationcommittee), or Twitter at [www.twitter.com/PA\\_JLCC](https://www.twitter.com/PA_JLCC). Follow this committee for the latest on issues related to Pennsylvania's diverse natural resources.



**Like us on:**



Also, type in 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

Submitted by Veronica Rutecky, Albright Class of 2020  
and Schuylkill Conservation District Intern

Melissa Seigfried, Conservation Fiscal Technician for the Schuylkill Conservation District and president of the South Schuylkill Garden Club.

**Question 1: Why do you care so much about the environment?**

Melissa: We all need to ensure that the environment is here and safe for future generations to come. Everyone must do their part.

**Question 2: What are everyday little things you do to help the environment?**

Melissa: Recycle! Recycle! Recycle! I donate newspapers and old blankets, sheets, towels, etc. to the local animal shelter. By helping the shelter, our old linens stay out of the landfill. I also recycle an old glass bottle and fill it daily with water instead of buying plastic water bottles. Starting a new garden? Before you add soil or mulch, lay newspaper down because it makes a great weed barrier. I'm also a crafter so I love to use old stuff and repurpose it into something new and beautiful.

**Question 3: What is your role in the South Schuylkill Garden Club like?**

Melissa: As president, I run our meetings, and help them run smoothly. It really takes a team to make the club and its programs and projects run.

**Question 4: What is the club's goal and your personal goals for a better environment?**

Melissa: My goals and the club's goals go hand-in-hand. We try and get the word out about how important it is to plant natives to help the pollinator population grow, especially Monarch butterflies. The club has two gardens that are dedicated to pollinators and Monarch butterflies. A personal goal of mine that I am currently working on is to get more youth involved in gardening. This includes getting them involved in club meetings and activities. I also hope to continue, with the help of the



club and my co-chairperson "Porcupine Pat" McKinney, to get more how-to gardening books in the hands of youth by continuing to donate books to local libraries.

**Question 5: What is the best advice you can give to beginner gardeners?**

Melissa: Visit your neighbor's garden and see what they're growing. Before you buy any plants, test the soil of where you want your garden to be to see if it will support specific plants. Most of all have fun!



## SOUTH SCHUYLKILL GARDEN CLUB

[southschuylkillgc@gmail.com](mailto:southschuylkillgc@gmail.com)

[www.southschuylkillgardenclub.com](http://www.southschuylkillgardenclub.com)





### Schuylkill Acts & Impacts 2017

Schuylkill Acts & Impacts is a weeklong expedition along the 120 miles of the Schuylkill River from its headwaters in Schuylkill County to its confluence with the Delaware River in Philadelphia. Eleven students from all five counties experienced the impact of human development on water quality through guided tours, field-work, and water sampling with professional mentors. Students studied the impact of legacy coal mining on water quality, agricultural impacts including erosion and manure management, the role of land preservation in watershed health, and the impacts of stormwater and impervious surfaces on water resources. Coordinated by the Schuylkill Headwaters Association, partnerships that made this program a success included the Fairmount Water Works, Stroud Water Research Center, and Take It Outdoors Adventures. Without partnerships, this trip would not be possible.







PennState Extension

# NEWS LEAF



## Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County

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

570.622.4225 ext. 23

### ***Making plans for next year's garden*** by Tom Reed

The growing season is coming down to the home stretch and I am already making plans for next year. You think about what did well this year, what flopped, and then work to protect the soil during winter.

Any area where annuals/vegetables are no longer in the ground, be sure to cover the soil with at least a heavy layering of straw or better yet put in a cover crop. There are numerous cover crops available depending on your situation. I use tillage radishes, field peas, annual rye grass, and oats. There is a lot of information on cover crops on-line or call our Hortline at 570.622.4225, ext. 23 for more information.

The first step for next year's veggie patch happens around Columbus Day and that is to plant your garlic for next year. The end for your garden year can be as late as Christmas. I usually have kale, rutabagas, and Brussels sprouts up to that time but it depends on how hungry Bambi gets.

Fall is a great time to do a soil test. If pH requirements indicate lime or sulfur, fall is the time to apply so that your soil will be ready in spring. For example, if you want to plant blueberry bushes, pH should be 4.5 to 5.5 though our native soils are much higher. Treat the soil and then test again in the spring prior to ordering plants to ensure that your pH is correct.

Have a wonderful autumn and enjoy your garden.



Tom holding tillage radishes

#### **How long do vegetable seeds keep?**

(From [www.gardentrivia.com](http://www.gardentrivia.com)) Dry, cool and dark are what they need in order to stay both viable and dormant. Viable seeds have been found in tombs dating back thousands of years because storage conditions have met all three optimum criteria – dry, cool and dark. For example, if stored optimally, then bean seeds can last three years, turnips can go for five and tomatoes for four.



Catch Tom, Tom, and Kim — our favorite “on-air” master gardeners — at AM 1360 WPPA Pottsville. They are ready to answer your questions. Hear them on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

### ***A Garden Gathering, Feeding Body & Soul is a success***

Previously called *Field to Fork* and now renamed to *A Garden Gathering, Feeding Body & Soul*. The celebration included a walk in the garden, music, art, artists, produce, cut flowers, food and plants for sale and, as always, helps and hints for successful gardening. The event took place this past August at the Demonstration Garden near Penn State—Schuylkill Haven.



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**Busy times and busy lives creates much work and it's everything you can do to keep up. We sorted out these informative sites for you to learn more about conserving natural resources.**

- **www.pbs.org/wnet/nature** - An easily navigated website with a browse site that gets you right where you want to be whether it is a show in the current season or locating everything about one particular topic or animal. There is a section available for educators that further allows teachers or even parents to pull up shows by grade level.
- **www.sciencedaily.com** - Science Daily is all about research and that fact makes this website a great tool for those looking for new discoveries or breakthroughs. You can look for topic or videos, books and more.
- **http://eol.org/** - For something to call itself an encyclopedia it must have a great deal of information and this site is not overstating itself one bit. This is the "Encyclopedia of Life" and there is so much here that you will have to see for yourself. At almost a million and a half pages, there is something for everyone so satiate your curiosity!
- **www.allaboutwildlife.com** - The site name speaks for itself and is a wealth of information about our planet's endangered species but also new species as well.
- **www.discovery.com** - The main website for the Discovery Channel, it serves as a jumping off point to their other websites as well including Animal Planet, Discovery for Kids, HUB, Velocity, and HowStuffWorks.
- **www.nationalgeographic.com** - Whenever anyone asks what first comes to mind regarding nature, animals and the planet is National Geographic. With over a century of focusing on awareness about our planet it is not surprising that they would be the most visited and most well developed site.
- **www.nature.com** - The Nature Journal is published by the Nature Publishing Group and this website is full of information about the many facets of our world on which we live. There are links provided to find articles and also jobs plus you can hear podcasts, find out about innovations, read blogs and find conferences to attend.

## Schuylkill Conservation District Board and Staff

- **District Chair:** Glenn Luckenbill
- **Vice Chair:** Scott Graver
- **Directors:**
- Commissioner Gary Hess
- Stanley Fidler
- Helen Masser
- Dottie Sterner
- F. Diane Wolfgang
- Eric Leiby
- Glenn Hetherington

- **Associate Directors:**
- Chris Bentz
- John Usalis
- Robert Carl, Jr.
- Frank Zukas
- "Boots" Hetherington
- Ron Aungst
- Russell Wagner
- Ben Vaupel
- Diana Beausang

### District Staff phone extensions for 570.622.3742:

- Jenna St. Clair, District Manager, 3335
- Martie Hetherington, Chesapeake Bay Coord., 3328
- "Porcupine Pat" McKinney, Education Coordinator, 3326
- Missy Seigfried, Conservation Fiscal Technician, 3324
- Stephanie Lubinsky, Conservation Program Technician, 3329
- Robert Evanchalk, Assistant Parks and Recreation Supervisor, 3334
- Christy Zulli, Conservation Program Technician, 3327
- Bill Reichert, Upper Swatara Flood Recovery Manager, 3331
- Wayne Lehman, County Natural Resources Specialist, 3333
- Andrea Reiner, Agricultural Program Coordinator, 3325
- Tyler Heffner, Conservation Program Coordinator, 3320
- Lorie Reichert, Conservation Program Asst., 3316
- Drew Kline, Parks & Rec. Supervisor, 3334
- Alexa Kramer, Natural Resources Conservationist, 3336

**Fall is a time to travel and explore your own backyard. Register for the Eastern Schuylkill Excursion. Details on page 3.**



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