

Spring 2021

Get ready for spring gardening

Annual Seedling Sale to benefit Sweet Arrow Lake enclosed

pring lanternfly control

National Conservation Foundation launches new website



PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES







The Red Bud's spring blooms thrill all who enjoy its colors. Sweet Arrow Lake has two at the Point located near the Clubhouse. The tree's heart-shaped leaves add ambience to any wedding taking place there!



Jenna St. Clair, District Manager

We are now reaching 1 year since COVID-19 impacted our business and lives, and here at the District we continue to assess our programs and activities. Springtime is the start of our busy season and this year is no different but totally different (at the same time!).

The Envirothon competition is all virtual/remote to allow county students to test their knowledge of the natural world in the areas of wildlife, aquatics, trees, soil, and current issues.

The fate of Bear Creek Festival is still being determined for this year, but we know we can deliver family-friendly environmental education in a safe manner like we did at the 65th anniversary event at Sweet Arrow Lake last September. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for the latest news on upcoming events!

The warmer weather also reminds me that the many beautiful parks and trails in the county are ready and waiting for all of us to get out and enjoy the outdoors. The staff at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park believe 2020 had an all-time high in daily park visitors, despite the cancellation of many rentals and events.



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.







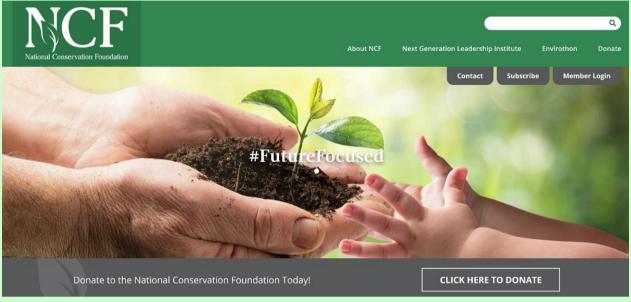


"Porcupine Pat" is now on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube



Pandemic times have provided opportunities for creativity when it comes to offering environmental education information and programs to the public. Shifting gears and with the able assistance of fellow staff and consultant Laura DeHart, "Porcupine Pat" found ways to connect via social media. Facebook and Instagram postings are almost daily and cover a wide range of topics including nature hacks to lauds for the work that people do to improve the environment right in our own backyard. If you need more information, contact "Porcupine Pat" at 570.391.3326 or porcupinepat@yahoo.com





NATIONAL CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

The National Association of Conservation Districts is excited to announce that the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) has launched a new website! Be sure to check out the revamped site featuring NCF's new logo and mission statement.

NCF's new website houses information and resources on all of the foundation's programs, including the Next Generation Leadership Institute (NGLI) and the NCF-Envirothon. You can also access the latest NCF news and learn more about how you can get involved.

You can visit the website <u>here</u>. For any questions, please contact NACD Communications Coordinator <u>Katrina Stacey</u>. For more information: https://youtu.be/iogiSsLHYx8

Penn's Parks for All

A series of surveys was conducted by Penn State in 2017 and 2018 to assess the attitudes and opinions of Pennsylvania state park visitors and the public regarding key issues affecting the future of the state parks.

The results of these surveys will help inform the Penn's Parks for All strategic plan -- guiding DCNR's work for the next 25 years.

Presented in the Penn's Parks for All Preliminary Report is a summary of

results from the various surveys, along with proposed recommendations to guide the management of Pennsylvania state parks for the future.



We invite all Pennsylvanians to <u>review this report and provide comments</u>. (click on this link)

TUSCARORA



Northeast Cover Crops Council's New *Decision Support Tool* Provides Information on 38 Cover Crop Species Well-Suited to Our Region

The tool features an explorer, where you can learn about the characteristics and benefits of 38 different cover crop species. A series of filters allow you to narrow the list based on environmental tolerances, growth characteristics, and seeding and termination methods. Information is on plating dates and rates is provided for each species as well as management information specific to each cover crop, including links to outside publications or articles.

The second part of the tool includes a species selector that allows you to pick cover crops that optimize your agronomic goals. Up to three goals can be selected, and 'best fit' species are selected, however, the information can also be used to effectively select for species for cover crop mixes. This tool also includes a side-by-side comparison features to help assess multiple species to determine what best fits your needs.

This tool should be an excellent resource for anyone looking to try new or different cover crops. Knowing that the tool's information is vetted by experts and is regionally adapted means that recommendations will likely work on your farm. If you are finalizing your rotation for 2021, you are encouraged to plan now for fall cover crops and try it out. If you find something new to try, preparing now will help in securing seed and learning about the specifics of the crop and can save a lot of frustration later.

To access this tool visit: Decision Tool - Northeast Cover Crops Council

| | | | | _ COVER CROPPING GOALS | ⊕ LEGEN | ID | |
|----------|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------|--------------------------|
| | = COVER CROPS | GRO | WTH TRAITS | GOAL 1 | PLANTING WI | NDOW | MY LIST |
| | Buckwheat Fagopyrum esculentum BROADLEAF | DRY MATTER: DURATION: | 1500-2500 ANNUAL | an | Jan | Dec | ADD TO LIST |
| \ | Red Clover Trifolium pratense LEGUME | DRY MATTER: | 70-150 2000-5000 PERENNIAL | СППР | Jan | Dec | ADD TO LIST |
| | Phacelia Phacelia tanacetifolia BROADLEAF | DRY MATTER: DURATION: | 2000-6000 ANNUAL | СППР | Jan | Dec | ADD TO LIST |
| | Sunflower Helianthus annuus BROADLEAF | DRY MATTER: DURATION: | 200-5000 ANNUAL | | Jan | Dec | ADD TO LIST |
| 21 | Sunn Hemp Crotalaria juncea LEGUME | DRY MATTER: | 60-120 1000-8000 ANNUAL | | Jan | Dec | ADD TO LIST VIEW DETAILS |

Calling All Musicians! Celebrate The 50th Anniversary Of PA's Environmental Rights Amendment With Your Original Song!

The PA Parks and Forests Foundation is now accepting entries to a unique contest to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Environmental Rights Amendment to Pennsylvania's constitution.

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people." -- Article I, Section 27



Songwriters from across the state are <u>invited to submit a two to three minute original song</u> expressing your interpretation of what the environment and the amendment mean to you.

All musical genres are welcome, as are submissions by all ages.

Two prizes will be awarded. An overall grand prize wins \$250; a youth entry (written by a songwriter under the age of 18) will be awarded \$100.

Click Here for all the details. The deadline for entries is August 1.

The Foundation and their 46 chapters mobilize 65,000 volunteers annually to steward YOUR state parks and forests.





Pennsylvania Birding & Wildlife Guide



Pennsylvania is an exciting place to birdwatch during migration and breeding seasons! With more than 400 species of birds documented in the state - nearly half of the known total from North America - including 186 breeding species of birds, visitors to and residents of Pennsylvania can find year-round opportunities to engage in birdwatching.

This website includes an <u>interactive guide and map</u> that features a map of Pennsylvania highlighting birding locations, and a searchable database. Site descriptions, amenities, directions, and contact information are all included. Printable pages allow you to create your own guide to take with you during your travels. <u>Getting Started</u>, <u>Tourism Information</u>, <u>Birding in Pennsylvania</u>, and <u>Wildlife Resources</u> make this a valuable resource for outdoor enthusiasts.

For more info: Pennsylvania Birding and Wildlife Trail - Welcome (pabirdingtrails.org)



For decades the National Wildlife Federation has worked to connect children and youth with nature, inspiring children through Ranger Rick, working with educators to get kids learning outdoors, and helping parents find new ways to engage their children outside.

Our three-year goal is to get 21 million American children, teens, and young adults out of their indoor habitat and into the great outdoors. This goal propels us toward a future in which all kids spend time outside each day, creating a generation of happier, healthier children with more awareness and connection to the natural world.



30-40%

In the United States, **food waste** is estimated at between 30-40 **percent** of the **food** supply.



Skip the garbage and give unused possessions to charities that target donations to specific causes. One cause is Soles4Souls that gives new and gently used footwear to people worldwide. Check out:www.soles4souls.org

One World Running sends nearly new athletic shoes to needy athletes. For more information:

www.oneworldrunning.com



Spring 2021 Page 5 Thanks to Ducks Unlimited, Pine Grove Chapter for cleaning out bedding and debris and putting new material in the wood duck and mallard nests at the Pine Grove floodplain restoration site.













Spring Spotted Lanternfly Control

1. Continue to remove egg masses



2. Watch for 1st instars to hatch during the month of May



3. Banding trees can be an effective way to remove large numbers of instars. It is recommended to cover the band with mesh screening to prevent by-catch, or by cutting the band to a width of 4 inches.



4. Circle traps can also be used to collect Spotted Lanternfly with very little by-catch.





PA Conservation Districts Highlight Vital Services That Kept Pennsylvania Running In 2020

The state's 66 conservation districts worked through the COVID pandemic in 2020 to provide vital functions in the Commonwealth that kept the economy going, people working, our streams clean and our communities healthy.

They reviewed and approved permit applications to keep projects going.

Staff from conservation districts worked with farmers and construction companies to make sure practices were in place to limit pollution.

Conservation districts helped invest funding to fix dirt and gravel roads throughout the state that provided jobs and prevented pollution from entering our waterways.

They held education and training programs in new ways for landowners, farmers and students to become better environmental stewards.

Read the 2020 PA Conservation District Highlights to see accomplishments highlighted by each of the 66 county conservation districts in 2020. (Note: These Highlights are listed in alphabetical order by county. Scroll to see the accomplishments made by Schuylkill County.)

For more information on conservation districts in Pennsylvania, visit the <u>PA Association of Conservation</u> <u>Districts</u> website. <u>Click Here to sign up</u> for updates. Follow them on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.

Wildlife on WiFi from the PA Game Commission

Our vision is to connect Pennsylvania residents to their state's wildlife from anywhere. To achieve this, the Pennsylvania Game Commission's award-winning **Wildlife on WiFi** program provides innovative online learning opportunities, virtual lessons and educational resources about wildlife and its conservation.

Remote Learning Resources

Explore more than 50 online and DIY wildlife lessons, activities, story time readings, videos and livestream animal webcams. Game Commission educators are also available for free virtual lessons! **Wildlife on WiFi** resources support Pennsylvania State Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology.

For more information visit: Wildlife on WiFi (pa.gov)

From the Field

Ever wonder what it is like to work with wildlife? **From the Field** allows you to explore the exciting work of scientists, game wardens, and other wildlife professionals. Check out other <u>From the Field videos</u>. Let us know what topics you'd like to see featured by emailing <u>wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov</u>.







Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County

schuylkillmg@psu.edu

570.622.4225 ext. 23

"Hello Spring!" by Master Gardener Tom Reed

I am writing this, I looked out the window to the patches of remaining snow and behold there was a flock of robins and some red-winged blackbirds. A good sign! This is the transition time from the cold to let us get the garden going. There are some things to do prior to getting into the soil.

If you start your own seeds, time is fast approaching to begin. Seed packs will say "start indoors 4 to 6 weeks prior to last frost date." The last frost date for us is usually May 15 through 20. Remember that is an average. I usually wait until after Memorial Day to transplant warm season plants. Check your soil temperature before setting out tomatoes, peppers, squash, the summer veggies. Also, if you are direct seeding bush beans for instance ideal soil temperature is 65 F.

Check your power and hand tools to make sure they are ready. Start the power tools like tillers and lawn mowers. The most frustrating thing is taking them to the shop when you should be tilling or mowing.

Around the time the forsythia blooms (ground temperature 55 F) put down crab grass preventer. You can also fertilize your lawn around the end of March. When mowing mow high no lower than 2-1/2 to 3 inches high. Too close of a cut will stress the grass and weaken it.



Tom at his greenhouse

When you go to work the soil make sure it is ready. If it is too wet, you will damage and compact your garden soil. Easy test grab a handful of soil and rub it in the palms of your hand. If it crumbles it is ready. If it sticks and makes a ball or roll it is too wet. The damage done to the soil by working when it is too wet could take years to correct be patient.

Any gardening questions you can contact the Master Gardeners Hotline at 570-622-4225 or email schuylkillmg@psu.edu. Also gardening tips, the first Tuesday of the month on WPPAs "Step up to the Mic" at 10:00 AM, 1360AM and 105.9FM



JUNE 5-13 • FDR PARK

2021 Philadelphia Flower Show Theme: Habitat: Nature's **Masterpiece**

The Show has moved to an outdoor presentation from June 5 to 13 in the FDR Park located in southwest section of Philadelphia. (For those who did not know the park, here is a description: Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) Park (originally named League Island Park and locally known as "The Lakes") is an aesthetically designed park located along

the Delaware River in the southernmost point of South Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, comprising some 348 acres.) Tickets are now on sale at \$45. Space is limited due to social distancing restrictions. So if you are interested you are advised to register early. Check online at phsonline.org/the-flower-show.

Houseplant Master Class: Houseplant Selection with Focus on Foliage

Good and informative video here! Just click on this link below to view it:

nttps://psu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/ Houseplant+MasterclassA++Houseplant+Selection+with+Focus+on+Foliage/1_0pkfzg1 **Description from the Flower Show website**

"Safely enjoy 15 acres of world-class landscape and floral designs, shopping, plant displays, exciting food and beverage options, entertainment, and educational sessions — all with the exquisite backdrop of FDR Park. The Flower Show will make ample usage of the grand architecture and natural environment of FDR Park as a canvas for colorful inspirational displays.

Page 9

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



INVASIVE ZEBRA MUSSELS FOUND IN "MOSS BALL" AQUARIUM PRODUCTS SOLD IN PENNSYLVANIA

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is joining fish and wildlife agencies nationwide to alert consumers about aquarium products that may be infested with invasive Zebra Mussels.

These products, known as "moss balls," are a popular type of living aquarium plant sold in several states, including Pennsylvania. It was recently discovered that a batch of these products, which are marketed under popular brand names such as "Betta Buddy" or "Mini Marimo Moss Balls," was con-

taminated with invasive Zebra Mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and distributed to pet stores across the country.

While several major pet product retailers, including Petco and PetSmart, have proactively removed these products from their shelves, PFBC Waterways Conservation Officers in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, have confirmed the presence of these contaminated products in at least one Pennsylvania store.

Zebra Mussels are one of the most troublesome invasive species in the United States and can cause major ecological and economic damage such as clogging water intake pipes, damaging boats, or damaging fisheries by impacting aquatic food webs," said Sean Hartzell, PFBC Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator.

"Zebra Mussels are small and can produce microscopic larvae, so any water containing contaminated moss balls may contain larval Zebra Mussels. The potential spread of this invasive species is a major concern for our aquatic resources in Pennsylvania."Zebra Mussels are small black and white striped, "D-Shaped" bivalves about the size of a thumbnail or smaller.

The PFBC urges anyone who has purchased a moss ball within the past several weeks to follow U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) guidance on how to properly disinfect moss balls and clean aquarium systems. This guidance can be found on the USFWS website: https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ANS/zebra-mussel-

disposal.htmlOpens In A New Window

"Because Zebra Mussel larvae may not be visible to the naked eye, it is important that everyone who recently purchased a moss ball follow this strict disinfection protocol," added Hartzell. "Just because you can't see the mussels in your tank doesn't mean they're not there. Don't take any chances.'

The transportation or release of Zebra Mussels or their larvae into Commonwealth waters is considered unlawful (58 Pa. Code § 73.1Opens In A New Window). Pennsylvanians who observe suspected Zebra Mussels or other aquatic invasive species can report them to the PFBC through the "Report AIS" portal of the Agency's web page (https://pfbc.pa.gov/forms/reportAIS.htm).



Schuylkill Conservation District Board and Staff

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- **Stanley Fidler**
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- Chris Bentz
- Robert Carl, Jr.
- Frank Zukas



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.

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,
- Robert Evanchalk, Assistant Parks and Recreation Supervisor (part time)
- Janelle Wilde, Conservation Program Technician, 3327
- Bill Reichert, Upper Swatara Flood Recovery Manager,
- Wayne Lehman, County Natural Resources
- Specialist, 3333
- Brittany Moore, Agricultural Program Coordinator, 3325
- Ryan Michlovsky, Conservation Program Coordinator,
- 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





46th Annual Seedling Sale



To benefit Sweet Arrow Lake County Park

Your seedlings will increase property value, enhance wildlife habitat, beautify the landscape, improve the environment, and can provide a source of income. *Thanks for your support of the lake!*

- **AUSTRIAN PINE:** This is an extremely tolerant pine of adverse soil conditions. This stately tree can be seen in parks, along streets, in residential landscapes, and as farm windbreaks throughout much of the United States. Landscapers use the dark beauty of these trees for backdrops, but it is also an excellent specimen tree because of its leaf pattern. Can grow up to 60 feet high with a 20-40 foot spread. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 10-15."
- **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. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 8-12"
- **CONCOLOR FIR:** Excellent ornamental or Christmas tree. Has flat, soft green to deep blue citrus-scented needles. Hardy because it withstands dry periods and high temperatures. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 6-12."
- **EASTERN REDCEDAR:** Pyramidal evergreen growing up to 50 feet. Medium green needles are flat and scale-like. Grayish to reddish brown bark is considered part of its ornamental interest. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 3-6."
- **RED OAK:** Very popular landscaping tree for shade on lawns, parks and golf courses. This oak is fast growing and easy to transplant. It is tolerant of urban conditions including dry and acidic soil and has abundant acorns that attract wildlife. Leaves turn a brilliant brick-red fall color and adds color to a forest. This tree has been used in mine reclamation sites for revegetation purposes. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 10-18."
- 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: 4-8."
- WINTERBERRY: Winterberry is a deciduous shrub growing to 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 three 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: 12-18."
- **SILKY DOGWOOD:** Deciduous spreading shrub. Multi-stemmed shrub with dense foliage and rounded form. New stems are reddish purple with fine silky hair. Flexible stems will root where they are in contact with the ground. Clusters of small white flowers in spring, followed by blue berries which ripen to black. Flowers attract butterflies. Fruit eaten by many birds. Leaves and twigs browsed by deer and rabbits. One of the more shade tolerant shrubs for moist soil. Used for restoration and ground stabilization because it readily roots from stems. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 4-8."
- **LILAC:** A medium to large hardy shrub with stout, spreading branches developing a somewhat oval to irregularly-rounded crown. The showy flowers are very fragrant and enjoyed each spring. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 8-12."
- MYRTLE: Often called Periwinkle. Nursery grown ground-hugging plant growing 3 to 6 inches in height. Extra large leaf with perfect, lilac-blue, blue-violet flowers March-April. One of the best ground covers for partial sun or full shade. Space 6 inches apart. Heavy plants with 10 to 20 runners tied together to form one clump. Do not separate clumps but plant as one unit.
- DAPPLED WILLOW: Height and spread reach 3 to 5 feet. This is a beautiful new addition to the
 list of outstanding shrubs. Its main attraction is the tri-color leaves of white, green and pink. We advise periodic trimming to maintain leaf variegation. Tolerates wet conditions. Leaf color stays better
 in full sun. Size: 8-10" and sold per pot.

46th Annual Seedling Sale Order Form—2021

All proceeds benefit Sweet Arrow Lake County Park

- ORDER DEADLINE: Order must be received by Saturday, March 20, 2021. and will be filled while supplies last! No order cancellations or refunds after the deadline.
- **PICK UP:** Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for a drive-thru pick up in the Clubhouse circle.
- **NOTE:** Seedlings are bare root and will be healthy at pick up. No guarantees after this date.
- **INFO:** "Porcupine Pat" at 570.391.3326 or porcupinepat@yahoo.com or Kathy Stefanick at 570.345.4963

| Date | | | | |
|---------|------|-----------|-----|------|
| Name | | | | PR |
| Address | City | State | Zip | 1010 |
| Phone | | | - | |



Save postage and the environment by providing your email below:

| ITEM | # PER BUNDLE | # DESIRED | COST/BUNDLE | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Austrian Pine | 10/bundle | | X 14.00 = | |
| Norway Spruce | 10/bundle | | X 14.00 = | |
| Concolor Fir | 10/bundle | | X 14.00 = | |
| Eastern Red Cedar | 10/bundle | | X 14.00 = | |
| Red Oak | 5/bundle | | X 11.00 = | |
| Winterberry | 5/bundle | | X 11.00 = | |
| White flowering Dogwood | 5/bundle | | X 11.00 = | |
| Silky Dogwood | 5/bundle | | X 11.00 = | |
| Lilac | 5/bundle | | X 11.00 = | |
| Myrtle | 5/bundle | | X 9.00 = | |
| Dappled Willow | 3 inch pot | | X 7.00 = | |
| | | | Total Sale = | |
| | | | Please be sure to add 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.)
- For more information about Sweet Arrow Lake County Park: www.sweetarrowlakepark.com

