Seedling

Schuylkill County Fair August 1-6, 2016 **Summer 2016**

Delaware Estuary teacher workshops available

Fresh Paint Days grants available

Schuylkill Grown Cooking Contest details

Schuylkill On the Move walk schedule

News Journal of the



PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES

The firefly aka "lightning bug" makes its debut at this time of year. It holds a special place in our hearts as a gentle bug that has a really cool adaptation. You'll enjoy the performance presented by literally hundreds of its peers as it speaks its language in our lawns and forests.



MANAGER'S CORNER

Jenna Fehr, District Manager

Spring was an incredibly busy and eventful season here at the Conservation District! We had the retirement of Parks & Recreation Supervisor Bob Evanchalk and the departure of District Manager Liz Hinkel, which leaves me to introduce myself as the new District Manager.

I started at the District in October 2013 as Conservation Program Coordinator. In this capacity, I administered the Erosion and Sediment (E&S) Control / National Pollution Discharge Elimination

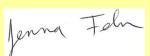
System (NPDES) permitting program. I also coordinated the Dirt, Gravel, & Low Volume Roads Maintenance Program, which I navigated through a substantial budget increase and expanded project focus. This meant increased outreach to eligible applicants, increased interest and project development, and a change from 1 project a year to 10-15 projects with no staff increase. I also cocoordinate Bear Creek Festival with expanded outreach and programming to promote Schuylkill Conservation District and celebrate the many forms of conservation in our community.

I have a degree in Environmental Resource Management from Penn State University, where I was a member of the Schreyer Honors College. After graduation, I served as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with the Appalachian Coal

Country Team in Beckley, West Virginia. I then worked as Volunteer Resources Coordinator at Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, Scranton, before coming to the District. Outside of work, I like to travel, bake, and volunteer with Ducks Unlimited Pine Grove Chapter, Schuylkill Headwaters Association, and Hospice of Central PA's Camp Dragonfly.

The few months I've spent as District Manager have already flown by in an action-packed blur. I would like to thank Liz for her mentorship not just during this transition time, but for her years of service that have set an outstanding precedent of excellence and growth at the District. This is reflected in the Board and staff members as well, and I can't thank them enough for their support and continued efforts as we move forward. I plan to focus on outreach and long-term planning, but you'll hear more about that another time!

I welcome your thoughts, ideas, concerns, and questions about the Schuylkill Conservation District and can be reached at (570) 622-3742 x 123 and jfehr@co.schuylkill.pa.us.



See the light while enjoying your "Seedling"



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ve good things



3350 Amulai

August 1 to August 6, 2016

The Fairgrounds is located at 2270 Fair Road, Summit Station

General Admission: \$5.00 (12 years of age and under free)

BMX Show: \$2.00 Truck Pulls: \$5.00

Band: \$15.00

Gate opens: 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday

Thursday, Friday

11:00 a.m. on Tuesday and Saturday













Keep PA Beautiful accepting applications for Fresh **Paint Days PA Grants**

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful announces that applications are now being accepted for the 2016 Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania Grants. Applications are due July 31, 2016.

Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania is designed to provide community groups with paint and painting supplies enabling them to renew a community structure in need into something beautiful through the application of fresh paint and a lot of elbow grease. This event is held in partnership with support from Behr and The Home Depot.

The 2016 Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania will take place in September. During this month-long period, eight grant awardees along with their volunteers will be eligible for up to 20 gallons of exterior paint and a gift card for painting supplies. The Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania grant is available to any tax-exempt group within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Private property owners or individual applicants cannot apply.



Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful will select the eight winning projects from among applications submitted. Selected grantees must meet the following requirements to be considered – only one building per application, proof of liability insurance, signed permission to paint from the building owner, and two

> before photos of the intended project. Selected grantees must also agree to provide a final report with during and after photos.



"Behr, as an employer in the State of Pennsylvania, believes in doing the right thing', and giving back to the community through the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Fresh Paint Days program is a good opportunity for Behr to help those in need," stated Drew Hatcher, Director of Contract Management. "Through our partnership with Behr and The Home Depot, Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania empowers community groups to take a direct role

in community revitalization efforts," explains Shannon Reiter, President of Keep PA Beautiful. "Something as simple as a fresh coat of paint on a public library or community center sends a strong message that we care about our communities."

Grants will be awarded mid-August.

For more information, please visit: http://www.keeppabeautiful.org/GrantsAwards/FreshPaintDays.aspx

Any additional questions can be answered by Michelle Dunn, Fresh Paint Days Pennsylvania Program Coordinator, at 877-772-3673 ext. 113 or send email to: mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org.

A cooperative initiative to help make PA a better place to live, work and play!







SCHUYLKILL GROWN COOKING CONTEST

Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. during the Schuylkill County Fair



SHOWCASING
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
GROWN PRODUCTS!



- Contest to be held on Wed., August 3 at 6:00 p.m. Exhibitor must have product in place and ready to serve judges by 6:15 p.m.
- Contest to be held under the south overhang of the Main Exhibit Hall and is open to both Adult (19+) and Youth (under 18).
- Registration deadline is July 30, Entry Day.
- Two classes for this contest. Adult is to prepare a soup and a Youth is to prepare a quick bread.
- Each exhibitor must provide their own ingredients and cookware to serve. The Fair will only provide a table and electrical hook up. Recipe must provide a family-sized serving.
- This contest showcases Schuylkill Grown Products. The entry must have at least three (3) Schuylkill Grown ingredients that are either grown by the exhibitor or purchased from a Schuylkill County Grower.
- A recipe must be included with product highlighting the three Schuylkill Grown ingredients.
- A list of Schuylkill Grown providers can be found on the Fair's website at www.schuylkillfair.com under the competition tab and listed as "Schuylkill Grown."
- A panel of judges will determine the winner based upon taste and presentation. Additional points will be awarded for each Schuylkill Grown ingredient above the number 3.
- Premiums: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prize package of Schuylkill Grown products. Top 5
 participants receive a Schuylkill Grown t-shirt.
- To register, contact Missy Seigfried at 570.622.3742 ext. 111 or mseigfried@co.schuylkill.pa.us

This is a project of the Agribusiness Committee of the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce



New Guide Helps Citizen Groups Address Harmful Bacteria In Waterways

The Center for Watershed Protection, Inc. has released a new guide for citizen science groups and watershed organizations across the nation to take a role in finding and eliminating sources of harmful bacteria in their communities. Bacteria is one of the most common pollutants in our nation's waterways. Researchers and regulatory agencies have determined that monitoring bacteria in waterways can help identify human health risks associated with drinking water, shellfish consumption, and recreational water contact.

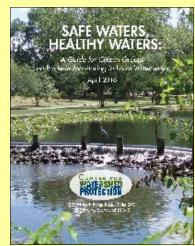
"Harmful bacteria from sewer leaks, illegal dumping and failing septic systems pose a serious threat to human health," said Hye Yeong Kwon, executive director of the Center. "Safe Waters, Healthy Waters will help citizen scientists and community organizations learn more about harmful bacteria in their waterways – and what they can do about it."

The newly released, <u>Safe Waters, Healthy Waters: A Guide for Citizen Groups on Bacteria Monitoring in Local Waterways</u>, outlines how to identify areas with high bacteria, narrow down potential

sources and share findings with the public.

The guide provides step-by-step instructions to create a customized bacteria monitoring program, methods to investigate potential pollutant sources, and resources for putting collected data to use. It focuses especially on human sewage sources and monitoring techniques that are simple, reliable and low-cost.

The content of this document draws upon the Center's work over the past decade investigating sewage leaks and other illicit discharges—such as storm drains that have measurable flow during dry weather containing pollutants or pathogens—that are far too common in the nation's streams, rivers and lakes.



The guide includes step-by-step instructions on how to properly collect bacteria samples, and several case studies detailing successful monitoring programs and the actions that resulted from them. In one case study, StreamWatch, a community-based water monitoring organization in central Virginia, noticed that a stretch of stream in a highly urban area tested very high for E. coli three months in a row.

Upon seeing these results, StreamWatch staff contacted the environmental officials from the City of Charlottesville. The city responded immediately and tested the area for leaking sewer lines, which quickly revealed a broken underground sewer pipe on private property. Within days, the landowner had the pipe fixed to stop the sewage leak.

"It is clear from these findings that many local governments need help to effectively address sewage discharges," summarized Kwon. "Citizen monitoring programs can help to sample where other agencies aren't testing or provide data to convince local agencies to establish monitoring programs. It is also an effective way to improve the public's knowledge of the safety of their water and to act as a 'watchdog' to ensure that local agencies are addressing the problem."

You can click here to download a free copy of this Guide: http://www.cwp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/SAFE-WATERS-Guide_Final.pdf

Funding for the research and development of this guide was made possible by the Ittleson Foundation and the Cornell Douglass Foundation. For more information about the Safe Waters, Healthy Waters guide, contact Laurel Williamson, Stormwater and Watershed Planner, Center for Watershed Protection, by sending an email to Iw@cwp.org





This is the largest flower in the world.



The Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey (PARS) is an important state-sponsored atlas project launched in 2013. PARS will determine the distribution and status of all amphibians and reptiles throughout Pennsylvania. Info:

www.paherpsurvey.org



The largest bloom is the Rafflesia arnoldi found in Indonesian rainforests. It can grow to be 3 feet across and weigh up to 15 pounds! As a parasite, it attaches itself to a host plant to obtain water and nutrients. It emits a strong odor that smells like rotting meat and attracts insects to pollinate.

1%

Just this small amount of a tree's mass is alive and capable of growing. Wood is nonliving material from a tree.

(from "Ask Marilyn" in April 17, 2016 - Parade).





Honey bees and bee species are instrumental for an estimated \$15 billion in crops; however, annual surveys of U.S. beekeepers have found that 29% of honey bee colonies die during winter.

BUGGED BY BUGS???

Before buying costly (not to mention toxic) insect repellents, try these ingredients that you've got at home. For ants, spray vinegar along your baseboards. When barbecuing, repel mosquitoes by burning sage or rosemary over the coals and running a fan nearby.





"I only feel angry when I see waste. When I see people throwing away things we could use."

- Mother Teresa (1910-1997), A Gift for God, 1975





Still time to register!

Teachers, we know it's summer break, and you're excited to get outside, curl up with a good book, and relax with your family. Sign up for our Teacher Workshops this July and know that you'll be ready for next year with interdisciplinary ways to make watersheds, water quality and the natural world come to life in your classroom!

Join fellow teachers as we make our way down thr ough the estuary exploring natural resources, diverse communities and unique, hands-on ways to engage students. **Attend one, two, three or all four of our workshops!*** July 18, **Rural Waters** Schuylkill and Berks counties, PA

- * July 19, **Urban Waters** Fairmount Water Works Philadelphia PA
- * July 20, **WOW! Workshop and Wetland Exploration**, Aquatic Resources Education Center - Smyrna DE
- * July 21, Citizen Scientist You and Your Students too Center for the Aquatic Sciences - Camden NJ



Best part? We'll bring the lunch! You will also walk away with 4-6 credit hours (professional development hours) per session, all while having a ton of fun.

To Register or for more information contact Michelle Hoover at 1-800-445-4935 x 112 or MHoover@DelawareEstuary.org

No worksheets, no staring at a screen. Learning the way it should be: hands-on and outside!



You'll meet teachers from a variety of grade levels and content areas, all who are enthusiastic about nature and the environment.

And of course, it's more fun if you bring a colleague or friend.

Share this email!



Connecting people, science and nature for a healthy Delaware River and Bay. www.delawareestuary.org





unlock the

www.nrcs.usda.gov

"We know more about the movement of celestial bodies than about the soil underfoot."

-Leonardo da Vinci

Living in the soil are plant roots, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, algae, mites, nematodes, worms, ants, maggots, insects and grubs, and larger animals.

science of soil

made of about 45% minerals

5% organic 25% air



what's underneath



Healthy soil has amazing water-retention capacity.

increase in organic matter gal of available results in as much as soil water per acre.



One teaspoon of healthy soil contains

individual bacteria



All of the soil microbes in 1ac/ft of soil weigh more than 2 COWS

Earthworm populations consume

of dry matter per acre per year, partly digesting and mixing it with soil

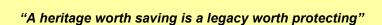
what it does



Healthy soil is key to feeding

9 billion ††† by 2050







www.schuylkillconservancy.org

Summer is a great time to get outside on a trail





TrailLink

By rails-to-trails conservancy

Interested in local, regional or trails located throughout the United States? Be sure to stop by www.traillink.com and start surfing for your best new trail to enjoy. Listed information is helpful and includes trail specs especially parking location. The site is very easy to navigate and has comments from trail users.



WEST READING PARK—WEST READING, PA (ACROSS FROM THE READING PUBLIC MUSEUM)

FARM TO TABLE ARTS AND CRAFTS
UPCYCLED FURNITURE ELECTRIC CARS
INFO: HabitatBerks.org

Do your part to help our local environment! Join the Schuylkill County Conservancy!

Be sure to like us on:



Also, type in Schuylkill County Conservancy and check out our stories project. You will be interested to see the variety of stories and you are cordially invited to leave one too!



LEAVE YOUR MARK THIS SUMMER ON A WALK WITH SCHUYLKILL ON THE MOVE





- * Saturday, July 9 from 1:00-4:30 p.m.: "Wolf Creek Waterfalls Trek" A cool hike on a warm mid-summer day with Porcupine. Meets along the Burma Road outside of Saint Clair initially for carpool to the hike start location. (5 miles-moderate)
- * Saturday, July 23 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.: "Swatara State Park" Meet Robin Tracey in the Sand Siding Road parking lot just off 443 in Suedberg We will explore the bridges and creek there. Bring a lunch and dogs are welcome. (6.5 miles-moderate.)
- * Saturday, August 6 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.: "Long Loop Trail Hike" at Tuscarora State Park to high-light all the trails in the park. Meet education specialist Robin Tracey in the Crow Trail parking lot. Bring a lunch and dogs are welcome. (9 miles-challenging)
- * Saturday, September 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.: "Silver Creek Reservoir Hike" We will explore the top of the mountain and the beautiful reservoir. Meet education specialist Robin Tracey in the Locust Lake State Park parking lot. Bring a lunch and dogs are welcome. (7 miles-challenging)
- * Sunday, September 18 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.: "Peddler's Grave" John Domalakes leads this historic trek to visit the site of the first murder in our area that happened along a tumpike in the late 1700's. Meets at the Miner's Memorial in Girard Park next to the diner on the north side of Shenandoah for carpool. (3 miles-easy).
- * Sunday, October 23 from 1:00-3:30 p.m.: "Rausch Gap Ramble" The world-famous Appalachian Trail will be the scene for this historic and scenic trek. Meets at the trail parking lot located near the intersection of Rts. 72 and 443. (4 miles-moderate)
- * Sunday, October 30 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.: "Tumbling Run Trek" A wild and scenic area located just outside of Pottsville that serves as watershed land for Schuylkill Haven. Meet Porcupine Pat at Union Station (located near Dunkin Donuts) to drive to parking area along Tumbling Run Road. (3 miles-easy)
- * Sunday, November 6 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. "Journey to Boxcar Rocks" Mike Centeleghe will thrill us with a trip to these massive boulders. Meets in the state game lands parking lot off Gold Mine Road South of Tower City. (3 miles-moderate)
- * Saturday, December 3 from 10:00-11:30 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)

NEW! For even more hikes visit Facebook and search: Schuylkill County hikes

Thanks to our sponsors for their support!



PEOPLE CONSERVATION RESOURCES

www.schuylkillcd.org



www.schuylkillvision.com



www.schuylkillconservancy.org



See you on the trail this summer and fall!!



www.schuylkillhistory.org

www.schuylkill.org



NEWS LEAF

Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County

schuylkillmg@psu.edu

570.622.4225 ext. 13

Master Gardeners develop demonstration area at Ag Center

We hope that you have noticed the developing project at the Schuylkill County Ag Center by the Master Gardener Class of 2015. They have taken on the mountain – a small one that is! The hillside at

the west of the building is becoming a demonstration area for multiple gardening topics including pollinator preferences, shade gardening, native species, herbs and hillside landscaping.

Of course, it is a work in progress and you will see the transformation throughout this year. We are very proud of the industry and vision of our volunteers! Watch for coming attractions as they are installed and do stop by the center to enjoy the changing sights.



Allium Leaf Miner has been reported in Schuylkill County

All plants effected are of the Allium family: leeks (A. porrum), onion (A. cepa), garlic (A. sativum), chive (A. schoenoprasum), shallot (A. cepa), and green onion (A. fistulosum). Wavy, curled and

distorted leaves are the first sign accompanied by leaf punctures made by the female ovipositor and are arranged in a linear pattern towards the end of leaves. Larvae mine leaves, and move towards and into bulbs and leaf sheathes where they pupate. **Eggs**: White, 0.5 mm long, and slightly curved; **Larvae**: White, cream, or yellowish maggots, headless, up to 8 mm long at their final instar; **Pupa**: Dark brown, 3.5 mm long.



How can you manage these pests?

Damage from the pest

Covering plants in February, prior to the emergence of adults, and keeping plants covered during spring emergence, can be used to exclude the pest. Avoiding the adult oviposition period by delaying planting has also been suggested to reduce infestation rates. Covering fall plantings during the 2nd generation flight can be effective. Growing leeks as far as possible from chives has been suggested. Continuous cultivation of Allium species (such as chives) provides the pest with a continuous food source.



Leaf Miner pupa

If you suspect you may have observed damage or a life stage of the Allium Leaf Miner, please contact a plant inspector in the regional Department of Agriculture office or an Extension Educator at the Penn State Cooperative Extension — Schuylkill County at 570.622.4225.



Upcoming Master Gardener Events

- Saturday, July 16: Walk in the Garden from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (near Penn State-Schuylkill)
- Tuesday, Aug 2: Schuylkill County Fair booth from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug 20: **Field to Fork** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hope Hill Lavender Farm



"Light up your life" by clicking on these links to learn more..."



SPECIAL KID-ORIENTED WEBSITES FEATURED

- KidsGoWild.com Wild news, wild animal facts, environmental games. KidsGoWild.com also gives kids the chance to get involved in conservation by joining Conservation Kids, where you learn about saving wild animals and the environment! Sponsored by The Wildlife Conservation Society, headquartered at the world famous Bronx Zoo.
- www.dnr.wi.gov Environmental Education for Kids EEK!, an online magazine for grades four to eight, contains articles and activities about animals, plants and environmental issues.
- **www.treetures.com** The "Treetures" are tiny guardians of the forest who teach about trees and how important they are to the environment. Try out tree-themed activities, listen to the Treeture theme song, or send a TreeMail message to your favorite character.
- www.environmentalscience.org This resource, more for young adults than children, is a guide to learning how to chart a course to become an environmental scientist.
- www.eia.gov/kids Games, tips, facts and information for kids to learn how to save energy. Published by the US Department of Energy.
- www.flyingwild.org A bird education offering for middle schools giving students the opportunity to learn through researching, planning, and hosting a school bird festival. Flying WILD is an initiative of the Council for Environmental Education (CEE) Project WILD program.
- www.davidsuzuki.org This David Suzuki Foundation website starts out with ten simple ways you can protect nature, followed by four challenge activities that offer firsthand experience with the natural world. The "Cool Links" page connects with other environmental websites.
- www.pbs.kids.org/games/nature Explore nature and the environment and play games with your favorite PBS KIDS characters like Cat in the Hat, Dinosaur Train and Curious George.

Schuylkill Conservation District Board and Staff

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- Dottie Sterner
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- Eric Leiby
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- Robert Carl, Jr.
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- "Boots" Hetherington
- Ronny Aungst
- Russell Wagner
- Ben Vaupel
- Wayne Haas
- Diana Beausang

District Staff phone extensions for 570.622.3742:

- Jenna Fehr, District Manager, 123
- Martie Hetherington, Chesapeake Bay Coord., 115
- "Porcupine Pat" McKinney, Education Coordinator, 113
- Missy Seigfried, Conservation Fiscal Technician, 111
- Stephanie Lubinsky, Conservation Program Technician, 116
- Robert Evanchalk, Assistant Parks and Recreation Supervisor, 122
- Christy Zulli, Conservation Program Technician, 114
- Bill Reichert, Upper Swatara Flood Recovery Manager,
- Wayne Lehman, County Natural Resources Specialiist, 120
- Andrea Reiner, Agricultural Program Coordinator, 112
- Vacant, Conservation Program Coordinator, 117
- Lorie Reichert, Conservation Program Asst., 102
- Drew Kline, Parks & Rec. Supervisor, 122



The Dr. James S. Shadle Nature Center will be open during the Schuylkill County Fair for the week. The center's hours will be Monday to Friday from 5:00-7:30 p.m. with special openings for Kid's Day on Tuesday from 1:00-2:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 4:00-7:30 p.m. Many displays and activities for all ages!



Schuylkill <mark>Summer 2016</mark>