

# Seedling

Summer 2021

## DO THE TICK CHECK CHALLENGE

**3,000 new trees in Kaska thanks to  
Tamaqua High School students**

**See you at the Schuylkill County Fair**

## The 411 on Cicadas

The largest family of flowering plants is the ubiquitous sunflower family (Asteraceae or Compositae). The family contains nearly 1550 genera and 24,000 species. The sunflower family is rivaled in size only by the orchid family (Orchidaceae) with approximately 20,000 species and the legume family (Fabaceae) with about 18,000 species.



PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES



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



## Jenna St. Clair, District Manager

This spring and summer are starting to feel a little more “normal” here at the Conservation District. While we missed seeing everyone for Bear Creek Festival, we’re happy to see events like the Schuylkill County Fair (August 2-7, 2021) back on the calendar.

Another summer standard here is the presence of college student interns. We’re happy to welcome Maris Kilgus (Susquehanna University) and Sydnie Harig (Delaware Valley University). They 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 good way to network, meet professionals in natural resources conservation, and gain experience in a work environment.



Planning is underway for an environmental education event at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park, so keep an eye on our social media accounts for details and updates. You won’t want to miss out on a beautiful fall day in the Park with lots of activities and goodies!

I welcome your thoughts, ideas, concerns, and questions about the Schuylkill Conservation District and can be contacted at (570) 622-3742 ext. 3335.



**Keep an eye open for  
our festival this fall at  
Sweet Arrow Lake.  
Activities, hikes, food  
and much more!**

**We’ll be on social media  
and other outlets to PR.**





# TICK CHECK

*Challenge!*

Let's have some fun! Who's up for the Challenge? The PA Lyme Resource Network has created a Tick Check Challenge to help educate and protect kids (and adults) from Lyme Disease and other debilitating tick-borne diseases.

Here's how it works:

- Watch the video
- Download the song clip
- Dance
- Post & Tag

Follow this link to learn more and start practicing your dance moves. [TICK CHECK CHALLENGE! - PA Lyme Resource Network](#)



This year has seen a lot of ticks. Take the Challenge!

**Kyle Schutt, Insect Management Technician for the Conservation District**



## Mosquito Season is Here Fight the Bite!

### Drain these backyard breeding sites:

1. Buckets
2. Tires
3. Pet Bowls
4. Birdbaths
5. Tarps

### Reduce mosquito resting habitat:

1. Keep grass mowed
2. Don't let bushes become excessively overgrown
3. Reduce or remove brush piles close to home





**2021 Summit  
September 19-21  
Erie Bayfront  
Convention Center  
Erie, PA**

## **PENNSYLVANIA Greenways&Trails SUMMIT**

The 2021 Greenways & Trails Summit will be held at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, PA on September 19-21. The Summit seeks to inspire improvements and expansion to Pennsylvania's trail system, build peer networks, and celebrate successful projects connecting the public to land and water trails throughout the state.

Taking inspiration from our host location, the theme this year is *Blue, Green & Everything in Between: Connecting PA's Land and Water Trails*.

Over the course of 3 days, the summit will offer dozens of educational sessions, 4-5 mobile seminars, keynote presentations, discussion panels, and various social and networking opportunities to our attendees.

Click here for more information: [Greenways & Trails Summit | WeConservePA](#)

### ***DCNR Now Accepting Applications For Wild Resources Conservation Grants To Protect Non-Game Species***

On May 20, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn announced the [Wild Resource Conservation Program](#) is accepting applications for grants to protect the state's native biodiversity. The deadline for applications is July 16. [Click Here for 2021 grant priorities](#).

Overseen by DCNR, the program safeguards Pennsylvania's non-game animals, native plants and their habitat. Grant applications will be accepted in three areas: species surveys, conservation and management.

"These grants help support field research and on-the-ground conservation projects that protect some of our most vulnerable species," Dunn said. "Programs to reintroduce river otters and fishers in Pennsylvania, preserve and protect rare plant species, and bridge the gap between scientific discovery and good conservation policy are just a few of the many efforts supported by these grants over the years through this program."



Among this year's grant priorities are surveys and projects focusing on edible and medicinal plants, effects of fire management on wildlife, the checkered sculpin fish, plant genetics and more.

Launched in 1982, Wild Resource Conservation Program encourages and supports research and protection efforts to conserve Pennsylvania's diverse native wildlife resources, including bird and mammal species, amphibians and reptiles, insects and wild plants.

Applications only will be accepted electronically through [DCNR's online grant application system](#).



# SEEDS

The **Environmental Stewardship Fund** has created and enhanced hundreds of community parks across PA.



They are venues for gathering, exercise, and respite and serve as havens for local and migrating wildlife!

Investing in the **#EnvironmentalStewardshipFund** is investing in communities.



Environment Questions

Visit DEP's [Public Participation Center](#) for public participation opportunities.

When  
you  
conserve  
water,



you  
conserve  
life!



## Dandelion Facts:

Dandelions are NOT weeds, but are from the same family as sunflowers.

1 cup of dandelion greens = 535% of your daily recommended vitamin K and 112% of vitamin A.

A Dandelion Seed can travel up to 5 miles before it lands.

Every part of the dandelion is edible.

Up until the 1800's, dandelions were seen as extremely beneficial. People would remove grass to plant dandelions.



## DO NOT USE INSECTICIDES ON EMERGING CICADAS.

VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING EATS THEM. CHEMICAL TREATMENTS HAVE LITTLE TO NO EFFECT ON "MIGRATING POPULATIONS" OF CICADAS

but will harm dogs, cats, birds, frogs, fish, bunnies, squirrels, and people.



HI, THEY ARE COMING. THEY WILL ONLY BE HERE FOR A SHORT TIME. THEY WON'T BE BACK FOR ANOTHER 17 YEARS. THEY ARE MASSIVELY BENEFICIAL TO THE ECOSYSTEM. THINK BEYOND YOUR PERSONAL INCONVENIENCE PLEASE.

The  
antidote to  
exhaustion

isn't  
rest

It's nature

SHIKOBA



**Schuylkill Headwaters Association led a tree planting that invited the public and environmental students from Tamaqua High School. Those young people rocked as they planted 3,000 mixed variety tree seedlings on reclaimed mine land near Kaska above New Philadelphia. Thanks to Mrs. Klingaman's and Mr. Cheehan's classes!**





# *Friends of* the Pollinator Garden

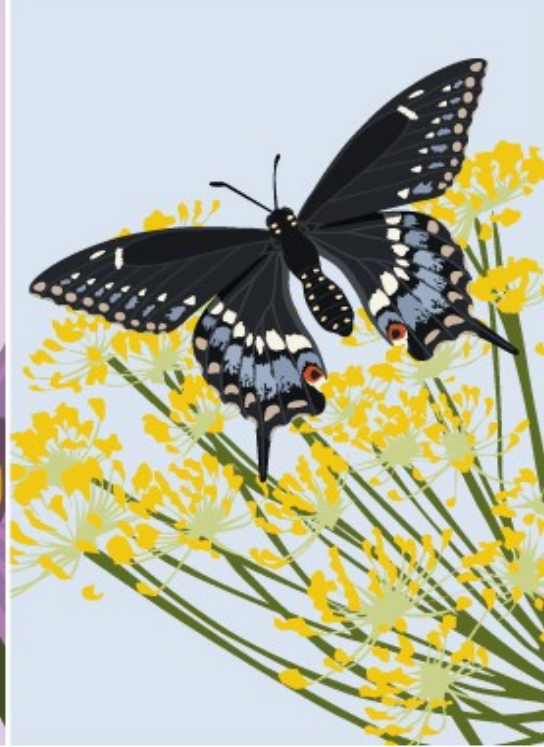
## BUMBLEBEES



Bumblebees are considered crucial to ecosystems as key pollinators of fruits eaten by birds and other insects.

They are generalists, visiting a variety of edible and ornamental plants in your garden. So, keep them around!

## BUTTERFLIES



Butterflies love dill! Especially the beautiful black-tailed swallow butterfly.

Often overlooked by bees in economic importance, butterflies bring color, excitement, and make for great animal-watching.

## BIRDS



With an increased abundance of insect visitors, you can expect some high quality bird-watching!

Birds will soon adapt and associate your garden with a tasty meal, stopping by often.



# WILDLIFE DAY CAMPS



## At Sweet Arrow Lake County Park

**Two camps are available for students ages 4 to 9 years of age  
Facilitated by the Schuylkill Conservation District**

**Wildlife Day Camp-1** (children from ages 4-6) from Tuesday, June 22 to Thursday, June 24 from 9:30-11:00 a.m.

**Wildlife Day Camp-2** (children from ages 7-9) from Tuesday, June 22 to Thursday, June 24 from 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Camps are on a **"donation only"** basis with thanks to the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation.

*To insure a quality and safe learning experience, the camp size will be limited to 12.  
Please register as soon as possible!*



**I Will Wear My Mask  
Here or There...**

**I Will Social Distance  
Everywhere!**

**Camp Features:** Hikes, crafts, mystery bag, learning about the surrounding water, forest and fields – all designed to inspire curiosity about the natural world around us!

**Day Camp Director:** "Porcupine Pat" McKinney, Environmental Education Coordinator for the Schuylkill Conservation District. "Our popular day camps provide, fun learning by doing and discovery, environmental experiences."



**Site Information:** Camps will be held in the Clubhouse Pavilion at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park located near Pine Grove. The site features a variety of wildlife habitats and nature trails. Modern bathroom facilities are available.

(Clip and mail bottom portion only. Save top part as a reminder.)

### **SWEET ARROW LAKE WILDLIFE DAY CAMP REGISTRATION FORM**

Name of Day Camper \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Family Physician \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or disabilities \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my child to participate in all camp activities and for my child to receive emergency medical treatment, if necessary.

**Please make your check or money order payable to: SCHUYLKILL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Mail to:** Schuylkill Conservation District, 1206 Ag Center Drive, Pottsville, PA 17901

**For more information:** "Porcupine Pat" at 570-391-3326 or porcupinepat@yahoo.com





# NEWS LEAF



## Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County

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

570.622.4225 ext. 23

### "From the Greenhouse Column" by Master Gardener Tom Reed

Summer is here and the growing season is underway. Whether you are a flower or a vegetable gardener, or just making your property more natural we wish you all the best of success. Along with the joys of gardening there are also things to look out for.

It is always best to research what you are going to plant. Check labels of plants, seed packs, and descriptions in catalogs when purchasing. The information provided will assist you in being successful with your plantings.

For perennials, we are in USDA Zone 6 for the most part so purchase accordingly. Follow all directions on the plant label or planting instructions provided by the nursery and save those labels for reference.

Annuals, such as flowers and vegetables, have requirements also. For example, the seed pack for sunflowers states to plant in spring after danger of frost has passed. Our average last frost date is around May 20. Soil temperature should be between 60 to 70 F for sunflowers.

For transplants, such as peppers and tomatoes, the soil temperature should be between 60 and 65 F with night air temperatures above 55F.

Follow recommendations for proper fertilization requirements. If you have a current soil test those recommendations will be there. You should also follow the seed pack information as it should provide in-season fertilizing requirements.

Do not blindly spread fertilizer because what is not used by the plants will find its way to ground water and streams. Too much can affect yields as much as too little, more is not better!

Weeds and insects can also be a problem. Scout your garden daily and take action accordingly. Pulling some weeds or hoeing when first noticed is better than herbicide and damaging your good plants. As weeds grow, they will seed and just increase your problem so get them early. Also, picking off a few tomato hornworms is better than applying an insecticide and taking out pollinators. Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in your gardens and landscapes.

Enjoy summer and if you have questions contact the Master Gardeners. We are here to help!



Tom at his greenhouse

### Use apple cider vinegar to clean up your garden tools

Whether you have a bunch of rusty old tools lying around or you're starting to notice some wear and tear, go and grab your apple cider vinegar to help out. If the rust is bad, let the tool soak overnight. But if you just need to clean it up, grab the vinegar and put it in a spray bottle to clean off.



**Epsom Salt Fertilizer Trick** Epsom salt (hydrated magnesium sulfate) is known for its home remedy uses, but the garden might be the place that it shines the most. Like store-bought fertilizers, Epsom salt contains magnesium, which aids in seed germination, chlorophyll production and absorption of vital nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus. Most plants grow better with a ratio of two teaspoons to one gallon of water per month. You can also dilute the Epsom salt with water in a bottle and apply as a foliar spray. Misting the plant greatly increases its growth. This works especially well on vegetables and roses.

**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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## PROGRAMMING AT THE WESTON PAVILION DURING THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY FAIR 2021

(follow "Nature Center Nature Program" signs)

**We are Back.**



**"Making Memories One Fair  
at a Time"**

**Schuylkill County Fair**

**August 2 – 7, 2021**

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

[www.facebook/  
SCHUYLKILLFAIR/](https://www.facebook.com/SCHUYLKILLFAIR/)

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

### **Monday, August 2**

**5:45 pm:** "Ways of Wildlife" with "Porcupine Pat"

**6:45 pm:** "Appalachian Mountain Olde Time Toys" with "Porcupine Pat"

### **Tuesday, August 3**

**5:45 pm:** "Bugs and More Bugs" with "Porcupine Pat"

**6:45 pm:** "Lanternflies and Mosquitoes" with Kyle Schutt

### **Wednesday, August 4**

**5:45 pm:** "Indian Sign Language" with "Porcupine Pat"

**6:45 pm:** "Local Indian Lore" with Dave "Big Owl" McSurdy

### **Thursday, August 5**

**5:45 pm:** "Ways of Wildlife" with "Porcupine Pat"

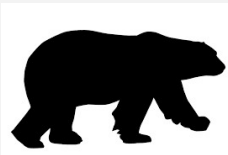
**6:45 pm:** "Life On Silk -- Spiders" with Larry Moyer

### **Friday, August 6**

**5:45 & 6:45 pm:** Red Creek Wildlife Center with Peggy Hentz

### **Saturday, August 7**

**5:45 and 6:45 pm:** Red Creek Wildlife Center with Peggy Hentz



**Sponsored by the Dr. James S. Shadle  
Nature Center**

## Schuylkill Conservation District Board and Staff

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- Martie Hetherington, Chesapeake Bay Coordinator, 3328
- "Porcupine Pat" McKinney, Education Coordinator, 3326
- Missy Seigfried, Conservation Fiscal Technician, 3324
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- Alexa Smith, Natural Resources Conservationist, 3336
- Kyle Schutt, Insect Management Technician, Cell: 484.331.4499



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