

# Seedling

Spring 2020

**BEAR CREEK FESTIVAL TO BE HELD  
JUNE 7 AT THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
FAIRGROUNDS**

**65 years of providing conservation  
services to Schuylkill County**

**CONSERVANCY TO MARK 50 YEARS OF EARTH DAY**

**2020 SCHUYLKILL ON THE  
MOVE HIKE SCHEDULE**

**PHOTO CONTEST  
DEADLINE EXTENDED**



"Peep, peep, peep" is what many hear at this time of year especially in the evening. The Spring Peeper calls out loud and proud from vernal ponds scattered throughout the county. This frog is less than the size of your thumb and has a pronounced "X" on its back that is its telltale sign. Frogs add much diversity to our natural landscape!

**PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES**





## Jenna St. Clair, District Manager

Our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary year continues, and we hope you had a chance to read the first article in series we are doing with the Republican-Herald called “Seeds of Conservation.” We focused on the origins and history of the District. Future articles will take a closer look at existing and emerging conservation issues being addressed by our programs and initiatives.

What none of us could anticipate is the emergence and threat of COVID-19 and its impact on our operations and beyond. At this time, the Schuylkill Conservation District office is open and will remain so until directed by county, state, or federal authorities. We are preparing ourselves to be able to work remotely and continue to provide as many of our services as possible in a safe and responsible manner.

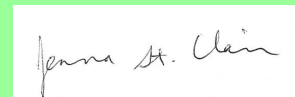
We continue to plan for our large events such as Envirothon (May 6), Bear Creek Festival (June 7), and 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration (September 27), but are prepared to postpone or cancel as appropriate to circumstances at that time.

For the latest updates on our status of operations, please follow our Facebook page. We will also update phone and email messages and post any closings or restrictions at our office.

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).



Jenna at the Farm Show



### ***Celebrate National Drinking Water Week — May 3 to 9, 2020***

For more than 40 years the American Water Works Association and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week – a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to join together in recognizing the vital role water plays in our daily lives. Locally, municipal water authorities, such as the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority, insure that fresh, clean water is available in your home or business. Do your part by conserving this precious resource! For more information: [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

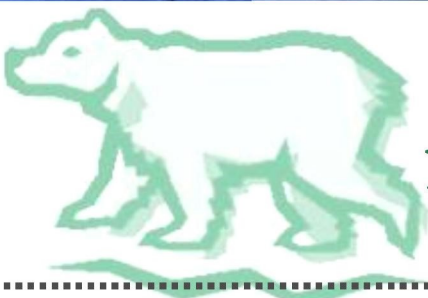


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# BEAR-CREEK FESTIVAL

Sunday, June 7  
12:00 to 4:00  
Schuylkill County Fairgrounds



Celebrating all things  
*Environmental* **NATURAL** *OUTDOORS*  
*Agricultural*  
in Schuylkill County

**FREE ADMISSION—FREE ACTIVITIES—FREE PARKING**



Like us on Facebook for #BearCreek2020 updates  
Schuylkill Conservation District  
570-622-3742      [www.schuylkillcd.com](http://www.schuylkillcd.com)



## Spotted Lanternfly extends range in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding announces that twelve counties have been added to Pennsylvania's Spotted Lanternfly quarantine zone ahead of the 2020 spring hatch. With this addition, the quarantine for this invasive pest is now at 26 counties.

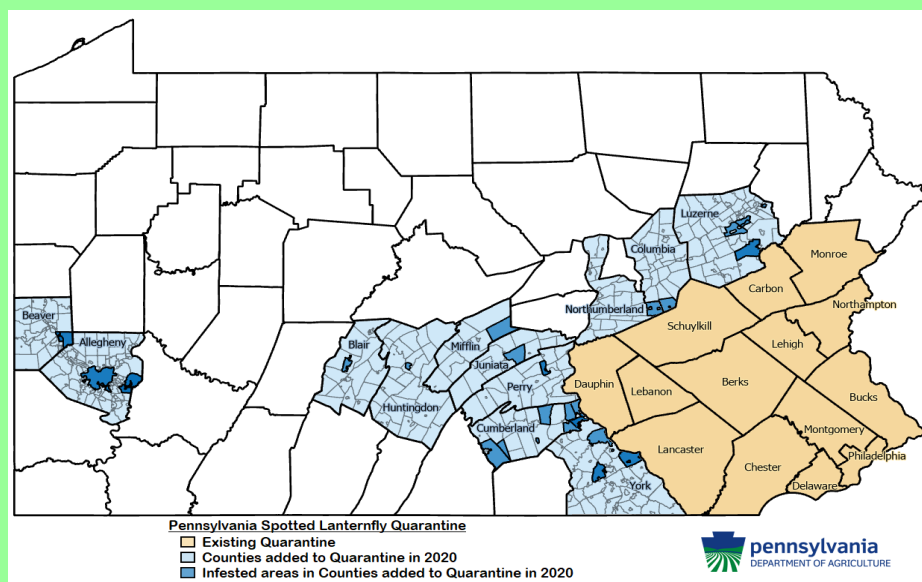
"The Spotted Lanternfly is more than a pest in the literal sense," said Agriculture Secretary Redding. "It's wreaking havoc for home and business owners; kids who just want to play outside; Pennsylvania agriculture and the economy of the state we all call home. Whether you think it's your job or not, we need every Pennsylvanian to keep their eyes peeled for signs of this bad bug – to scrape every egg mass, squash every bug, and report every sighting. We need to unite over our hatred for this pest over our common love: Pennsylvania."

The new dozen counties are not completely infested, but rather have one to three municipalities with a known infestation which led to a quarantine being placed on the entire county out of an abundance of caution. Allegheny, Beaver, Blair, Columbia, Cumberland, Huntingdon, Juniata, Luzerne, Mifflin, Northumberland, Perry, and York have been added to the quarantine for 2020.

"Most of these municipalities have already been aggressively treated," said Dr. Ruth Welliver, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry. "With continued aggressive treatment and monitoring, and an actively engaged community, we can strike Spotted Lanternfly from these counties."

Quick, aggressive treatment to newly identified populations of Spotted Lanternfly in Pennsylvania was funded through the Rapid Response Disaster Readiness line of Governor Wolf's 2019 PA Farm Bill. The 2020 PA Farm Bill proposes another \$3 million to combat Spotted Lanternfly, plus an extra \$1 million that is uncommitted to readily act in the event of the next agricultural disaster.

Businesses that operate in or travel through quarantined counties are required to obtain a Spotted Lanternfly permit; fines associated with noncompliance can be up to \$300 for a criminal citation. Homeowners with questions about treatment are encouraged to contact their local Penn State Extension office or learn about management, including approved sprays, online. Pennsylvanians who live inside the quarantine zone should also review and sign the Compliance Checklist for residents.



**For more information on Spotted Lanternfly, visit [agriculture.pa.gov/spottedlanternfly](http://agriculture.pa.gov/spottedlanternfly).**

**For more about Governor Tom Wolf's PA Farm Bill and its investments in a sustainable agriculture industry visit [agriculture.pa.gov/pafarmbill](http://agriculture.pa.gov/pafarmbill).**



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### **Free program on Heirloom Seeds and Gardening Walk In Art Center Saturday, April 18 — 1 to 4 pm.**

As spring planting approaches, come hear a renowned collector of heirloom seeds speak about his collection and about how you can plant your own heirloom garden this year. Learn about the WIAC Folk Art community and its work in preserving heritage food ways and how you can be part of it.

William Woys Weaver is the founder and Curator Emeritus of the Roughwood Seed Collection, a seed collection of over 7,000 varieties of which was started informally by his grandfather H. Ralph Weaver (1896-1956) in 1932. Starting with local seed saving, Weaver's reputation has grown and he is often asked to steward the preservation of seeds from all over the world.

Heirloom seeds are seeds that have been passed down from one generation to the next for over fifty years, are open pollinated, and unmodified. Stephen Smith now cares for and curates this collection in Eastern Pennsylvania. William and Stephen travel the region frequently to educate the public on heirloom seed gardening.

Weaver is an internationally known food historian and author of sixteen books. He has been featured on such national programs as "Good Morning America" (with Julia Child) and NPR's "Fresh Air," and has appeared in Emmy award winning food documentaries.

Everyone is welcome and garden enthusiasts are especially encouraged to attend! Heirloom seed donations to the Roughwood Collection are always welcomed, especially rarities and unique varieties!

You can register for this free event at [folkart.walkinartcenter.org](http://folkart.walkinartcenter.org) then click on the event page.

"This program is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency."



**THE ROUGHWOOD TABLE**  
*Heritage Foods from  
Heritage Seeds*

### **Schuylkill County 4-H Seeks Volunteers to put a New SPIN on 4-H Projects**

Schuylkill County 4-H is seeking volunteers interested in leading a SPIN Club. SPIN is short for "Special Interest" and is a new way of bringing youth and adults with similar interests together for a unique learning experience. A 4-H SPIN Club can be started with as few as two adult volunteers and five youth with an interest in a specific topic. The adults provide expertise and guidance, while youth take an active role in learning new skills and running their own club. The goal is to create a fun, "learn-by-doing" environment for adults and kids alike.

SPIN clubs are a great way to attract members and volunteers who may not consider being part of 4-H otherwise. SPINs can meet a specific number of times over a few months rather than the tradition of once-a-month throughout the year. Today's on-the-go lifestyle makes a year-long commitment sometimes difficult for youth and volunteers. For that reason, Schuylkill County 4-H is currently working on developing numerous 4-H SPIN Clubs. Volunteers leading SPINs will be provided curriculum and leadership training in addition to learning about the 4-H program and its offerings. Volunteers are prepared to deliver hands-on learning to youth.

Youth in SPINs are involved in 6 or more hours of learning. For example: A photography, robotic or even a sewing club might meet once a week for six weeks or twice a week for three weeks. Six hours gives youth a chance to learn multiple skills and concepts about the topic of special interest to them. Sessions are opened with a short business meeting, followed by one or more hands-on learning activities. 4-H SPIN club members are likewise entitled to participate in all other 4-H functions that 4-H has to offer, just as any other 4-H member would.

4-H is all about positive youth development. The goal of 4-H is to create a safe, inclusive learning environment under the supervision of caring adults, where all youth ages 5-18 as of January 1, 2020 are welcome. Youth are engaged in active learning and have the opportunity to explore special interests to the extent that they master the related

knowledge and skills. Youth have the chance to see themselves as active, self-directing participants in the future and practice service to others.

Topics Schuylkill County 4-H are currently looking at are photography, cooking and baking, and STEM (robotics, environmental sciences, and engineering) curriculums. However, if you have an interest you'd like to share with youth, contact the Schuylkill County 4-H program to get started. If you are interested in volunteering to lead or co-lead a SPIN Club or are interested in joining a SPIN Club once developed in Schuylkill County, contact Schuylkill County 4-H at 570-622-4225 or [Schuylkilltext@psu.edu](mailto:Schuylkilltext@psu.edu).



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## 6th Annual “Give Us Your Best Shot” Photo Contest

Grab your camera and start snapping photos, because April 1, 2020 marks the final day for local photographers to submit entries for the Sixth 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:

**Theme: “Landscapes of Schuylkill County” focuses on the beauty of our rolling landscape. Your picture should include local scenery with a preference for the mountains that surround us. There are many locations to focus on that can include scenes of Second Mountain, Blue Mountain, Broad Mountain and more!**

### Contest Rules

- Photos must have been taken in Schuylkill County between January 1, 2019 and March 1, 2020.
- 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](mailto: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 near the end of March 2020. 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.

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| * <b>Grand Champion</b> - The winning photo will be enlarged, matted, framed and presented to the winner at the Conservation District’s Annual Awards Ceremony in August. | * <b>Second Prize</b> - \$75 |
|   | * <b>Third Prize</b> - \$50  |
|   | * <b>Fourth Prize</b> - \$35 |
| * <b>Runner-up (wins Second Prize)</b> - 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](http://www.schuylkillcd.com)



For more info contact: “Porcupine Pat” McKinney at  
[porcupinepat@yahoo.com](mailto:porcupinepat@yahoo.com) or 570.391.3326





# PROTECT OUR FORESTS

Transported pests can kill trees

Non-native plants damage natural habitats & species

6 WAYS YOU CAN **PREVENT INVASIVE SPECIES**

1. **DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD** - Use it where you gather it
2. **DON'T CARRY "HITCHHIKER'S"** -clean shoes, equipment & vehicles  
or **"PACK A PEST"** -plants, animals, insects, fruits & vegetables
3. **PLANT NATIVE PLANTS**  
Replace non-native plants in your garden
4. **HELP REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS** from your property  
Volunteer or Plan a Community Service Project
5. **IDENTIFY & REPORT INVASIVE PESTS**
6. **EDUCATE OTHERS ABOUT INVASIVE SPECIES**



Scout Conservation Help Wanted

Find us on 

**DON'T MOVE  
FIREWOOD.org**



## Youth Celebration of Arbor Day

Friday, April 24, 2020 —10:00 – 10:45 am

Yuengling Park in Pottsville

Celebrate Arbor Day at Yuengling Park with:

- \* forester's view of a tree
- \* story time by Mr. Darren of the Pottsville Library
- \* learn about unlikely products made of wood
- \* make birch twig wreath



*Free and open to the public.* More information contact Jane @ 570-628-4802

### SPONSORED BY:

- Pottsville Shade Tree Commission
- Pottsville Free Public Library
- Pottsville Area High School Ecology Club
- Schuylkill County Conservancy
- Schuylkill Conservation District

### Schuylkill Keep It Pretty Spring 2020 Cleanup

All residents are welcome to participate. Contact Darlene at Schuylkill Keep It Pretty for information on participating in this county wide cleanup of the state roadways in Schuylkill County from April 23, 24, and 25.

Darlene Dolzani  
[ddolzani0531@gmail.com](mailto:ddolzani0531@gmail.com)  
 570-449-4760



### Stream Water Monitor Volunteer

Help maintain our waterways by conducting a quarterly physical assessment, easy chemical testing and/or a semi-annual macroinvertebrate analysis of an assigned waterway in Schuylkill County. Work with a partner. Assistance and all materials provided by the office.

Contact Darla Troutman, RSVP of Schuylkill County, at 570-622-3103.



### Summer Camps at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's is providing Summer Nature Camps, designed for youth entering grades 1 to 6. We provide a highly-trained environmental educator for each camp and limit group size based on optimal teacher-student ratios. A good portion of each day will be spent outside developing a deeper connection with the natural world through fun and educational activities. Camps run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily and cost \$200 for members/\$250 for non-members. Aftercare is available from 4:00pm-5:00pm for an additional fee of \$25. Multiple sibling discounts available. Campers can choose one week or join us for the entire summer. Space is limited so make your selection today. See you at camp! Non-refundable \$50 deposit due to reserve camp registration. **Register on-line at [hawkmountainticketleap.com](http://hawkmountainticketleap.com)** June camp topic is Wild Wisdom, July is Appalachian Adventure and August is All About Animals and Woodland Games. **Visit [www.hawkmountain.org](http://www.hawkmountain.org) for more info.**



### HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF FROM COVID-19?

#### PRACTICE GOOD HEALTH HABITS



WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN



COVER COUGHS + SNEEZES



DON'T TOUCH EYES/NOSE/MOUTH



CLEAN SURFACES FREQUENTLY



STAY HOME WHEN SICK



AVOID SICK PEOPLE



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2020

## WALK SCHEDULE



Schuylkill On the Move is a project of Schuylkill County's VISION and promotes positive steps toward good health through walking and an appreciation of the natural beauty and fascinating history of our area. For more information on each walk: [porcupinepat@yahoo.com](mailto:porcupinepat@yahoo.com) Poor weather cancels!

\* **Saturday, January 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:** “The Pinnacle” led by Mark Schraeder. Excellent views of the area. Meets at Hamburg Reservoir parking lot. (9 miles—difficult)

\* **Sunday, January 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:** “Gold Mine Mountain Special” with “Sojourner Steve.” See abandoned mines, old railroads, an old stage coach road and an old reservoir. Meet at the Game Commission parking lot across from Boxcar Rocks on Gold Mine Road. Dog friendly hike. (5 miles—easy) Info: 717-451-7042.

\* **Saturday, January 25 from 10:30 a.m. to noon:** “Shenandoah Kilbo Trail Hike” led by “Hiker Jim E.” Meets at East Centre and Bower streets for this hike of the Lehigh Valley Railroad through Shenandoah. (2 miles—easy) Info: 570-527-7748

\* **Saturday, February 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:** “Broad Mountain Bench Trail” led by “Hiker Jim E.” Meets at Mt. Pleasant Hose Company on Rt. 901. Hike the Ashland Extension RR and Centre Turnpike on Broad Mountain. Great view of Schuylkill County. Meet behind Mount Pleasant Hose Company in Buck Run on Rt. 901. Old Ashland Extension and Centre Turnpike featured. Dog friendly. (7 miles—easy) Info: 570-527-7748

\* **Sunday, February 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:** “Big Lick Mountain Adventure” led by “Sojourner Steve.” Trek Big Lick Mountain trails to see railroads, Williamstown Tunnel, Big Lick Slope and Big Lick Water Level Tunnel. Meet at the Dollar General Store on Rt. 209 in Williamstown. Dog friendly hike. (6.5 miles—moderate) Info: 717-451-7042.

\* **Saturday, February 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:** “D & L Trail Meander” led by “Hiker Jim E.” Meets at Rt. 54 and Morea Road to carpool to D & L rail trail in Jessup. Easy river grade hiking on macadam path. Length and direction will be hikers choice. Info: 570-527-7748

\* **Saturday, February 22 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.:** “Cabin Fever Walk” “Porcupine Pat” guarantees that this walk will cure your fever! Meet at the new Waterfall Road Pavilion at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. (2 miles—moderate)

\* **Sunday, March 22 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:** “Bear Valley Hike” led by “Sojourner Steve.” Trek Bear Valley Loop to see Adams Rock, Bear Valley Swamp, and various old mines. Meets at Rt. 125 west of Good Spring at intersection of Gap Street and Bear Valley Road. Dogs welcome. (9.5 miles—moderate) Info: 717-451-7042.

\* **Saturday, March 28 beginning at 8:30 a.m.:** “Governor Dick State Park in Mt. Gretna” State park staff will lead this hike. Meets at Rt. 901 and I-81 at carpool lot at 8:30 a.m. to drive to park. (6 miles—easy) Info: 570-527-7748 Alternate meeting site is Loves at Exit 90 of I-81 by 9:00 a.m.

\* **Wednesday, April 1 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.:** “Wednesday Wander” with “Meandering Mandy” Fitzpatrick leads you on a stretch of the Schuylkill River Trail that parallels Rt. 61 at Tumbling Run. It is recommended that adults get 150 minutes of physical activity each week. Join Mandy for this stroll that meets at the old 84 Lumber parking lot for carpool to the hike start location. (3 miles—easy)

\* **Saturday, April 4 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.:** “Peak Experience” Traverse the top of the Blue Mountain above Port Clinton on this trek that features an overlook and charcoal history. Meet “Porcupine Pat” at the entrance to Conrad Weiser State Forest along Rt. 61 northbound just north of Port Clinton. (3-4 miles—moderate)

\* **Sunday, April 5 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.:** “Mahanoy Plane Hike” led by “Hiker Jim E.” See remains of Mahanoy Plane, enginehouse, Lawrence/Madeira Hill Coal Company Tunnel. (3 miles—easy) Hikers will need to sign waiver from Famous Reading Outdoors and a \$2.00 donation is requested to offset cost of FRO membership. Info: 570-527-7748

\* **Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.:** “Sweet Arrow Sojourn” “Porcupine Pat” leads us on this adventure featuring 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)

For more hikes visit “Schuylkill County Hikes” on Facebook. You can download a “Trails Directory” for the county at [www.schuylkill.org/trailsdirectory](http://www.schuylkill.org/trailsdirectory). Click on MAPS to see this directory. You can also download or view the “Schuylkill County Outdoor Recreation Map” at this same location.



\* **Saturday, April 25 from 10:30 am. to 3:00 p.m.:** “**Silver Creek Fire Tower & Reservoir Hike**” Meet **Robin Tracey** at the Locust Lake State Park visitor parking lot at 10:15 a.m. to carpool. We'll go to the reservoir then down to the fire tower for lunch. Bring a lunch and dogs are welcome. (8 miles--difficult)

\* **Saturday, April 25 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.:** “**Spring Wildflower Walk**” Naturalist **Mike Centeleghe** helps you to enjoy the many beautiful flowers of Frog Hollow which is managed by the South Schuylkill Garden Club. Meet in the parking lot of Frog Hollow on Stone Mountain Road just outside of Friedensburg. Open to all ages. (2 miles—easy)

\* **Sunday, April 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:** “**Kalmia Tunnel Hike**” led by “**Sojourner Steve.**” Hike Sharp Mountain Railroad to old Kalmia Tunnel Works and end at top of Gold Mine Mountain. Meets at Nelson's Beer Distributor on Rt. 209 in Tower City. (5 miles—moderate) Info: 717-451-7042

\* **Wednesday, May 6 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.:** “**Wednesday Wander**” “**Meandering Mandy**” Fitzpatrick leads you on a stretch of the Schuylkill River Trail that parallels Rt. 61 at Tumbling Run. It is recommended that adults get 150 minutes of physical activity each week. Join Mandy for this stroll that meets at the old 84 Lumber parking lot for carpool to the hike start location. (3 miles—easy)

\* **Saturday, May 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** “**Glen Onoko Snakes Are Our Friends Hike**” led by “**Hiker Jim E.**” and **Mark Schraeder**. Hike the old rail bed looking for snakes in the retaining walls. We are not going to the falls as they are closed to the public. Meets at Rt. 54 and Morea Road to carpool. Easy short walk.

\* **Saturday, May 16 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.:** “**Long Loop hike**” You will hike with **Robin Tracey** on most of the trails in Tuscarora State Park. See great lake views that loops around the lake and crosses the dam breast. We finish our hike on the Spirit of Tuscarora Trail. Dogs must be leashed and bring a lunch. Meets at the Crow Trail parking lot at Tuscarora State Park. (9 miles—moderate)

\* **Sunday, May 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:** “**Big Lick Mountain**” led by “**Sojourner Steve.**” Trek Big Lick Mountain trails to see railroads, Williamstown Tunnel, Big Lick Slope and Big Lick Water Level Tunnel. Meet at the Dollar General Store on Rt. 209 in Williamstown. Dog friendly hike. (6.5 miles—moderate) Info: 717-451-7042.

\* **Saturday, May 30 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.:** “**Stonehedge Gardens Tour & LNE Rail Trail**” “**Porcupine Pat**” leads this hike to explore the beauty of the gardens and the nearby rail trail. Meets in the parking lot of the gardens on Dairy Road in West Penn Township. (3 miles--easy)

\* **Wednesday, June 3 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.:** “**Wednesday Wander**” “**Meandering Mandy**” Fitzpatrick leads you on a stretch of the Schuylkill River Trail that parallels Rt. 61 at Tumbling Run. It is recommended that adults get 150 minutes of physical activity each week. Join Mandy for this stroll that meets at the old 84 Lumber parking lot for carpool to the hike start location. (3 miles—easy)

\* **Sunday, June 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:** “**Bear Valley Hike**” led by “**Sojourner Steve.**” Trek Bear Valley Loop to see Adams Rock, Bear Valley Swamp, and various old mines. Meets at Rt. 125 west of Good Spring at intersection of Gap Street and Bear Valley Road. Dogs welcome. (9.5 miles—moderate) Info: 717-451-7042.

\* **Saturday, June 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.:** “**Swatara State Park Sand Siding Hike**” Meet **Robin Tracey** at Sand Siding Road parking lot of Rt. 443. We will be following Swatara Creek and viewing some very unique wildflowers. Bring lunch and dogs are welcome. (6.5 miles-easy)

\* **Saturday, June 20 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.:** “**Mahanoy Plane Part 2**” Meet “**Hiker Jim E.**” at the Frackville Library on East Lehigh Ave for an easy three mile hike of the old plane ruins and Lawrence/Madeira Hill Coal Company Tunnel. Famous Reading Outdoors waiver must be signed. **\$2.00 donation suggested.** Info: 570-527-7748

\* **Friday, June 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon:** “**Pottsville Pennsy Trail Hike**” led by “**Hiker Jim E.**” Meet in the parking lot of the Schuylkill County Visitors Bureau for carpool to site. This is a three mile easy hike of Pennsylvania and Reading Railroad in Pottsville. We will also tour the old P&R station and old Mount Carbon yard. Info: 570-527-7748

**Schuylkill On the Move walks are sponsored by these organizations**



PEOPLE \* CONSERVATION \* RESOURCES  
[www.schuylkillcd.org](http://www.schuylkillcd.org)



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



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



Find us on  
**Facebook**



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





# LandSCAPES



## **Schuylkill County Conservancy Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day**

April 22, 2020 marks the 50 year anniversary of Earth Day. Earth Day was born 50 years ago at North Western University in California on January 23, 1970. Project Survival, an early education awareness event was the first of several held at university campuses across the United States which led up to Earth Day. US Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin witnessed the ravage of a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara California in 1969.

Nelson was disturbed that an issue as important as our environment was not addressed in politics or by the media so he started the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. An estimated 20 million people nationwide attended festivities that day. Eventually national legislation such as the Clean Air, Endangered Species Act and Environmental Protection Agency was passed.



In 1990 Earth Day went global. Now 50 years later over 190 countries and 1 billion individuals are mobilized for action every Earth Day. Schuylkill County Conservancy's vision statement which includes call to conserve our environment and its resources goes hand in hand with the ideals of the original Earth Day. **Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> a "Spring Awakening" program will be held at Locust Lake State Park** to educate the public on the importance of clean water, sustainable forests and importance of quality bird habitat.

### **"KEEPING A NATURAL HERITAGE FOR TOMORROW"**

Schuylkill County overflows with natural beauty from scenic mountains, to babbling streams and rolling farmlands. Schuylkill County offers many opportunities to enjoy our natural bounties and landscapes from state parks, hiking the Appalachian Trail and enjoying local foods and wine.

The Schuylkill County Conservancy is a non-profit organization working to protect and enhance the quality of life in Schuylkill County by conserving farmland, open space, rural heritage, streams, wetlands, waterways, forests, historic sites and structures, and other natural resources.

The Conservancy was founded in 1997 by concerned citizens with a vision to guide the future growth of our county. Unguided growth leads to sprawl, congested roads and reduces the quality of life for all citizens. Guided growth ensures a quality environment that allows residents to continue to appreciate clean air and water, livable communities, and open space.

The Conservancy sponsors and participates in many activities to create public awareness and provide education to conserve our natural treasures and heritage for future generations. The Conservancy works with landowners to provide options for land conservation while emphasizing quality of life and sustainability and the protection of our shared natural resources.

An endowment was established in 2018 with the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation to provide for long-term fulfillment of our Mission to provide opportunities to protect land in Schuylkill County. To learn more about the endowment, visit the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation at [www.sacfoundation.com](http://www.sacfoundation.com).

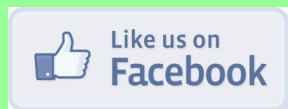


Become a member today. Your membership in the Schuylkill County Conservancy connects you to others who believe a heritage worth saving is a legacy worth protecting. Becoming a member today allows you to support and play an important role in the conservation of the biodiversity and shared natural resources of our county.

Follow the Schuylkill County Conservancy on Facebook. For more information on activities and projects, or to request a membership brochure, please send an email to [schuylkillcountyconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:schuylkillcountyconservancy@gmail.com).

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

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# NEWS LEAF

## Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County

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

570.622.4225 ext. 23

### ***Spring has sprung! By Tom Reed***

After a fairly mild winter it is time to get the gardens ready for blooms, vegetables, fruits, and mowing the lawn, weed whacking, and pruning hedges.

All these chores seem overwhelming but charge forth with a new growing season. If you start veggie seeds indoors, check the seed pack to see if says start six weeks prior to planting outside then compute when you are planting them in the garden.

Good light, warm soil temperature, adequate moisture and in no time you will have seedlings sprout. Be sure to check both the air and soil temperatures too as that is very important.

For example, tomatoes require soil temperatures of 60 degrees and night temperatures above 55. It might be well into June before you can safely set your tomatoes out. Don't get impatient to get them in the ground!

The Master Gardeners hope you all have a safe spring and successful start to the growing season. If you are rewarded with a bountiful harvest of beautiful blooms, fruits, or vegetables, consider entering some of your samples in the Schuylkill County Fair to be held in late July into very early August.



Tomato seedlings



### ***Tool Bucket***

A 5-gallon bucket comes in handy out in the garden—and not just for collecting weeds. You can load it up with all your gardening tools and carry them easily from place to place. If it starts to rain, protect the tools with the lid. But here's the best part—it doubles as a portable stool when you need to rest or do some pruning. The only problem is that the lid can be hard to pry off. Solve that by cutting off all but two of the plastic tabs. The lid will go on and off in a snap.

### ***Healthy Plant Hydration***

Water settling at the bottom of pots can lead to root rot. To combat this problem, cut up old sponges and put them in the bottom of the pot. The sponges retain moisture and create necessary air space. They also help prevent water from flushing out the bottom. The sponge acts as a water reserve and keeps soil moist longer.



### ***Micro Greenhouse***

Do you have a hard time starting seeds or cuttings? Try soda bottle greenhouses. Cut the bottom off 2-liter soda bottles and remove the labels. Each seed gets its own micro greenhouse! Remove the greenhouses once the seeds have germinated and cuttings are rooted.

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



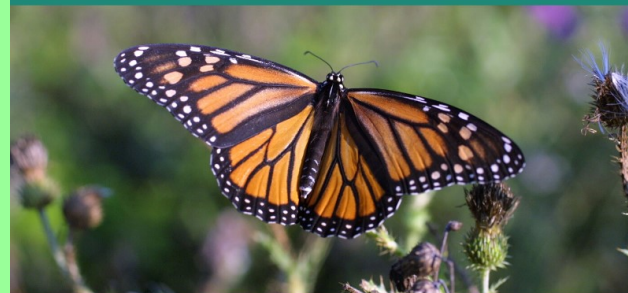
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The Pennsylvania State Senate and House of Representatives have declared May 3-9, 2020, as "Conservation District Week." During Conservation District Week, districts across the state are encouraged to hold events for legislators. This is an opportunity to showcase the projects your conservation district works on every day that improve the lives of your county's citizens.

Conservation District Week is also an opportunity to thank members of the PA House and Senate, as well as the Governor, for supporting the districts by providing the funds necessary to preserve and protect our Commonwealth's natural resources through the budgetary process.

MAY 3-9, 2020  
**CELEBRATE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
WEEK**



Plant native plants for pollinators!  
[www.pacd.org](http://www.pacd.org)



The Schuylkill Conservation District was founded in 1955 by Dr. James Shadle who presented a petition to the county commissioners back then. The district continues its accomplishments by providing services to residents and businesses that will conserve the shared natural resources of Schuylkill County. Mark Sunday, September 27 to help celebrate at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park.

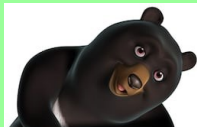
### Schuylkill Conservation District Board and Staff

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

#### ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

- Chris Bentz
- Robert Carl, Jr.
- Frank Zukas
- Russell Wagner



**Sunday, June 7  
12:00 to 4:00**  
Schuylkill County Fairgrounds

#### 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)
- Rachel Galloway, 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

**BEAR CREEK FESTIVAL  
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**FREE ADMISSION—FREE ACTIVITIES—FREE PARKING**



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