

Seedling

Spring 2022

LITTER CLEAN UP INFO INSIDE WITH
KEEP PA BEAUTIFUL

LIVE STAKE
WORKSHOP
TO BE HELD

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
CONSERVANCY LOOK-
ING FOR BIG TREES

**VOTE FOR THE
SCHUYLKILL
RIVER TRAIL**



PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES





Jenna St. Clair, District Manager

Just like this spring season, we here at the Conservation District are in a period of growth!

After 32 years of service, Martie Hetherington retired in November as Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator. We are extremely fortunate to still have her onboard to continue mentoring on projects that improve water quality and farming operations.

We have expanded her former position to that of Agricultural Program Specialist with the ability to assist ag operations across the county. We hope to introduce this new staff person in the next issue of Seedling. For current employment and internship information, visit our website: <http://www.schuylkillcd.com/about/employment-internships>

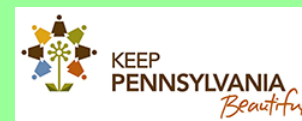
The warm weather also brings the return of our work with Insect Management and invasive species control. We do this through the Mosquito-borne Disease Control and Tick Surveillance Program and Spotted Lanternfly Program, run by PA Department of Environmental Protection and PA Department of Agriculture respectively. This entails education of the public, monitoring and surveillance, reduction of habitat, larval and adult control.

I welcome your thoughts, ideas, concerns, and questions about the Schuylkill Conservation District and can be reached at (570)622-3742, x 3335 and jstclair@co.schuylkill.pa.us.



Jenna enjoying the warmer spring weather.

Pick Up PA—KEEP PA BEAUTIFUL



Everyone wants to live, work, and play in a clean and green community . . . and it's up to everyone to make it possible and improve the overall quality of life for us all.

Please join us by registering a litter clean up event for Pick Up Pennsylvania:

- **March 1st through May 31st** Our spring event in support of The Great America Cleanup is eligible for FREE work gloves, safety vests, and trash bags as supplies last. Donated landfill space for trash collected during the cleanup is also available for free or reduced cost between April 1st through April 30th.
- **June 1st through August 31st** Events can be registered in the summer but are not eligible for free supplies at this time. Please also be aware of the additional safety concerns for summer events in PA like ticks, snakes, vegetation, and poison ivy.



All program registrations will receive an e-mail with detailed instructions for supplies and resources, safety information, and a link to report on each event.

For more information, click here: [Pick Up PA – Keep PA Beautiful](#)



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Look out for these Backyard Invasives

BY KYLE SCHUTT, INSECT MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN



Japanese Barberry: Is an invasive shrub that can form dense thickets that crowd out native plants. Japanese barberry can also provide habitat for black-legged ticks. It has been added to the noxious weed list in PA. Try planting Winterberry or Northern Bayberry as alternatives.



Butterfly Bush: Although the flowers on this invasive bush attract native pollinators, the bush provides no habitat for the larval stages of those same pollinators. Butterfly bush often outgrows native shrubs and outcompetes native plants for pollinators, hurting native plant reproduction. Try planting Virginia Sweetspire or Sweet Pepperbush as alternatives.



Burning Bush: Is a commonly used landscape plant and often escapes cultivation moving to woodlands, forests, and fields. It can tolerate full shade and will grow in large thickets that crowd out native species. Try planting Red chokeberry or Ninebark.

THE BENEFITS OF TREES!

Trees help keep us and our environment healthy.



Heart Healthy

Spending time around trees can reduce the stress-related hormones cortisol and adrenaline, and lower blood pressure.



Cleaner Air

Leaves filter particulates from the air, making green spaces healthier places to exercise. In urban areas, higher street tree density is associated with lower rates of childhood asthma.



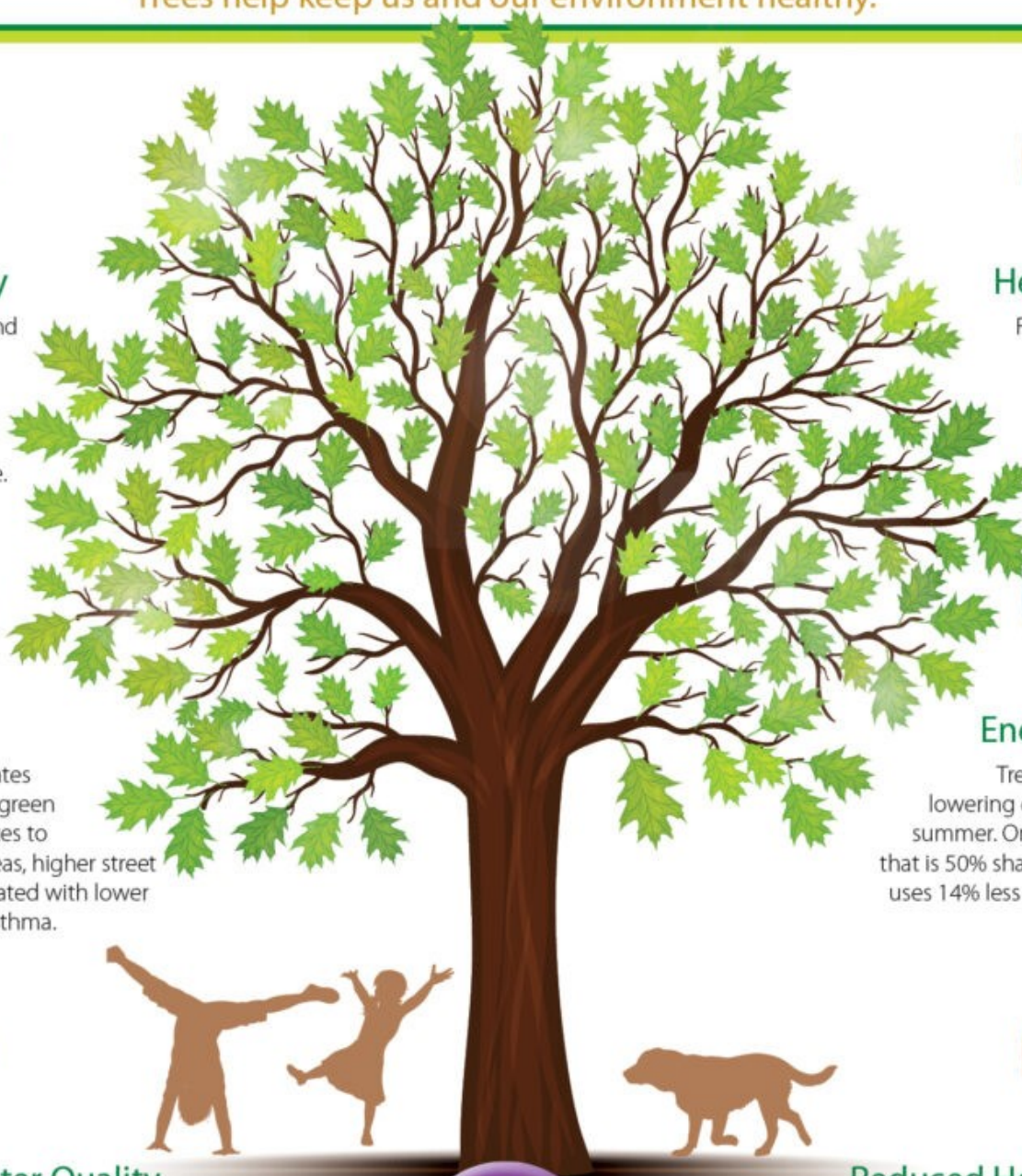
Improved Water Quality

When it rains, tree roots intercept stormwater and reduce soil and nutrients from washing into local waterways. Just one mature deciduous tree can intercept 500 to 760 gallons of stormwater per year.



Improved Health

Patients with exposure to trees and gardens have faster recovery times. New mothers who live near denser tree canopy are more likely to have babies of healthy birth weight.



Improved Quality of Life

Trees help create beautiful and pleasant spaces to live, work and play, so staying healthy and happy is easy!



Healthy Foods

Fruits and nuts from trees have great nutrition to keep you healthy and provide food for wildlife too!



Energy Savings

Trees shade buildings, lowering cooling costs in the summer. On a hot day, a home that is 50% shaded by dense trees uses 14% less energy than one in full sun.



Reduced Heat Extremes

Trees help cool down hot city surfaces and lower the risk of heat stroke. In one study, areas with tree cover of 5% or higher had an 80% reduction in heat-related ambulance calls.



Local Wood Source

When neighborhood trees need to be removed, their wood can be reused to make furniture, art, and other long-lasting products with special meaning to your community.

Virginia Department of Forestry, PST006, 12/2019

Free on-line resource available from USDA—NRCS

Excellent free resource from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Lots of good tips for you especially at this time of year when you are planning your garden and other habitat enhancements. Get your copy by clicking on this link: <https://nrcspad.sc.egov.usda.gov/Distribution.../pdf.aspx...>

Backyard Conservation

Bringing Conservation From the Countryside to Your Backyard



A cooperative project of
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Association of Conservation Districts
Wildlife Habitat Council
National Audubon Society



What is Drinking Water Week?

For more than 40 years the American Water Works Association and its members have used Drinking Water Week as a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives.



This year's recognition will be May 1-7, 2022.

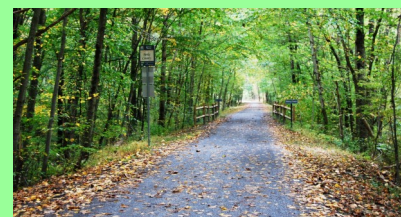
Drinking Water Week materials, such as children's activities and social media posts, are available [here](#) for free download.



Arbor Day is always observed on the last Friday in April here in PA. This year, it's Friday, April 29, 2022. Arbor Day is a national holiday created to recognize the importance of trees. The most common way people celebrate Arbor Day is to get together in groups to plant trees. Arbor Day celebrates 150 years in 2022! Click here for info:

[Celebrating 150 Years of Arbor Day at arborday.org](http://arborday.org)

The [Schuylkill River Trail \(SRT\)](#) is a nominee for the 2022 Readers' Choice Award for Best Riverwalk. Trail lovers can vote once a day until the contest ends on April 11, 2022. [CLICK HERE TO VOTE NOW!](#) This trail is making big moves this year in Schuylkill County!



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Good things happening!
Lykens Valley Children's Museum visits
Sweet Arrow Lake County Park



The museum presented a program on the James Webb Telescope and offered various hands-on activities for young people. Professor Justin from Harrisburg University presented a history of the universe, satellites and the telescope.

Live Stake Workshop



Stream bank erosion

Live stakes are branch cuttings from trees & shrubs that are planted along streams to:

- Stabilize stream banks
- Reduce erosion
- Filter nutrients

Anyone can utilize this simple process to create healthier streams. This workshop is a hands on experience in which you will learn what live staking is, its importance, and how it is done.

- Enhance a stream on your property
- Excellent educational or community project

Schuylkill Haven Island Park

April 2, 2022. 10am to 12pm

Rain Date April 3rd

For further information contact: Natalie Marioni

Ph: 610-378-1327 Email: nkm5342@psu.edu

Registration: <https://extension.psu.edu/livestaking-for-streambank-repair>

Registration is free but is required

Host: Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards of Berks and Schuylkill Counties

**Master Watershed
Steward Program**



PennState Extension

This publication is available in alternative media on request. Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce. [Extension.psu.edu](https://extension.psu.edu)



**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

Hard to believe spring is here! We have the early flowers like crocus and daffodils blooming. Soon the Forsythia will be blooming. When the Forsythia blooms that happens when soil temperature is around 55-degrees F.

So, if the soil in the garden plots isn't too wet to work, cool season crops/flowers can be placed in the garden. Check the soil before working it. If you scoop up a handful and roll it between your palms and it crumbles and falls you are ok. If it rolls into a sticky messy ball it needs to dry out some more. Never try tilling or turning wet soil because you will damage the soil structure.

Whether you are direct seeding, starting your own transplants, or purchasing transplants, soil temperature is important for a successful garden. The seed pack, plant label, or catalog should provide the information for correct temperature and nutrients. A soil thermometer is not a bad addition to the garden toolbox. It is an inexpensive purchase and a great way to not guess on the soil temperature. Along with the soil temperature night air temperature for warm season crops like peppers and tomatoes do poorly if planted too early and we drop below 55 to 60-degrees F. Don't rush the warm season plants!

As the soil temperature rises, you'll have some lawn work to do also. If you are treating for crabgrass, put the crabgrass preventer down before the soil temperature is 55 F and above. Late March and sometimes very early April is usually the time in our area. Another use for that soil thermometer! As with any pesticide/herbicide always read and follow all label directions.



the growing season!

The Master Gardeners can be heard on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. on WPPA radio “Step Up to the Mic” with JZ and Jerry.

As the days lengthen and temperatures warm, we all get anxious to go into the garden, yard, and get on projects that have rested for winter. Make sure you check your equipment that it is ready and safe to use. Have a great start to



PHOTOS ARE FROM TOM'S GARDEN!

IMPORTANT LINKS FOR GARDENERS

<https://extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/counties/schuylkill> (cntl+click to follow link)

To receive the latest home gardening news, sign up for our newsletter: <https://extension.psu.edu/trees-lawns-and-landscaping/home-gardening> (to the left under Get Connected) (cntl+click to follow link)

Garden Hotline Survey: https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2mMPoSNfLF6umd8



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



Winter 2022
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Schuylkill County Conservancy is looking for **BIG** trees!

Searching for the “Big Trees of Schuylkill County” is a project of the Schuylkill County Conservancy. This project engages people to join the Conservancy and take action to protect and enhance the quality of life in Schuylkill County.

Seventy percent of Schuylkill County is covered in trees and forests. These trees provide many benefits. Trees give off oxygen that we need to breathe and help to clean the air. Trees reduce the amount of storm water runoff which reduces erosion and pollution to streams and rivers.

Trees can reduce flooding. Trees provide habitat for many wildlife providing sources of food and shelter. Trees sequester carbon (Co2) thus helping to reduce climate change. Tree shade can produce a cooling effect on our homes. Windbreaks can reduce home heating cost in the winter. Trees provide green spaces and parks which promote greater physical activity. Trees reduce stress and improve the quality of life in our community. Studies have revealed that community with trees helps to reduce crime, lowers blood pressure and girls with a view of nature at home score higher on tests of self-discipline. Trees provide many economic benefits, such as houses that are landscaped with trees are worth 5% to 15% more.

The project uses the tree measurement protocol of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association- Big Trees of Pennsylvania (pabigtrees.com). Each tree nominated to the PA Champion Tree Program is assigned a point value. The tree with the most points for each species is the Champion. Three measurements are taken: circumference in inches; height in feet; and canopy spread in feet. The points are determined as follows: one point for each inch of trunk circumference plus one point for every foot of tree height plus one point for every 4 feet of canopy spread equals the total points.



To nominate a Big Tree in Schuylkill County, all you need to do is submit a trunk circumference measurement that is taken at 4.5 feet above the ground, identify the tree species, location of tree, and contact information of the person making the nomination. Nominations should be sent to: SchuylkillCountyConservancy@gmail.com A surveyor from the Conservancy will take the final measurements.

Join us in our effort to conserve, preserve, and appreciate the Big Trees in Schuylkill County by helping to find these giants in your neighborhood and woodlands. More information is at: [Schuylkill County Conservancy - Big Trees of Schuylkill County \(ourschuylkill.org\)](http://SchuylkillCountyConservancy-BigTreesofSchuylkillCounty.ourschuylkill.org)



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- Martie Hetherington, Chesapeake Bay Coordinator, 3328
- “Porcupine Pat” McKinney, Education Coordinator, 3326
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- 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



**Schuylkill
County Fair
August 1—6
Programs at the
Weston Pavilion**



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