

Seedling

Fall 2022

**Mark your calendar for Lakefront Fest
to be held on Sunday, October 9 from
11:00 am—2:00 pm at Sweet Arrow Lake**

**Award recipients honored for their good
work**

SCHUYLKILL ACTS & IMPACTS PHOTOS



**Bark in the Park
returns to Locust
Lake**

PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES



**How do you
like your
apple?**



Jenna St. Clair, District Manager

We hope that you will join us for a beautiful fall day at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park for Lakefront Fest on Sunday, October 9 from 11am to 2pm. There is free admission and free parking.

Take a deep dive into the environment, agriculture, and the outdoors in Schuylkill County with hands-on activities and programs presented by local organizations:

- Renowned wildlife rehabilitator Peggy Hentz will present her research with the Eastern Cottontail rabbit. She is the founder and director of the Red Creek Wildlife Center of Schuylkill Haven.
- Local musician Jay Smar will delight festival goers with his musical and storytelling talent.
- Local birding naturalist Denise “Nightowl” Donmoyer will feature a collection of wood carvings of local birds.
- Schuylkill County Trout Unlimited will hold a casting competition.
- Conservation district staff will provide a number of “make ‘em, take ‘em” activities for families to take home and enjoy.
- Free kayak rentals will be available.

Pine Grove BSA Troop will have hot food and baked goods available for purchase.

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.



Jenna celebrating the outdoors with her family and a ‘56 Chevy!



Welcome to Chloe Mullins to SCD staff

My name is Chloe Mullins and I am the new Agricultural Program Coordinator for the conservation district. I was born in Pottsville and attended Pottsville High School. I graduated from Temple University in May 2022 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Science. As a native of Schuylkill County, it is my hope that this position helps me to learn and discover new things and areas in the county that I grew up in.



Peggy Hentz of Red Creek Wildlife Center talks on the Eastern Cottontail
Dave "Big Owl" McSurdy presents his rock collection
Pine Grove High School FFA will have live animals and host an ag quiz
Schuylkill County Trout Unlimited holds a casting contest
Denise "Nightowl" Donmoyer showcases a collection of beautiful bird carvings
Schuylkill County 4H and the Schuylkill County Historical Society features their displays

A poster for Lakefront Fest. The top half has a light blue background with a large yellow sun and two white clouds. The text "SCHUYLKILL CONSERVATION DISTRICT" is in small white letters, followed by "LAKEFRONT FEST" in large white letters. Below that, it says "Celebrate the outdoors in Schuylkill County at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park". The date and time "Sunday, October 9 11 AM to 2 PM" are in white. The bottom half has a dark blue background with green trees on the sides. It lists "Free Admission", "Free Parking", "Free Activities & Entertainment", and "Support Local Food Vendors & Fundraisers". At the bottom, it says "FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK" and "WWW.SCHUYLKILLCD.COM". There is a logo for Schuylkill Conservation District on the right side of the poster.

SCHUYLKILL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

LAKEFRONT FEST

Celebrate the outdoors in Schuylkill County
at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park

Sunday, October 9
11 AM to 2 PM

Free Admission
Free Parking
Free Activities & Entertainment
Support Local Food Vendors & Fundraisers

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
WWW.SCHUYLKILLCD.COM



Come
visit our
fest!



Lykens Valley Children's Museum activities
Ruth Steinert SPCA with adoptable animals
Kayaks available for rent
Local folksinger Jay Smar entertains all day
Hike with "Porcupine Pat"
Kyle Schutt and invasives! Much more plus food by Scouts!



Fall 2022
Page 3



- **Volunteer of the Year:** **Kim Morgan**, VP of Schuylkill Co Fair, President of S. Schuylkill Garden Club, and long-time 4-H leader. Kim works diligently to get projects done.
- **Educator of the Year:** **Kristyn Blum** of **John S. Clarke Elementary School** in Pottsville. Kristyn is the lead contact for the annual first grade visit to Jersey Acres Farm to see dairy cows and how they are milked. Students also visit their orchard.
- **Professional of the Year:** **Mandy Fitzpatrick** of Schuylkill County's VISION. Mandy spearheads the library backpack project to connect people to nature plus supports Schuylkill On the Move among other projects. She serves as an associate director of the conservation district too.
- **Media Conservation Award:** **Leah Zerbe** of Pine Grove writes a weekly column for the Republican Herald. Her focus is on nature with an emphasis on native plants and pollinator gardens. Her writing style maintains your interest plus she is on the Education Committee of the Schuylkill County Conservancy.
- **Forest Stewardship Award:** **Charles Baber Cemetery – Pottsville** Staff and volunteers work hard to improve the forested ambience in this large area of open space in the middle of Pottsville. Events, like the tribute to the first Black forester Ralph Brock, and also Baber Day promote an interest in nature and the environment with speakers that include retired forester Frank Snyder.
- **Conservation Organization of the Year:** **Friends of Tuscarora and Locust Lake State Parks** This group is relatively new but has been very motivated and helpful with our parks. Their fundraising efforts have been phenomenal over the past year. They planned and promoted Bark in the Park in October 2021, a pancake breakfast this past spring, and the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the opening of Locust Lake State Park.
- **Conservation Service Award-Business:** **clearly * clean** is based in Frackville and produces recyclable food trays. This company was named the fastest growing manufacturer in NEPA. It was also voted as *Best Place to Work* and also the *Best Producer of a Skook Product*.
- **Conservation Service Award-Public:** **Michael Barner, scoutmaster Troop 624** Mike is long-time scoutmaster for Troop 624 of Orwigsburg. Our paths have crossed numerous times as he encourages his troop to achieve their Eagle rank. Mike is a role model and mentor to his scouts.
- **Youth Conservationist of the Year:** **Schuylkill IU 29 Work Mentor Program.** Gerry Stock and Jeannie Folweiler are coordinators of this program that has significantly benefitted the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds and other places that they visit to work. This program has high school age students and serves as a way to get work experience in a team-oriented environment.
- **Dr. James S. Shadle Conservation Farm of the Year:** **Kyle and Lori Brown.** Kyle Brown, along with his wife Lori and three children, own and operate a 262 acre no-till forage, grain and livestock farming operation located in the Mahantango Creek Watershed outside of Pitman in Schuylkill & Northumberland Counties. Crops include corn grain/silage, soybeans, barley, mixed hay and approximately 80 beef, 38 sheep and several goats, are raised on the operation. During the past several years, Kyle has been in the process of implementing the Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified in his NRCS Conservation and 590 Nutrient Management Plan. With technical and funding assistance from the SCD and NRCS, Kyle has installed a significant number of sediment and nutrient reducing BMPs to improve the water quality of the small stream flowing through the farm. His conservation efforts include incorporating cover crops into the crop rotation, construction of a 42' x 180' roofed heavy use area and manure stacking for the beef, improvements to the grazing system, including exclusionary streamside fencing, off-stream watering systems, stream crossings, and stabilized animal walkways.



MOST TART

GRANNY SMITH PACIFIC ROSE MCINTOSH EMPIRE

JAZZ BRAEBURN LADY ENVY CORTLAND

MACOUN AUTUMN GLORY OPAL SUGARBEE SMITTEN

JONAGOLD GOLD DELICIOUS RED DELICIOUS SNAPDRAGON HONEYCRISP

JUICI AMBROSIA GALA FUJI **MOST SWEET**

World's largest, smallest, shortest, tallest etc

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Largest Continent- | Asia |
| Smallest Continent- | Australia |
| Largest Ocean- | Pacific Ocean |
| Smallest Ocean- | Arctic Ocean |
| Largest Country- | Russia |
| Smallest Country- | Vatican City |
| Largest gulf- | Gulf of Mexico |
| Largest Bay- | The Bay Of Bengal |
| Largest Island- | Greenland |
| Largest Peninsula- | Arabian Peninsula |
| Logest River- | Nile |
| Shortest River- | Roe |
| Largest River- | Amazon |
| Deepest Ocean- | Pacific Ocean |
| Largest Lake- | Caspian Sea |
| Largest Fresh Water Lake- | Lake Superior |
| Lowest Lake(Surface of Water below sea level)- | Dead Sea |
| Tallest Waterfall- | Angel Falls, Venezuela |
| Deepest Underwater Trench- | Marianas Trench |
| Highest Mountain- | Mount Everest |

Honey is the only food that will not rot. A jar of honey may remain edible for over 3000 years.

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”

- ALBERT CAMUS

MAMMALS OF PENNSYLVANIA

OPOSSUM RIVER OTTER WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE LONG-TAILED WEASEL MEADOW VOLE NORTHERN RACCOON

BLACK BEAR RED SQUIRREL NORTH AMERICAN PORCUPINE LITTLE BROWN BAT AMERICAN MINK FOX SQUIRREL

HOARY BAT EASTERN RED BAT STARNOSE MOLE EASTERN CHIPMUNK STRIPED SKUNK

MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE LEAST WEASEL SHORT-TAILED WEASEL WHITE-TAILED DEER EASTERN COTTONTAIL SNOWSHOE HARE

DEER MOUSE BIG BROWN BAT NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT BOBCAT ALLEGHENY WOODRAT

SPOTTED SKUNK SOUTHERN BOG LEMMING MUSKRAT COYOTE GRAY FOX EASTERN GRAY SQUIRREL GROUNDHOG

FLYING SQUIRREL AMERICAN BEAVER FLYING SQUIRREL

Soil Is Life, Conserve It!



Schuylkill County's VISION develops community through its projects one of which is Schuylkill On the Move. The mission of Schuylkill on the Move is to bring together those with an interest in promoting health and fitness through walking.

Schuylkill on the Move is a county-wide grassroots organization of individuals and other organizations who have an interest in promoting health and fitness through walking. Mark your calendars for these Schuylkill County Walks and Hikes!

Saturday, October 8 from 10:00 - 11:00 am. Fall 'n Leaf Hike: Meet in the Waterfall Road Pavilion (Sweet Arrow Lake). Join Porcupine Pat for a fall hike. Nature's engine turns again and a new season is in place. Let's hike to enjoy the colorful scenes of fall.

Thursday, October 20, November 3 and 17: Schuylkill Girls Who walk location to be announced soon. Visit: [SGWW website \(canva.site\)](https://www.sgww.org/)



Sunday, October 30: Tamaqua Hunger Campaign at 2:00 pm: Registration for the walk will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the Tamaqua Arts Center. Walkers are encouraged to wear a Halloween costume. The group that walks and brings in the most money or food of the greatest value will be given a pumpkin pie and a half gallon of ice cream. The individual that brings in the most money, or food of the most value will win the same. For more info visit: Tamaqua Hunger Campaign

Sunday, December 11 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Winter Tree Identification. Meet at the Clubhouse Pavilion at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. Enjoy a winter walk through the woodlands of the park while learning how to identify the more common trees in Schuylkill County. See the tree characteristics of dormant tree species, such as the buds, twigs and other clues which aid in identifying trees in their winter state. The program will be conducted by Frank Snyder, retired and certified arborist. Be sure to dress for the weather. Free and open to all. All ages welcome. Sponsored by the Schuylkill County Conservancy.

SCHUYLKILL

ACTS & IMPACTS



A student testing water quality at the Silver Creek Abandoned Mine Drainage Treatment System in Schuylkill County.



Students looking for macroinvertebrates from a sample taken from the Manatawny Creek, a tributary to the Schuylkill River in Montgomery County.



Camping in Berks County.



Cooling off in the Schuylkill River with some games!

Schuylkill Acts & Impacts (SAI) is a week-long watershed expedition along the 120 miles of the Schuylkill River, from its headwaters in the anthracite coal lands of Schuylkill County to its confluence with the Delaware River in Philadelphia.

Students from all five counties in the watershed come together to experience first-hand the impact of human development on water quality through guided tours, fieldwork, and water sampling with professional mentors. Throughout the week, students study 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.

Recreation and fun are also part of the week, as the students kayak sections of the Schuylkill River and camp in state parks and nature preserves throughout the watershed.

The 2022 trip was held from July 31-August 5. We had a group of 14 exceptional high school students from throughout the Schuylkill River watershed!

FRIENDS OF TUSCARORA AND LOCUST
LAKE STATE PARKS PRESENT

FREE admission
with many great vendors, food,
and activities to purchase



SECOND ANNUAL

BARK IN THE PARK

sponsored by



SUBARU

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022

12:00 - 4:00 P.M.

LOCUST LAKE STATE PARK

BARNESVILLE, PA

Subaru Swag
Bags will be
available for
the first 100
attendees
sponsored by:



*Limit one with
registration

DEMONSTRATIONS BY:

Reading Disc Dogs Demonstration
Mannered Mutts Dog Obedience
Mount Carmel Police Officer Freiler & K9 Blek
Snakebite and Pet Safety by Venom Institute
Pet Blessing by Rev. Robert T. Finlan
Chase from Paw Patrol

Event Sponsored by:



ACTIVITIES

Low Cost Pet Microchip by Fresh Start ARL - \$30
Face painting by Cindy - donation
Lisa Cambra photography - \$10/picture
Pawcasso Paintings with Andrea Perno - \$15/canvas

Vendors, Demonstrations, Food, & Silent Auction

The Friends of Tuscarora and
Locust Lake State Parks is a
Chapter of the Pennsylvania
Parks & Forests Foundation,
which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit
organization.



FOOD VENDORS

Gimbel's Farm Burgers
Phil's French Fries
PA Farm Show Milkshakes
Harvest Corn Company

Off the Leash Dog Food
Truck will be there!

Event Sponsored by:

**SUBARU
Loves
Pets**



Explore
Schuylkill

For the safety of all in attendance, dogs must be leashed at all possible times. If your dog becomes aggressive or an issue occurs you may be asked to leave the premises. All dogs must be current on rabies vaccination with proof available upon request.



NEWS LEAF

Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County

schuylkillmg@psu.edu

570.622.4225 ext. 23

“From the Greenhouse Column” by Master Gardener Tom Reed

It is hard to believe we are now going into fall and an exceedingly difficult growing season is over. The lack of rain/drought was challenging to say the least. I had the poorest results with my veggies this season, but hey there is always next year!

But chores in the garden are not complete yet. First, I strongly recommend writing a journal/notebook of successes, failures, insect, and disease problems that you had. Then make your plan for next season including crop rotation by plant families.

Fall is an excellent time to do a soil test. It is recommended that you do this every 3 to 5 years especially if you have a vegetable garden.

Also, if you are planning to do a specialty crop, such as blueberries, a soil test is necessary. Blueberries require a soil with pH of 4.5 to 5.5. Most of our county's soils are 6.0 and above so plan accordingly. Once the soil test is completed and the results are known, any amendments can be made before the soil freezes. Soil tests are available at the Extension Office for \$9.00 and are a good buy for your garden or lawn.

Lastly, do not let your garden soil lay bare over the winter. At minimum simply cover the area with straw. A better way is to use a cover crop in order to build soil and there are various cover crops available. I use oilseed/tiller radishes, oats, field peas, and annual rye grass.

Other cover crops are available during the growing season to use if the area is left bare for several months. Examples include a cool season grass, buckwheat, and spring green manure mix. When properly utilized, these crops will increase the organic matter in your soil and result in an overall increase in soil health.



You'll find Master Gardeners at these events:

- Seed Swap at SpringGate Winery, October 2nd 11 to 5
- Lakefront Fest at Sweet Arrow Lake, October 9th 11-2
- Diakon Senior Expo, Fairlane Village Mall, October 18th 10-2



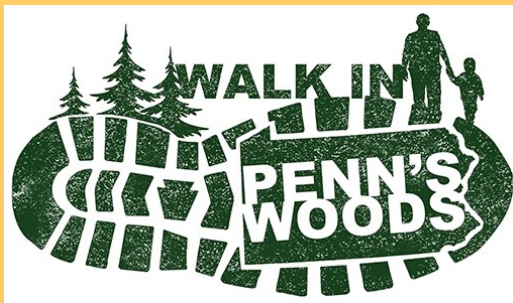
Have a garden issue? Call Master Gardeners at the Hort Hotline for helpful answers!

Questions on trees, shrubs, flowers, lawn, and so much more can be answered by calling the **Hort Hotline at 570.622.4225** between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays throughout the season until October. Leave a message and your question will be answered asap.

Listen to Master Gardeners on WPPA AM 1360 or 105.9 at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month year round.



Fall 2022
Page 9



The Schuylkill County Conservancy presents a Walk In Penn's Woods event to be held at Frog Hollow on Sunday, October 2 at 2:00 pm

Frog Hollow is located just outside of Friedensburg and hosts 28 acres of mostly woodlands. The site has these coordinates: 40.60107, -76.25920. Frog Hollow is a past Forest Steward when it was owned by the South Schuylkill Garden Club. Parking is along Stone Mountain Road. The starting point of the walk will be at the large Frog Hollow sign.

The event will be presented by local PA Forest Stewards and volunteers from the Schuylkill County Conservancy. This walk is part of a larger statewide endeavor called Walk In Penn's Woods that has been held on the first Sunday of October.

Groups from around Pennsylvania will be getting out to explore the vast forests of Pennsylvania. Since 2017, the day has been set aside for Walk in Penn's Woods Day, an event brought together by a statewide partnership that encourages groups to host hikes around the state. The walks provide an opportunity for people across the Commonwealth to get out, have fun and learn about Pennsylvania's forests and see forests in new ways plus to understand and appreciate the many values of the woods.

Brief Description of the walk:

The walk will consist of a casual stroll along flat trails that loop around the property. Tree species and understory shrubs will be identified and points of interests will be highlighted. As the group discovers this beautiful forested landscape, trail guides will engage in conversations with participants about their outdoor experience. Attendees will learn about the importance of the Upper Little Swatara Creek which borders the northern portion of the property and the wildlife found there. Besides being a place of solace, many bird watchers frequent the area throughout the year.



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
- Michael Begis
- Aaron Clauser
- Jerry Bowman
- Mandy Fitzpatrick

STAFF PHONE EXTENSIONS FOR 570.622.3742

- Jenna St. Clair, District Manager, 3335
- Martie Hetherington, Agricultural Project Coordinator, 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 (part time)
- Janelle Wilde, Conservation Program Technician, 3327
- Bill Reichert, Upper Swatara Flood Recovery Manager, 3331
- Wayne Lehman, County Natural Resources Specialist, 3333
- Chloe Mullins, Agricultural Program Coordinator, 3325
- Ryan Michlovsky, Conservation Program Coordinator, 3330
- Lorie Reichert, Conservation Program Asst., 3316
- Drew Kline, Parks & Rec. Supervisor, 570-527-2505
- Alexa Smith, Natural Resources Conservationist, 3336
- Kyle Schutt, Insect Management Technician, Cell: 484.331.4499



Mark your calendars for Lakefront Festival at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. Sunday, October 9 from 11 am to 2 pm. Free and open to the public with many activities for all.



8th Annual “Give Us Your Best Shot” Photo Contest



Grab your camera and start snapping photos, because November 30, 2022 marks the final day for local photographers to submit entries for the Eighth Annual “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 photo using the following theme:

“The Personality of a Tree” is this year’s theme. Trees are critical to our livelihood here in PA and we are especially appreciating trees because the National Arbor Day Foundation celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. Your tree has to be from Schuylkill County. Look at how your tree has grown. Is it smiling at you? Does your tree point to something? Really see the unique quality of your nomination! If you have questions: porcupinepat@yahoo.com or 570.391.3326

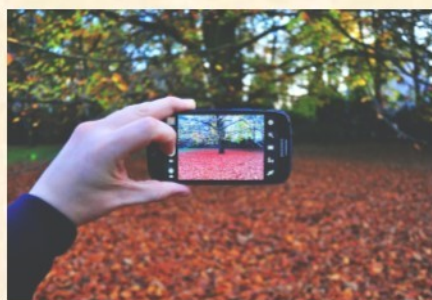
Contest Rules

- Photos must have been taken in Schuylkill County between September 22 and November 30, 2022.
- Submission must be the original work of each photographer.
- There is no entry fee but please enter only one photo.
- 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. Your photo will not be returned.
- Judging is based on originality, technical quality, creativity and natural beauty.
- Winners will be notified in December 2022.

Prizes

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

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|
| • Grand Champion - The winning photo will be enlarged, matted, framed and presented to the winner at the festival that we hold in October at Sweet Arrow Lake. | • Runner-up (wins Second Prize) - The winning photo will be printed on the cover of the Annual Report of the Schuylkill Conservation District. | • Second Prize—\$75 |
| | | • Third Prize—\$50 |
| | | • Fourth Prize—\$35 |



Good luck clickin’!

Give Us Your Best Shot Photo Contest is sponsored by



PEOPLE - CONSERVATION - RESOURCES

www.schuylkillcd.com



For more info contact: “Porcupine Pat” McKinney at
porcupinepat@yahoo.com or 570.391.3326