

Seedling

Fall 2021

FEST 'O FALL INFORMATION

**AWARDS PRESENTED
TO ACKNOWLEDGE
CONSERVATION WORK**

**2021 FALL PICK UP
PENNSYLVANIA LITTER
CLEANUP PROGRAM**

BARK IN THE PARK

**PHOTO CONTEST
ANNOUNCED**



Photo of waterfall at
Sweet Arrow Lake
from Uncovering PA



PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES



Jenna St. Clair, District Manager

This summer has gone by in a flash, but there is still a flurry of activity here at the Conservation District.

We hope that you will join us for a beautiful fall day at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park for Fest O' Fall on Sunday, October 10, 2021, from 11 am to 2 pm. There is free admission and free parking. Enjoy all the park has to offer plus featured activities including the Lykens Valley Children's Museum, Dave "Big Owl" McSurdy, Denise "Nightowl" Donmoyer and the Sweet Arrow Lake Conservation Association. A highlight of the event is a presentation by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's Director of Education Jamie Dawson who will bring some live critters from her personal collection. Also included are "make and take" activities and a nature walk with "Porcupine Pat."



Jenna at the Ag Progress Days this past August.

Special consideration has been given to event logistics for everyone's health and safety. The event will take place outdoors with markers for physical distancing. Sanitation stations will be available throughout the park. Attendees must follow the signs, keep a safe physical distance and wear masks inside facilities, activities and restrooms. Common surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized in between uses and as frequently as possible. If you are sick, are displaying Covid-19 symptoms, or may have been exposed to someone with Covid-19 symptoms, please stay at home.

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.



Highlights in this edition of Seedling:

- Fest 'o Fall specifics
- 2021 conservation awards presented
- Participate in our photo contest
- Farmland preservation update
- Bark in the Park at Locust Lake
- Photo collage
- Fall gardening projects
- Center for Rural Pennsylvania data map



- **Volunteer of the Year:** John Bondura for his work in improving water quality in the Schuylkill River.
- **Educator of the Year:** Kristen Klingaman who teaches at Tamaqua High School and motivates her students with in-field and hands-on experiences.
- **Professional of the Year:** Mike Clark who serves as Chesapeake Bay Engineer and provides technical and engineering assistance to a number of projects.
- **Media Conservation Award:** Lisa Schugardt, Sam-Son Productions, Inc. for creating several media outlets for promoting the district's mission.
- **Forest Stewardship Award:** Muddy Creek Sportsman Club has been taking steps to promote a healthy forest on their 150-acres.
- **Conservation Organization of the Year:** Pottsville Shade Tree Commission that improves the quality of life in the city by planting and maintaining trees.
- **Conservation Service Award—Business:** Arthur "Pat" Aungst, Inc. served as the contractor that implemented the Swatara Creek Floodplain Restoration Project.
- **Conservation Service Award—Public:** Peggy Hentz, Red Creek Wildlife Center that is a leader in wildlife rehabilitation and provides numerous education programs.
- **Youth Conservationist of the Year:** Hannah Burke is motivated and has started her own business and helping Schuylkill County's VISION.
- **Dr. James S. Shadle Conservation Farm of the Year:** David and Nancy Stoltzfus of County Line Farm. Located in Spring Glen, Hubley Township. The farm has been a cooperator with the Schuylkill Conservation District and the USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service for over 20 years. Important and substantial improvements have been made to the farm with the installation of best management practices (BMPs) to address environmental resource concerns.

SCHUYLKILL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PRESENTS

FEST O' FALL

Celebrate the fall season in
Schuylkill County

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021
11 AM TO 2 PM
SWEET ARROW LAKE COUNTY PARK
PINE GROVE, PA

Free activities and displays by

Lykens Valley Children's Museum | Dave "Big Owl" McSurdy
Denise "Nightowl" Donmoyer & Sweet Arrow Lake Conservation Association
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's Jamie Dawson
"Make and Take" activities | Nature Walk with "Porcupine Pat"

www.schuylkillcd.com
Follow us on Facebook



7th Annual “Give Us Your Best Shot” Photo Contest



Grab your camera and start snapping photos, because November 15, 2021 marks the final day for local photographers to submit entries for the Seventh 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:

“Autumn in Schuylkill County” focuses on the beauty of our county during this colorful season. From pumpkins and fall cornfields to colorful leaf images in waters, you have a variety of options to click on!

Contest Rules

- Photos must have been taken in Schuylkill County between September 22, 2021 and November 14, 2021.
- 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 Ireichert@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 early December 2021. All photos will be posted on the District’s Facebook page.

Prizes

There will be a Grand Champion and 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 Conservation District’s Annual Awards Ceremony in August. | * Second Prize - \$75 |
| | * Third Prize - \$50 |
| | * Fourth Prize - \$35 |
| * Runner-up (wins Second Prize) - The winning photo will be printed on the cover of the Annual Report of the Schuylkill Conservation District. | |



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

SEEDS

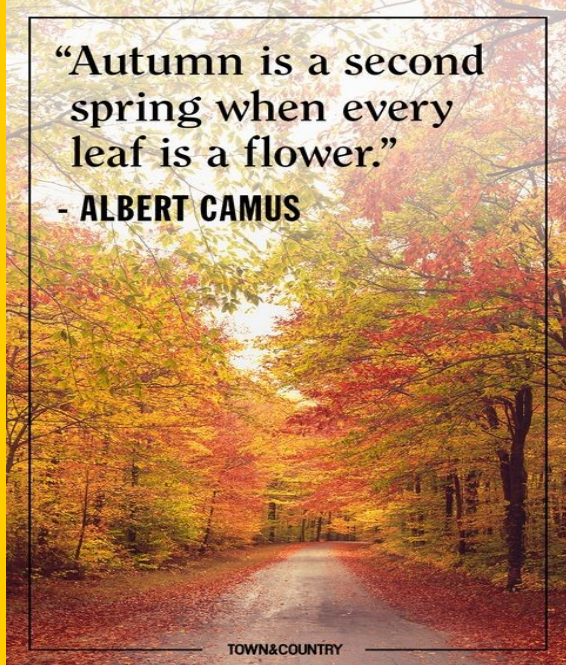


How to make a leaf placemat:

1. Gather leaves and dry them.
2. Get two sheets of wax paper for placemat size.
3. Place leaves on one sheet.
4. Place second sheet on top of leaves and first sheet.
5. Get a towel to cover placemat.
6. Set iron on low and iron on top of towel.
7. Pick up towel and enjoy your placemat!

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

- ALBERT CAMUS



Water is one of the few things that we actually need for our survival, and one of the simplest things that we take for granted. When we need some for cooking, we turn on our tap and there it is. Need to get clean after a long day's work? Hop in the shower and turn the knob to hot. Thirsty? Pop a cup under your [water dispenser](#), hit a button, and voila-clean water!



Did you know, though, that over [780 million people worldwide](#) don't have that luxury? Even right here in the US, [63 million Americans](#) don't have access to safe, clean drinking water. Do the math. In a country with about 333 million people, that's an incredible 18% who go without clean water. As the Water Project explains, “Half of the world's hospital beds are filled with people suffering from a water-related disease.” Consider that the next time you fill up a pot to boil pasta, suds up in the shower, or gulp down a cold glass of H₂O, and I bet you'll stop taking it for granted.

Fall is a good time to prune your trees. Check out this video featuring Frank Snyder who retired after 40+ years as a DCNR service forester. Frank shows how to prune and adds that November is a good month to prune. Click here to view this video:

<https://youtu.be/Etxk4HUhbZg>



Some good things that happened this summer!



High school students from Schuylkill and other Schuylkill River watershed counties participated in the annual Schuylkill River Acts & Impacts program. Our typical Schuylkill Acts & Impacts program is a weeklong watershed expedition along the 120-miles of the Schuylkill River exploring the connections between land-use and water quality.

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy, PA DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn, and other officials toured the Donaldson Culm Bank Stream Restoration Project site in Frailey Township. Six acres of floodplain and wetlands have already been restored by removing over 100,000 cubic yards of highly erodible coal waste material. Construction is underway on the next phase to restore an additional 12 acres of floodplain and wetlands.

This project is funded through DOI's Abandoned Mine Land (AML) and Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) grant programs and PA DEP Growing Greener grant program.

Additionally, Frailey Township received a PA DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grant for the development of the Good Spring Park and Trail on the future restored site. The park project will include the construction of an access drive, parking area, observation area, approximately 1.3 miles of trail, ADA access, landscaping, project signs and other related site improvements.



Join Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful For The 2021 Fall Pick Up Pennsylvania Program To Keep Our Waterways Clean

To prevent litter from ending up in our waterways, [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) urges Pennsylvania residents to participate in the [Fall Pick Up Pennsylvania](#), in support of the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup. This year's program runs through November 30 and [registration is now open](#).

This annual event is an opportunity to improve neighborhoods and Pennsylvania's waterways by coordinating or participating in a litter cleanup.

During this period, registered events can get free trash bags and gloves provided by the Department of Environmental Protection, PennDOT and the Ocean Conservancy, as supplies last.

In addition to waterway cleanups, land-based cleanups are also eligible since a significant portion of waterway pollution originates on land.

The results of a 2019 statewide study on litter, conducted by the Departments of Environmental Protection and Transportation and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, estimated that there are 502 million pieces of litter on Pennsylvania roadways.

That litter could potentially end up in our oceans. Wind and rain wash litter into storm drains or directly into creeks and rivers that eventually flow to the ocean where it impacts marine life, human health and coastal economies.

Over 30 percent of all litter found on Pennsylvania roadways is plastic. Plastic litter left in the environment breaks down into extremely small pieces called microplastic. Microplastic is virtually impossible to retrieve from our lands and waters.

Without an effective way to recover these tiny particles, they make their way into every aspect of our lives, from the food and beverages we consume to the rain and the air we breathe. Microplastics in our oceans fatally affect marine life, other wildlife and enter the food chain, threatening human health.

"The most powerful solution is to stop litter from entering our oceans in the first place by disposing of waste properly, reducing the amount of products we purchase, and improving waste management systems overall. You can help by cleaning up in and around your community! Grab a bag and collect litter from the side of the road, parks, fields and sidewalks before it finds its way into a storm drain or local waterway," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

[Click Here to register your cleanup event](#). Questions can be answered by Michelle Dunn, Pick Up Pennsylvania Program Coordinator, at 877-772-3673 ext. 113 or mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org.



113th Farm Preserved in Schuylkill County

Brittany Moore, Agricultural Program Coordinator for the conservation district, announces that on July 2, 2021 that the Alfred D. Nagle farm became the 113th farm to be preserved in perpetuity in Schuylkill County. The farm is comprised of 98.53 acres and is



situated in an agricultural focused area within Wayne Township. Mr. Nagle's generosity and commitment to agriculture in Schuylkill County has brought the grand total to 11,544 acres preserved within the county. The Nagle farm demonstrates many conservation practices that contribute to soil and water quality including no-till, waterways, cover crops and crop rotation. These conservation practices and easement make it possible for future generations to continue to use this land for agricultural production.

FRIENDS OF TUSCARORA AND LOCUST
LAKE STATE PARKS PRESENT

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



FIRST ANNUAL

BARK IN THE PARK

sponsored by



SUBARU

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021
12:00 - 4:00 P.M.
LOCUST LAKE STATE PARK
BARNESVILLE, PA

First 100
attendees will
receive a tote
bag sponsored
by:



*Limit one with
registration



CARICATURE ARTIST
ANGIE JORDAN 12:30-3:30

sponsored by Fairway Subaru of Hazleton

SUBARU
Loves
Pets



Dog Walk with Robin Tracey
Oak Ridge Loop
12:00

Reading Disc Dogs Demo
12:30 & 3:00

Ways of Wildlife with
Porcupine Pat
1:00

Caricature by Angie Jordan
\$10/head in B&W
\$15/head in Color

Three Visions Photography
Picture with Scooby Doo
\$7

Venom Institute Presentations
1:30 Snakebites & Pet Safety
2:30 Reptile & Amphibian Education

Joe Ciavella &
Grateful Drumming
1:30

Obedience Demonstration
by Mannered Mutts Dog Training
2:00

Low Cost Microchip \$25 by
Fresh Start Animal Rescue League
12:00 - 4:00

FOOD VENDORS
Gimbel Farms Burgers
Phil's French Fries
PA Farm Show Milkshakes



Vendors, Demonstrations, Food, & Silent Auction



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 premise. All dogs must be current on rabies vaccination with proof available upon request.



Master
Gardeners
PennState Extension

NEWS LEAF



Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County

schuylkillmg@psu.edu

570.622.4225 ext. 23

"From the Greenhouse Column" by Master Gardener Tom Reed

Fall is here already, and time to put the garden to bed and get next season's garlic into the garden. There are several things that must take place prior to wrapping up for the year. We will mention a few but if you have questions, contact the Master Gardeners at 570-622-4225 or schuylkillmg@psu.edu.

First, cleanup plant debris. If you had insect or disease in your garden discard the plant material. Record the results of how your garden did, the successes as well as the oops. If you keep a chart of your garden, plan next year's garden rotation. Better to do it now and get it written down so in spring you aren't trying to remember where everything was last season.

This is a good time to do a soil test if you haven't done one in 3 to 5 years especially, if you are vegetable gardening. Soil Test Kits are available at the Extension Office for \$9.00. It will give you the correct information on soil pH, lime/sulfur requirements, fertilizer requirements, and if you require organic matter in your garden. When you get the results back and need help interpreting the result, contact the Master Gardeners. We're there to help you!

Do not let your soil go bare for the winter. Erosion will wreak havoc on your soil during winter. A cover crop is good and can be many things. Field peas, oil seed radishes, annual rye grass, oats to name a few. Or, cover with a good layer of straw, cardboard, or even a tarp.

Roughly around Columbus Day is the time to plant garlic. Hard neck garlic does the best in our zones. Plant cloves about 2 1/2 to 3 inches deep about 4 inches apart in all directions. Once the ground freezes, late November into December cover with straw to protect from heaving over winter. Your first crop in for 2022.



The Master Gardeners will have an "Ask the Master Gardener" booth at the Diakon Senior Expo slated for Tuesday October 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event will be held at the Fairlane Village Mall in Pottsville.

Just keep on gardening!

Don't stop vegetable gardening just because it's cold out. There are plenty of [lettuces and greens](#) that will mature quickly, before intense winter cold sets in (and some even taste better with a touch of frost, like kale). Try planting lettuces, turnips, mustard greens, collards and kale and be sure to mix a rich compost into your vegetable garden to give those edibles a good head start. In very cold regions, frost blankets can protect lettuces and tender greens even into colder weather.



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

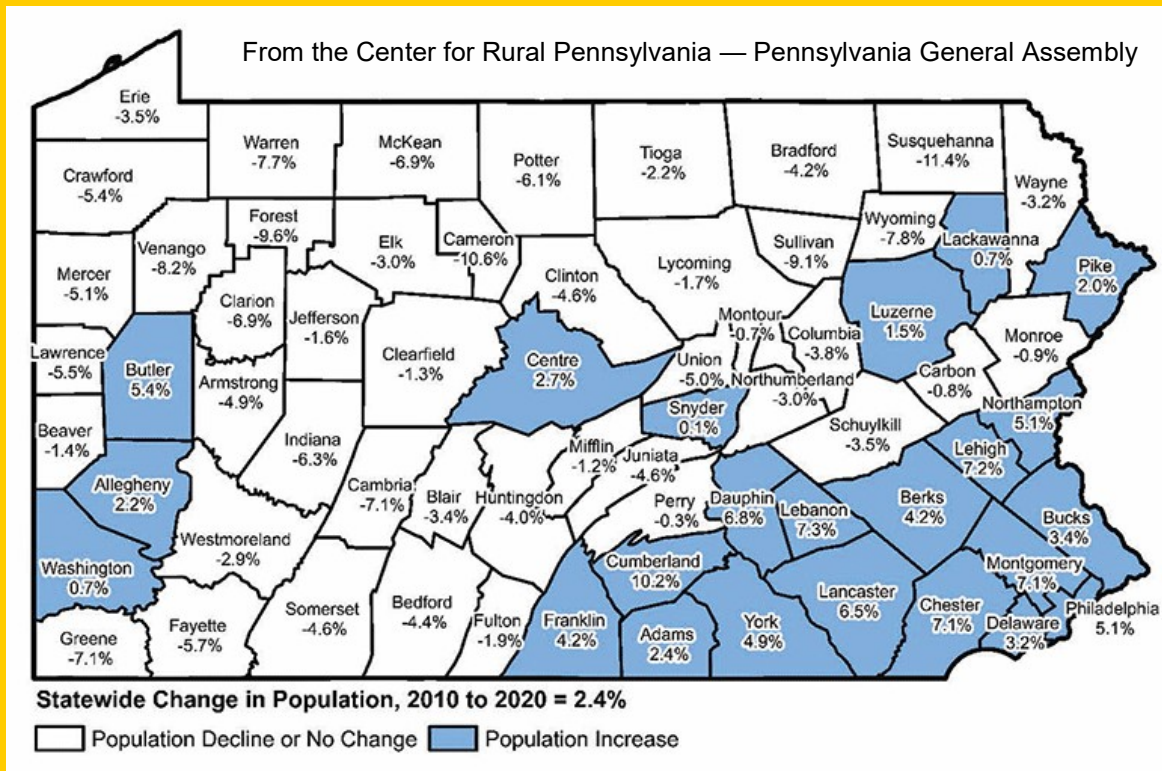


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Rural Snapshot: Census 2020 - Pennsylvania Population Change

Data sources: 2000, 2010, and 2020 Censuses, U.S. Census Bureau.

Percent Change in Population by County, 2010 to 2020



Schuylkill Conservation District Board and Staff

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Dennis Daubert
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- Glenn Hetherington
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- Robert Carl, Jr.
- Frank Zukas



STAFF PHONE EXTENSIONS FOR 570.622.3742

- Jenna St. Clair, District Manager, 3335
- Martie Hetherington, Chesapeake Bay 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
- Brittany Moore, 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

Fest 'o Fall

Sunday, October 10, 2021

Sweet Arrow Lake County Park

11 am to 2 pm



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