

Seedling

SUMMER 2017

**See you at the Schuylkill
County Fair....July 31 to
August 5**

HELP WITH GOSHAWK RESEARCH

**CALL THE
HOTLINE FOR
HELP WITH
PLANT ISSUES**

NEW PROFILE FEATURE

**SNAPSHOTS FROM
BEAR CREEK FESTIVAL**



PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES



Hot fun in the summertime!
We often turn to cool ourselves
with refreshing water and
Schuylkill County sure has a
lot of it! Our county serves as
the headwaters for a number of
waterways including the
Schuylkill River.



Jenna St. Clair, District Manager

I am happy to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website www.schuylkillcd.com. Please note that we no longer use the .org address. The new website features new pages and gives us the ability to update and change information quickly and easily.

We have more happy announcements at the District this summer. The first is the hiring of Alexa Kramer as Natural Resource Conservationist. The District currently addresses concerns like abandoned mine drainage and agricultural runoff in separate programs. Alexa will be working in both areas to address water resource concerns on a countywide level. I look forward to sharing new projects and accomplishments we can achieve with this additional staff person.

We also have three interns sharing our office this summer: Ryan Shatalesky, Caitlin Chiaretti, and Veronica Rutecky. Check out their bios in this issue. Ryan, Caitlin, and Veronica are collaborating with staff to plan and implement projects, perform project maintenance and monitoring, provide overall project support, and raise community awareness on the importance of conservation. Most importantly, our interns have found this internship as a great way to network, meet professionals in natural resources conservation, and gain experience in a work environment.

Each intern this summer is required to complete an intern project, which we have not done in previous years. Through their work here, they will identify an area of interest or improvement related to natural resource conservation in Schuylkill County or the Conservation District. They will then develop and implement a solution or contribution to a solution. Stay tuned for information about their projects in the next issue of Seedling.

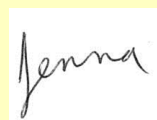
I welcome your thoughts, ideas, concerns, and questions about the Schuylkill Conservation District and can be reached at (570) 622-3742 x 3335 and jstclair@co.schuylkill.pa.us.



Jenna being interviewed by Doyle Dietz of "Experience the Outdoors" radio show.



Follow us on Instagram
[@SchuylkillCD](https://www.instagram.com/SchuylkillCD)



View our photos: www.instagram.com/schuylkillcd

You'll swim through this summer issue.....enjoy!



- Page 3—Red Creek at the county fair
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Red Creek Wildlife Center to present programs at the Weston Pavilion during the Schuylkill County Fair

Red Creek Wildlife Center will be at the Weston Pavilion all week for the 2017 Schuylkill County Fair to be held from July 31 to August 5. Come anytime beginning when the fair opens until sunset each day to learn about wildlife, meet some wild critters and talk to Red Creek's staff about your wildlife questions.

Peggy Hentz will also be presenting scheduled programs and book signings featuring Red Creek's newest titles.



SCHEDULE

Monday: 5:30 Cottontail story for children 6:30 Owls of Pennsylvania 7:30 Rescuing Wildlife
Tuesday: 2:30 Fawn story for children 6:30 Raptors of Pennsylvania 7:30 The Peregrine Falcon
Wednesday: 5:30 Robin story for children 6:30 Vultures of Pennsylvania 7:30 Rescuing Wildlife
Thursday: 5:30 Cottontail story for children 6:30 Owls of Pennsylvania 7:30 Rescuing Wildlife
Friday: 5:30 Robin Nest story for children 6:30 Crazy Wildlife Stories 7:30 Rescuing Wildlife
Saturday: 4:30 Fawn story for children 6:30 Raptors of Pennsylvania 7:30 The Peregrine Falcon



Your support helps Red Creek to continue their rescue work.

Penn State to Launch Undergraduate Ag Stewardship and Conservation Certificate

A new undergraduate certificate program offered by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences will give students interested in agricultural stewardship an opportunity for classroom and hands-on learning about the sustainability of agricultural soil and water resources.



The program's developers note that the Agricultural Stewardship and Conservation Certificate program will help train the next generation of conservation professionals at a time when Pennsylvania's agricultural producers are under mounting pressure to adopt measures that will protect and enhance water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed..



The certificate program will be administered under Penn State's Environmental Resource Management academic program, according to program coordinator Robert Shannon, associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering and PACD North Central Region Director.

Students interested in pursuing the Agricultural Stewardship and Conservation certificate can contact Shannon at 814-865-6942 or at rds13@psu.edu.

July 31 to August 5
**“Country Scenes
Blue Ribbon Dreams”**
www.schuylkillfair.com



\$5.00 general admission

(12 years of age and under — FREE)

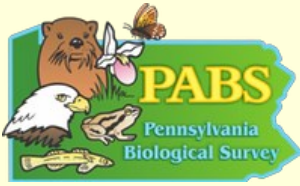
FREE PARKING * ENTERTAINMENT

CONTESTS * EXHIBITS

GATE OPENS: 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday — Friday
11 a.m. Tuesday and Saturday



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www.pabiologicalsurvey.org

The Ornithological Technical Committee (OTC) of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PABS) seeks your help in determining the distribution and abundance of nesting Northern Goshawks in Pennsylvania.

Goshawks nest in large forests from the Appalachians north within Pennsylvania. They are highly secretive and hard to detect during nesting, but recent data suggests their numbers may be declining.

During 2017, we are asking outdoor enthusiasts to report sightings of this rare but beautiful woodland hawk or its nest to the OTC subcommittee members soon after a sighting.

All we need is for you to observe any raptor you see carefully and share the information with us.

All reports will be **kept confidential**. Nest sites will need to be mapped so they can be protected but the exact location will remain confidential and undisclosed. If you have other concerns please discuss your sighting or location with a team member so we are at least aware of the area of the nest site.



We cannot conserve what we do not know is there!

Thank you for your help in improving understanding of this rare and beautiful Pennsylvania bird.

Please send reports of any sightings to goshawk@psu.edu or to Dr. Laurie Goodrich at: goodrich@hawkmountain.org or 570.943.3411 ext. 106.



Your help is greatly appreciated!

The Northern Goshawk has relatively short, broad wings and a long tail, typical for *Accipiter* species and common to raptors that require maneuverability within forest habitats. For an *Accipiter*, it has a relatively sizeable bill, relatively long wings, a relatively short tail, robust and fairly short legs and particularly thick toes. Across most of its range, the bird is blue-grey above or brownish-grey with dark barring or streaking over a grey or white base color below.

New faces at the Conservation District

Alexa Kramer is the new Natural Resource Conservationist

District Manager Jenna St. Clair is pleased to announce the hiring of Alexa Kramer as the Conservation District Natural Resource Conservationist. Alexa will provide technical assistance that will improve the quality and quantity of the Commonwealth's surface and groundwater resources. Jenna adds that "the focus of this work relates to watershed assessment, funding procurement, technical assistance, the creation of work plans, and strategies to restore and protect groundwater and surface water resources, and reporting management implementation on a watershed basis."



From Republican Herald.com

Alexa graduated from Pine Grove High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Millersville University with an Environmental Option and Geography Minor. She has been serving as Outreach and Education Coordinator for Schuylkill Headwaters Association. Alexa was also an intern for the Conservation District in the summer of 2013. The board and staff wish Alexa well and congratulations.

Meet our student interns for summer 2017

Caitlin Chiaretti—Ashland



I am a Junior at York College of Pennsylvania majoring in biology with a focus in environmental sustainability. Within my major I have a particular interest in conservation biology. I hope that through this internship I will gain greater knowledge as to what jobs are available in this field and also learn the types of careers that I am most passionate about. After the completion of this internship as well as the completion of my college education I hope to pursue a career in an environmental sustainability related field. I am so grateful for this internship opportunity and I am excited to see what this wonderful experience will teach me about this career field and about myself.

Veronica Rutecky—Tower City

I completed my freshman year at Albright College in Reading where I am studying Environmental Science. I am originally from Minersville and want to gain some experience in my field as it applies to the area I grew up in. My interests include environmental education, watershed science, agriculture, and other environmental issues. I am a diligent worker and am always seeking new opportunities to learn. I served as Cub Ecology Director for Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation where I taught basic wildlife skills and environmental concepts plus I led nature walks.



Ryan Shatalesky—Ringtown



I am a senior at Bloomsburg University majoring in Environment, Geological, and Geographical Science with a specialization in Geography and Planning. This internship has provided me with a great insight into how jobs related to environmental science and planning operate on a day-to-day basis. I hope that this first-hand experience helps me to stand out as a future employee and I am honored to have this opportunity. I grew up in Ringtown and have been exposed to agriculture and the outdoors my whole life.



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Walk in Penn's Woods: Help Us Make It Happen!

We are getting excited about the statewide Walk in Penn's Woods on Sunday, October 1, 2017. Rural, urban, and suburban woods, state and national forests and parks, municipal watersheds, conserved areas, private lands and industry in the state's 67 counties are making plans to hold open houses and guided woods walks showcasing the multiple values and diverse uses of our state's priceless forest resources.

A Walk in Penn's Woods event may highlight management for wildlife or watersheds, exhibit the results of harvesting or planting, demonstrate the results of urban tree cover, showcase riparian buffers, schedule children's activities, or reveal the fascinating innards of a local sawmill.

You'll be able to find information about each individual walk at www.WalkinPennsWoods.org. You can also nominate a walk that you'd like to host or find out more about what's being offered.

For the month of June, we are attempting to crowdfund the advertising and marketing costs to make this event a success. While Walk in Penn's Woods has wonderful statewide partners—all the venues and the resource professionals have volunteered their time and land—we need your help to make everyone's introduction to Penn's Woods a huge success! Through your contributions, we'll be able to advertise all the events, make all the great connections between land, mentors, and visitors, and provide terrific take-home material to digest after the introductions. Visit our crowdfunding webpage (<http://c-fund.us/b24>) and help us make this happen.

Please help us spread the word. Make a contribution. Share our posts with your contact list. Save the Date: Walk in Penn's Woods is October 1, 2017. We want to see you there! (Editor's note: this article is from the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards News, May/June 2017)



To be held on Sunday, October 1, 2017

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Earns International Trail Accessibility Award

Internationally-renowned Hawk Mountain Sanctuary recently received the Trail Accessibility Award for its ADA-approved Silhouette Trail from the American Trails National and International Trails Awards Program. The sanctuary straddles the boundary line of both Schuylkill and Berks counties and provides many opportunities for people to connect with raptors and the environment.

The National and International Trails Awards Program recognizes the tremendous contributions and successes of exemplary people and organizations across the globe who are working to advance trails. The Trail Accessibility Award recognizes a successful trail project that demonstrates the integration of accessibility characteristics into its design and construction. DCNR provided a \$250,000 Growing Greener grant in 2013 to support the accessible trail construction.

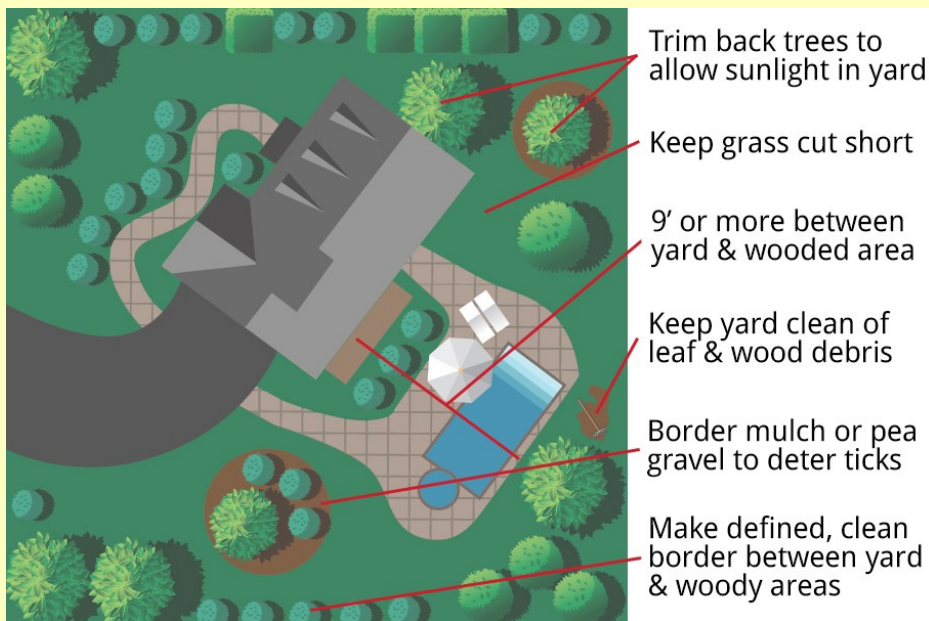
The Hawk Mountain Silhouette Trail, which opened in summer 2015, is a 900-foot, accessible trail that serves as an alternative route to the Sanctuary's South Lookout, where hawk-watching and educational programs occur. It includes a trail-side display of full-sized, in-flight, metal silhouettes of endangered birds of prey, adding an element of education to the wheelchair-accessible trail.



For more information about the trail and programs of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary:
www.hawkmountain.org



Here's how to avoid a "tick attack"



In a standard clump of dirt, there are: sand, silt, clay, and humus, all of which determine what type of soil it is. Dirt also has a pH that can determine what plants can grow in it as well as nutrients that can determine how fertile the soil is.



You may not be able to see it, but a drop of pond water can hold a lot of critters and many more in it. Tiny organisms that are microscopic are in it, such as hydras, bacteria, euglena, paramecia, algae, and small insects.



LiveHealthyPA! Is a communications hub connecting communities, schools, organizations, and health teams to share what's happening to keep Pennsylvanians healthy. Healthy Living Practices are "real-life examples of programs, activities or campaigns

created and executed to improve the health of participants. This site offers a springboard for sharing information through the Healthy Living Practices feature. It provides a centralized collection of resources to raise awareness of healthy behaviors and prevent chronic disease.

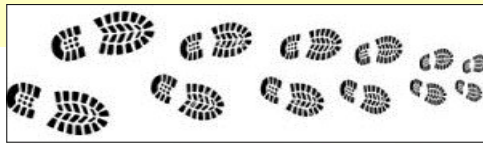
Click this link for more information: <http://livehealthypa.com/>

"As an educator, I believe it is extremely important for students to spend time outdoors daily. It helps them to expend energy and refresh their minds so that they can return to class with a better focus."

— Carla Wynn of Williams Valley Elementary



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Make tracks to enjoy these treks!

Schuylkill On the Move Hike Schedule 2017

* **Saturday, July 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.:** "Landingville Marsh and Auburn Dam Hike" Join Robin Tracey in this return visit to the Landingville area. Let's explore the wetlands that are usually full of wildlife at this time of year. Meet Robin at the Cressona Mall near Burger King to carpool to the site. Bring a lunch and dogs are welcome. (4 miles-moderate)

* **Saturday, August 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.:** "Lebanon Reservoir and Swatara Furnace Hike" Robin Tracey leads you on this historic and scenic tour. Meets at the concrete pad at state game lands off Gold Mine Road. We will see a large reservoir and follow the old rail bed. We will then drive to the Swatara Furnace. Bring a lunch and dogs are welcome. (6 miles-moderate)

* **Sunday, August 20 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.:** "Historic Tow Path Trek" John Domalakes leads you on a walk located along the Schuylkill River that meanders through a number of locks toward a nice example. Meets in the playground parking lot located on the west side of Port Clinton on Broad Street. (four miles-easy)

* **Saturday, September 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.:** "The Pinnacle" Gorgeous views from the top of Blue Mountain. Meet Robin Tracey in the state game lands parking lot near Port Clinton at 9:20 a.m. to carpool to the fire tower. For information and to register, call Robin at 570.467.2506. Bring a lunch and dogs are welcome. (10 miles-difficult)

* **Sunday, September 24 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.:** "Bake Oven Knob and Baer's Rocks" with Porcupine Pat. Follows the Appalachian Trail to awesome overlooks! Feel as though you are on top of the world. Meets just off Rt. 309 on top of Blue Mountain on the Lehigh and Schuylkill county line. (5 miles-moderate)

* **Saturday, October 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:** "Wolf Creek Falls Hike" Meet Robin Tracey at the west end of the Wal-Mart parking lot in Saint Clair. Registration is required by calling Robin at 570.467.2506. A hidden gem! Bring a lunch and dogs are welcome. (7 miles-difficult)

* **Sunday, October 29 from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.:** "Girard Manor Jaunt" North of the mountain trails enthusiast Tom Pesock leads this beautiful walk in the forest of the north slope of Locust Mountain. Meet Tom at the Pumping Station parking lot for carpool to location. (4 miles-moderate)

* **Sunday, November 5 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)

* **Sunday, November 19 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.:** "Crystal Waterfalls Cascade" Meet "Porcupine Pat" at the Schuylkill County AG Center in Pottsville for a carpool to the start location. Wonderful water experience! (4 miles-moderate)

* **Saturday, December 2 from 10:00-11:30 a.m.:** "Sweet Arrow Sojourn" "Porcupine Pat" leads us on a different path from 2016 for 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)

* **Saturday, December 9 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.:** "Senator Rhoades Nature Trail" Meet "Porcupine Pat" on Bolich Road one mile off Dutchtown Road outside of Lavelle for this flat walk along Mahanoy Creek. (three miles-easy)

Thank you sponsors for your support!



PEOPLE CONSERVATION RESOURCES

www.schuylkillcd.org



www.schuylkill.org



www.schuylkillvision.com



www.schuylkillconservancy.org



www.schuylkillhistory.org



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Mother Nature's Neighbors

Submitted by Veronica Rutecky, Albright Class of 2020
and Schuylkill Conservation District intern.

Luke T. Wynn, a Kutztown University student studying environmental science-biology, is one of Schuylkill County's residents who is working for a greener community and planet. A Williams Valley High School graduate and a long time lover of the outdoors, Luke strives to protect our valuable natural resources and our wildlife friends.

~*~

Question 1: Why do you care about the environment?

Luke: I feel like its our responsibility to be stewards of our world for many many many generations. We've been given a great gift with the world we inhabit and it's important that we realize all of our actions have consequences. All of our small negative actions can have nasty implications when we all do them.

Question 2: When did you start caring about the environment? Did anything specifically make you feel this way?

Luke: I always did. I was always just catching critters, hunting, fishing, hiking, and gardening. Gardening was definitely a big part of it.

Question 3: What are everyday little things you do to help the environment and what is some advice you have to those who wish to be better stewards of the planet?

Luke: Advice-wise, just being more aware of things you use whether it be water usage or how much waste you produce or even as small as what plants you're putting in your garden. Try to minimize the negative impacts. Do research and learn as much as you can and develop an appreciation for all parts of the environment.



Courtesy of Luke Wynn while restoring
bog turtle habitat

Question 4: In terms of the environment, what does being the change mean to you?

Luke: Not leaving things to change. Being aware of everything that's going on around you whether it be in the natural world or the human world. Prioritize those who are going to work to protect the natural world.

Question 5: What do you want the readers to get out of this?

Luke: Keeping an open mind and listening to what the world around you is saying are great features to have no matter what you're doing in life.

~*~

Luke hopes that his actions and words can have a positive impact to change how humanity views the world and move us in the direction of taking a more personal responsibility for its health.



Bog Turtle photo from US Fish & Wildlife Service



LandSCAPES



www.schuylkillconservancy.org

"A heritage worth saving is a legacy worth protecting"

New GIS Open Data Site Puts Maps of Pennsylvania Environmental Information at Public's Fingertips

PA DEP's GIS open data portal provides access to all of our publicly published, non-sensitive GIS data, which includes over 300 data layers relative to abandoned mine lands, air quality, water pollution control, coal mining, hazardous waste, operations, oil & gas, streams and lakes, industrial minerals mining, integrated report, municipal waste, radiation, storage tanks, stormwater, Chapter 93, TMDLs, water resources, and more! Select a category by clicking on the data topics to the left or right, or use the search tool above to discover our data. You can connect directly to the data, download it, embed it in your own applications or share it!



Sample map
available on this site

Click for more info.....> <http://data-padep-1.opendata.arcgis.com/>



Drivers along Rt. 61 between Seven Stars and Tumbling run will notice a small work crew on top of the flat area on the eastern side of the highway. This is the Heritage Corps that is constructing a segment of the Schuylkill River Trail here in Schuylkill County. Guided by a supervisor, the crew is developing a trail suited for walkers, runners, bicycles, and nature enthusiasts. The crew will work from June into July for a five week stint. The conservancy is part of a team to make this possible.

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 listed and you are cordially invited to leave one too!



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The 16th Annual Bear Creek Festival was held at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds this past June. Many acts and activities were featured for all ages. Music, 'make and take' projects, food, displays and much more





PennState Extension

NEWS LEAF



Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County

schuylkillmg@psu.edu

570.622.4225 ext. 23

The fungus among us —by Tom Reed

We have had some unseasonable cool and damp weather as we move into the growing season. That usually signals an increase in fungal problems with our gardens. Flowers, vegetables, fruits, ornamentals are all at risk. The cool nights are also tough on our favorite warm season veggies such as tomatoes and peppers.

Use of a fungicide could be helpful but they are mostly preventive and not corrective. Fruits and vegetables have a spray schedule that can be helpful but also expensive and time consuming. Whether you grow flowers, vegetables, fruits, or a combination of all, be sure to scout your plants to ensure they are not infected. Check under leaves also because some diseases and insects hide there. Conditions are different for each plant. If you find a problem, contact the Master Gardener Hortline for information or stop by the Penn State — Schuylkill County Extension Office in Pottsville with a sample.



Black Rot

The lawn, as of this writing, is still growing and mowing is a chore for at least once a week to ten days. As summer progresses and we get hot and dry, some lawns will slow and even brown a bit. For cool season grasses that is normal. Watering is your option but naturally the grass wants to go dormant until early fall. Watering could cause stress depending how hot we are, but it is suggested to not water your grass from mid-July to the end of August.

Enjoy your gardens, lawns, and the outdoors of Schuylkill County this summer. Hope to see you at the Schuylkill County Fair to be held from July 31 to August 5 this year.



Our Fall Celebration will be held on Saturday August 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Demonstration Garden that is located on the property of the First United Church of Christ on Route 61 adjacent to the Penn State Schuylkill Campus. The Fall Celebration combines art, music, produce, cut flowers, food, and plants. The admission is free.

HORTLINE

Trauma with tomatoes? Curious about cucumbers? Rambling about rot issues? Contact the experts at the Schuylkill County Master Gardeners who are trained to assist you in any way with gardening or landscaping issues. **This is a free service available to anyone in our county. Call us at 570.622.4225, ext. 23**



Catch Tom, Tom, and Kim — our favorite “on-air” master gardeners — at AM 1360 WPPA Pottsville. They are ready to answer your questions and provide useful info. Hear them on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.



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**POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP**

Protect their lives. Preserve ours.

Buzz on over to these sites to learn about creating habitat for pollinators. Plan now to create your 2018 garden.

www.ernstseed.com This website educates the public about natural issues and is dedicated to the restoration of native landscapes. They sell seed mixes, individual species, and bioengineering materials. There is a section on the website that informs about pollinator habitat and that they created a "Pollinator Approved TM" insignia to signify what plants are beneficial to pollinators. The site also provides information about the harmful causes of pollinator issues in North America as well as gives solutions and tips to farmers and gardeners.

www.pastatebeekeepers.org The Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association provides multiple pollinator-related news articles as well as services, projects, and events.

www.pollinator.org The official website of Pollinator Partnership, a non-profit that is dedicated to protect the natural and native environments of pollinators. Here, they provide educational services as well as projects for all locations and all ages in order to promote a healthy pollinator habitat.

www.nationalgeographic.com Perfect for educational purposes and has a section titled "People, Plants, and Pollinators," a video that explains how the three categories previously listed interact with one another. This video focuses how nearly every food item we consume traces back to plants that require pollination from a pollinator.

www.pollinatorlive.pwnet.org This website is geared towards educators hoping to bring more life to the natural world and its importance in the classroom. It has webcasts, webinars, and online educational resources.

www.extension.psu.edu/plants/master-gardener/counties/lanaster/idea-gardens/the-native-plant-garden
Click here to learn more about Penn State's good work.

Schuylkill Conservation District Board and Staff

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- Diana Beausang

District Staff phone extensions for 570.622.3742:

- Jenna St. Clair, District Manager, 3335
- Martie Hetherington, Chesapeake Bay Coord., 3328
- "Porcupine Pat" McKinney, Education Coordinator, 3326
- Missy Seigfried, Conservation Fiscal Technician, 3324
- Stephanie Lubinsky, Conservation Program Technician, 3329
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- Lorie Reichert, Conservation Program Asst., 3316
- Drew Kline, Parks & Rec. Supervisor, 3334
- Alexa Kramer, Natural Resources Conservationist, 3336



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!



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