

Seedling

Summer 2023

**LAKEFRONT FESTIVAL AT SWEET ARROW LAKE
SUNDAY, OCT 15 FROM 11 TO 2 FREE ADMISSION**

**VISIT THE DR. JAMES S. SHADLE NATURE CENTER AND WESTON
PAVILION DURING THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY FAIR — DETAILS IN
THIS ISSUE**

**SWATARA CREEK FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION
PHASE 2 PROJECT**

**MASTER WATERSHED STEWARD
PROGRAM NATIVE TREE AND SHRUB
SALE**

**TICK AND MOSQUITO
INFO FROM KYLE**



PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES





Jenna St. Clair, District Manager

It's been a pretty wild start to the summer here in Schuylkill County: drought, wildfire smoke, and heavy downpours. I hope everyone is (safely) enjoying all of the wonderful outdoor activities available to us.

The Schuylkill County Fair returns for its 40th anniversary on July 31 to August 5, 2023. The sights and sounds have always been a summer favorite of mine. Porcupine Pat has full line-up of interesting programs scheduled for the week, included in your cost of admission!

Lakefront Fest will also be back this fall on Sunday, October 15 from 11 am to 2 pm. This FREE environmental education event at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park will have many vendors, activities, and tours, so keep an eye on our social media accounts for details and updates. Free admission, free activities, free parking.

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.



The Swatara Creek Floodplain Restoration project in Pine Grove was honored with a national award from the Council of State Community Development Agencies for its protection of property and the environment in 2022. Jenna St Clair and Wayne Lehman, County Natural Resource Specialist, are pictured here accepting the award at the project site with representatives from PA Department of Environmental Protection and PA Department of Community and Economic Development.

Congratulations to the Schuylkill County Fair!

—————→ **1983 to 2023** ←————
Visit the fair this year to help celebrate!



www.schuylkillfair.com



MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

Lakefront Festival

Sweet Arrow Lake County Park

Sunday, Oct 15 from 11 to 2

Free admission and parking

Food Programs Vendors

**Special dedication of habitat improvement project
upstream and tour of Live Stake Nursery by
Master Watershed Stewards**



**SEE LAST PAGE
OF THIS ISSUE FOR...**



SAVE THE DATE

NATIVE TREE & SHRUB SALE

What: Pre-order, PA native tree & shrub sale

Description: The sale features a limited supply of 28 different native trees and shrubs, providing many environmental benefits.

Where: Pickup locations in 22 counties across PA

When: Aug. 1-27, 2023

This sale is a fundraiser for our Master Watershed Steward Programs.

Want to learn more? Register for our free webinar to learn more about each tree/shrub included in this year's sale, how to purchase them, and where to pick them up.

Webinar date: Wednesday, July 26, 7:00-8:30 PM

All registrants will receive a recording of the webinar.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/2023-TreeSaleWebinar>



Master Watershed
Steward Program



PennState Extension

This publication is available in alternative media on request.
Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.



Photo credits: Penn State Extension



About the Master Watershed Steward Program

This program provides extensive training in watershed management to volunteers who, in return, educate the community about watershed stewardship based on university research and recommendations.

The Penn State Master Watershed Steward Program was established to strengthen local capacity for management and protection of watersheds, streams, and rivers, by educating and empowering volunteers across the Commonwealth.

Working Together to Keep the Tradition Alive

Celebrating
40 *Years*

www.schuylkillfair.com



July 31 to August 5, 2023

Schuylkill County Fairgrounds, Rt.895, Summit Station

PROGRAM SCHEDULE AT THE WESTON PAVILION -- 2023

Sponsored by the Dr. James S. Shadle Nature Center

- **Monday, July 31 -- 6:00 pm:** “Appalachian Mountain Olde Time Toys” with “Porcupine Pat” McKinney. The toys program focuses on toys that were popular from 50 to 200 years ago.
- **Tuesday, August 1 – 6:00 pm:** “Ways of Wildlife” with “Porcupine Pat” McKinney. This wildlife show ‘n tell has everything from turtle shells to deer antlers with trivia included.
- **Wednesday, August 2 – 6:00 pm:** “Indians of Pennsylvania” with Dave “Big Owl” McSurdy. “Big Owl” will talk about the Lenape, Susquehannocks and other nations that were here in PA.
- **Thursday, August 3 – 6:00 pm:** “The Bad Biters and Sap Suckers: Mosquitoes, Ticks, and Lanternflies” with Kyle Schutt, Insect Pest Management Technician for the Schuylkill Conservation District. Kyle highlights the invasives, such as the lanternfly, that are found in Schuylkill County. He will describe ways to control them and the damage that they do.
- **Friday, August 4 – 6:00 pm:** The Venom Institute presents “Native Reptiles of Pennsylvania” with Rudy Arceo, President and Founder of The Venom Institute. This program spreads the word about the beauty and importance of reptiles in nature and the environment. Live critters will be showcased in this family-oriented program.
- **Saturday, August 5 – 6:00 pm:** The Venom Institute presents “Wide World of Exotics” with Rudy Arceo (see Friday’s description). Live critters will be showcased!

The Dr. James S. Shadle Nature Center will be open from 5:00 to 7:30 pm each day of the county fair. For more info: porcupinepat@yahoo.com or call 570.391.3326.



Community Science: FIREFLY WATCH

Report firefly sightings in your backyard!

Spend 10 minutes once a week from now through August and report any firefly sightings (or none).

Data is used to help map firefly populations.

Help Firefly Conservation




Help scientists learn about the geographic distribution of fireflies through the Firefly Watch Community Science Project. Spend at least 10 minutes once a week during firefly season (late June through August) observing fireflies in one location (your backyard or in a nearby field). Learn more about what to look for and how to submit observations <https://bit.ly/3zgbKXp>. #CommunityScience #iCon-

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

-  Skip the car wash
-  Run the dishwasher and washing machine less often
-  Water your garden in the cooler evening or morning hours
-  Water your lawn only if necessary
-  Check for and repair household leaks
-  Set up a rain barrel to be ready to repurpose rain when it does fall

Learn more → dep.pa.gov/drought



GUIDE TO EDIBLE FLOWERS

Nasturtium
Flowers have a peppery flavor, and leaves are also flavorful, citrusy and peppery. Try to add in salads, pesto or other savory dishes. The young seed pods can be harvested, pickled and used as substitute for capers.

Saffron
The stigma of saffron flower is collected to make the most expensive spice in the world. Saffron is found in savory and sweet dishes.

Sunflower
Typically consumed as seeds. Flowers are also edible, buds can be steamed and eaten like an artichoke.

Lavender
Sweet and herbal. Buds contains essential oil and used to infuse flavor and scent. Can be combined in sugar or honey to be used in baking or for beverages.

Violets
Add young flowers to salads or in stuffing for poultry or fish. Candy as a Garnish on cakes and pastries. Not to be confused with African violets.

Hibiscus
Hibiscus is most often dried for tea & other beverages. The fresh petals can be candied or added to salads.

Zucchini
Sometimes referred to as squash blossoms. Typically picked when they are slightly open. Can be stuffed or fried.







Lilac
Lilacs make a great edible garnish when candied, with a lemon flavor. Can also be infused in lemonade.

Dandelions
Considered, a weed but both flowers and leaves are edible. Use the young leaves in salads or steam. While the mature flower is bitter, the buds are sweet.

Elder Flower
Commonly used to make elderflower cordial syrups and teas with a sweet honey scent. Avoid consuming the stems, they are poisonous.

Rose
The petals, fresh or dried can be candied or used in teas. Rosewater made from the essential oil of the petals is a dessert ingredient.

www.gardenthoughtfully.com

Summer Wildlife Day Camps accepting campers

- August 7 to 9, 9:30 to 11 am, The Island in Haven
- August 7 to 9, 1 to 230 pm, Albright's Woods

Info: porcupinepat@yahoo.com 570-391-3326



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The Swatara Creek Floodplain Restoration Phase 2 project is located along Swatara Creek and the Upper Little Swatara Creek on Pine Grove Borough and private property. The Phase 2 project consists of floodplain restoration, wetland creation and streambank stabilization to reduce flooding impacts to and sediment pollution in the Swatara Creek Watershed.

Phase 2 design and permitting was funded through a PA Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Stewardship and Watershed Protection (Growing Greener) Grant awarded to the Schuylkill Conservation District while construction of the project is being funded through a Department of Community and Economiocal Development Community Development Block Grant awarded to the County of Schuylkill.



Protect Yourself Against Tickborne Diseases

- Spray repellent on skin (such as DEET).
- Spray Permethrin on clothes and shoes (read all labels).
- Wear light-colored clothing.
- Tuck shirts into pants, and tuck pants into socks.
- Stay in the center of trails.
- DO NOT SIT on downed logs, leaf piles, or mossy stones.
- Once inside, place clothing into dryer on high heat to kill any lingering ticks, and take a shower. Examine gear such as backpacks for ticks.
- Do a full-body tick check, especially behind the knees, groin, armpits, and neck.
- Check any pets exposed to tick habitats each time pets return indoors.
- If a tick is found attached to your skin, use tweezers to carefully remove it, including the head. Monitor for symptoms, and contact your doctor with any questions.



Important
info here.

For more information on ticks and tickborne diseases, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Health website at www.health.pa.gov.



Kyle Schutt,
Insect Management
Technician for the
SCD

MOSQUITO FACTS:

- **Only female mosquitoes bite.** They feed on blood to help them produce and develop their eggs.
- **In addition to nasty bites, mosquitoes can also spread numerous diseases.**
- **Mosquitoes love carbon dioxide.** They follow the smell of CO₂ released from our breath to locate their next feast.
- **Mosquitoes breed in stagnant, standing water, but it doesn't need to be a lake, pond, or swamp.** It can be a puddle, a tire, or anything else that might catch and hold rainwater.
- **In moist climates, or in areas that are irrigated, they can breed in landscape beds, mulch, and beneath heavy vegetation.**



*** Always Read and Follow Product Label Instructions.**



**Master
Gardeners**
PennState Extension

NEWS LEAF



Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County

schuylkillmg@psu.edu

570.622.4225 ext. 23

"From the Greenhouse Column" by Master Gardener Tom Reed

Growing season is well underway now after a very dry spring. Seems in late June and early July we received all our missing rain in large batches. Plus, in June many night temperatures were in the low 50s and in some areas of the county in the high 40s. Warm season plants do not tolerate those temperatures and could suffer injury. If you waited to plant once things were warmed and had adequate moisture your plants should be now off and running, although a bit behind schedule. Now is the time to be scouting for insects, disease, and more important harvest some flowers, fresh veggies, herbs, and to enjoy your bounty.

If you discover problems with disease and insects remember to apply IPM (Integrated Pest Management) practices. Hand pull weeds before resorting to using an herbicide. Same with insects. One bug does not necessarily mean that an insecticide is required, handpick, or knock it off into a bucket of soapy water. As always if you do use a pesticide of any type also read and follow label directions and ensure the problem and plant is labeled for that product. Follow all PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) requirements.

Hope to see you all at the Schuylkill County Fair and our Garden Gathering.





PennState Extension

MASTER GARDENER GARDEN GATHERING

Saturday, August 27th - 10 am to 2 pm

Program events include:

- Garden Tours
- Educational Booths
- Ask the Master Gardener Booth
- Garden Demonstrations
- Produce Tastings
- Garden Tool Bargain Table



**"Honey for Heroes"
Vendor Booth**

Purchase Master Garden grown flower bouquets, produce, and baked goods.

Located next to the First United Church of Christ and Vietnam Memorial

110 Route 61 South, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

For more information call the Schuylkill County Extension office at 570-622-4225

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



5 QUICK TIPS

SUMMER GARDENING PREP

ZONE9GARDEN.COM



Select Heat Tolerant Vegetables

There are many vegetables that will do well in summer heat. Selecting the right crop will help ensure success. Try Okra, Black Eyed Peas, and Swiss Chard.



Add Shade to Keep Temps Down

Plants like Tomatoes, peppers and eggplant can thrive in the hottest parts of summer if provided shade. Use a shade cloth to help keep the summer heat in check.



Water More Frequently

Keeping the soil moist throughout summer will help keep the ambient temperatures around the roots lower. The water will constantly be evaporating, causing a cooling effect.



Remove and Compost Dying Crops

As the heat of the summer starts to kill off non-heat tolerant crops it is a good time to add those plants to the compost pile. Use that compost next season for a great fertilizer.



Harvest Often

When approaching the summer months it is important to harvest all edible crops as often as possible. This will encourage the plant to produce more.



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SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF LAKEFRONT FESTIVAL

Sunday, Oct 15 from 11 to 2



- Schuylkill County Conservancy exhibit with tree cookies
- Splash the Clown and balloon animals
- Schuylkill County Penn State Extension Master Gardeners
- Leah Zerbe and Potter's Farm
- Sweet Arrow Lake Conservation Association celebrating 100 years of the lake's dam breast
- Dave "Big Owl" McSurdy with his rock and mineral collection
- Schuylkill County Trout Unlimited
- "Make 'em, take 'em" activities by staff of the conservation district

Much more!



Schuylkill Conservation District Board and Staff

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STAFF PHONE EXTENSIONS FOR 570.622.3742

- Jenna St. Clair, District Manager, 3335
- Martie Hetherington, Ag Project 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)
- Janelle Wilde, Conservation Program Technician, 3327
- Bill Reichert, Upper Swatara Flood Recovery Manager, 3331
- Wayne Lehman, County Natural Resources Specialist, 3333
- Chloe Mullins, Agricultural Program Coordinator, 3325
- Ryan Michlovsky, Conservation Program Coordinator, 3330
- Sydnie Harig, Ag Program Specialist, 3316
- Drew Kline, Parks & Rec. Supervisor, 570-527-2505
- Alexa Smith, Natural Resources Conservationist, 3336
- Kyle Schutt, Insect Management Technician, Cell: 484.331.4499

**Mark your calendar for Lakefront
Festival at Sweet Arrow Lake County
Park Sunday, Oct. 15 11 am to 2 pm**



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