

Seedling

Winter 2016

**2nd Annual Give Us Your Best Shot
Photo Contest**

Potatoes are big in Schuylkill County

**ORDER FORM INSIDE FOR ANNUAL TREE SEEDLING
SALE TO BENEFIT SWEET ARROW LAKE COUNTY PARK**

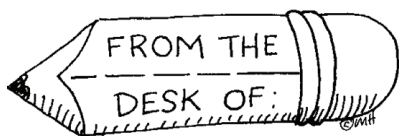
National water quality database released

**Schuylkill On the Move
2016 hike schedule inside**



PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES

The rolling terrain of Schuylkill County certainly is inviting at this time of year with many enjoyable scenes all around. You sure can't beat how snow accentuates the landscape. The "S" curve on the Gordon Nagle Trail is especially pretty.



MANAGER'S CORNER

Liz Hinkel, District Manager

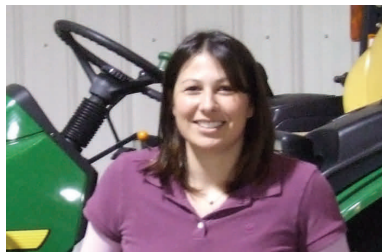
What a “winter” we’ve been having so far! The extended mild weather has allowed work to continue on various projects that normally we wouldn’t have gotten done until after the spring thaw. Many people have even started to notice buds on plants, and daffodils are sprouting out of the ground. People have been wondering how this mild weather will affect perennials and especially orchard trees. I’m told that at this point we don’t have anything to worry about as far as long term damage. We just need to hope that exceptionally mild weather doesn’t continue for too long, or that outlook may change.

As we wrap up construction projects and outdoor programs for the year, we already are looking ahead to spring. That’s what we do around here... we’re always looking into the future! What are the concerns for our watersheds now and tomorrow and where does our focus need to be? What new and innovative techniques are out there? These are just some of the questions we ask ourselves.

This information isn’t just for our benefit for grant projects and the like. We are happy to share any helpful information we have with other organizations or individuals who may be able to benefit from it. In return, we all benefit from information that is shared. That is the beauty of being in the midst of such a strong network of partners.

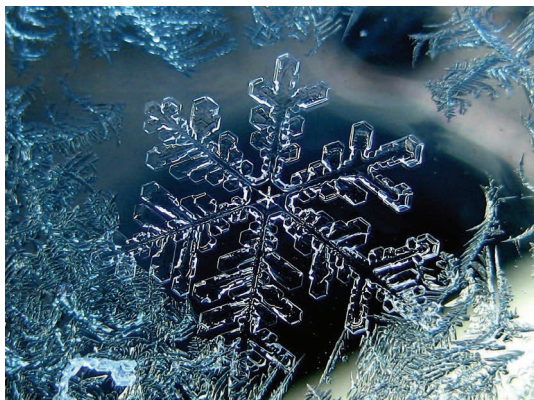
Knowing that partnerships are a cornerstone for our work, the Schuylkill Conservation District is always looking for ways to build on this network. During 2016, the SCD will be developing an Education and Outreach Committee with a big focus on the outreach component. We are hoping that this committee will provide a way for the SCD and our partners to utilize our communication outlets to better promote the work that is happening in the watershed. It also helps us to keep up to date on what everyone is doing and where more resources are needed.

We are excited about where this may lead and will report success stories from this committee in future editions of Seedling. Stay tuned!



Liz

Warm up after a chilly day in the snow with these stories inside your winter edition.....



- Page 3—DEP website upgrade
- Page 4—2nd Annual “Give Us Your Best Shot” photo contest
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- Page 11—PAEE Conference 2016 info
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DEP Launches Redesigned Website & Social Media

Accounts submitted by Jenna Fehr, Conservation Program Coordinator

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has launched its updated website and social media accounts in a continued effort to make the agency more accessible for citizens, businesses, and the regulated community. The updated website, www.dep.pa.gov, is user-friendly, easy to navigate, mobile-adaptive and serves as a gateway for the public and the regulated community to get information they need from DEP.

The website is organized into four distinct tabs:

- The "Citizens" tab is a new section devoted to consumer information relevant to Pennsylvanians' lives.
- The "Businesses" tab holds traditional agency content migrated from our previous website.
- The "Public Participation" tab has information about public meetings; public comments, including the new eComment system; and DEP's more than 30 advisory committees.
- The "Data & Tools" tab gives users access to dozens of reports and data sheets, including oil and gas compliance reports.

In addition to the updated website, DEP has launched its official presence on social media with Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn accounts.

Users can interact with DEP in the following ways:

- Follow DEP on Twitter at @PennsylvaniaDEP, Secretary John Quigley at @SecQuigley, and the Harrisburg falcons at @FalconChatter
- Like DEP on Facebook
- Connect with the department on LinkedIn
- Subscribe to DEP's YouTube Channel

For more information, visit DEP's website at its new address: www.dep.pa.gov. (go ahead and click on it now!)



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Official Guide for Pennsylvania State Parks & Forests

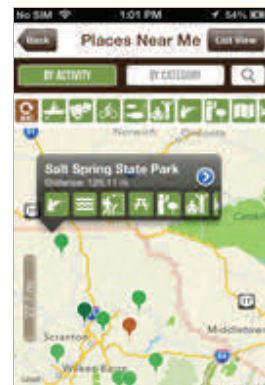


Click here for more information:

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks

Search for "Pocket Ranger®" in either the App Store or Google Play

Powered by Pocket Ranger®





There are two themes:

“It’s Schuylkill County—Naturally!”

and “Nature Matters to Me”

2nd Annual GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT PHOTO CONTEST



- **TIMELINE:** Contest runs from February 1 to April 1, 2016. Photos must have been taken between January 1, 2015 and April 1, 2016.
- **OPEN TO:** All ages welcome! Submissions must be the original work of the photographer.
- **AWARDS:** Three cash prize levels for each theme plus two Grand Prizes. First Place: \$50 Second Place: \$35 Third Place: \$25. Note: One Grand Prize includes the notoriety of the photo being enlarged, matted and framed. It will then be presented to an award recipient at the annual awards ceremony of the Schuylkill Conservation District. The other Grand Prize winner will grace the cover of the annual report of the Conservation District and will be viewed by thousands.
- **JUDGING:** Judging is based on originality, technical quality, creativity and sheer natural beauty. All photos must be taken in Schuylkill County and will be judged with no differentiation in age.
- **MORE:** There is no entry fee. Please only one entry per theme per person. It is not necessary to submit to both themes but make sure to denote your choice of theme. The first focuses on landscapes, close-ups or beautiful scenes found in our county. The second highlights the connections that people of any age can have with nature. All submissions should be unframed and include your name, address, phone, email and the camera used on the back of the photo. Winners will be notified by Earth Day which is April 22. Only copies will be accepted as no photos will be returned. All photos, including the winners, will be displayed on the Facebook page of the district.
- **TO SUBMIT:** Mail an 8" X 10" print to: Schuylkill Conservation District, Attn: Porcupine Pat, 1206 Ag Center Drive, Pottsville, PA 17901 OR email a JPEG file to: porcupinepat@yahoo.com

Sponsored by



PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES

www.schuylkillcd.org



www.schuylkillconservancy.org



More info: “Porcupine Pat” McKinney
porcupinepat@yahoo.com 570.622.4124 x 113

Get snapping!

Independent review hails management of Pennsylvania's state forests

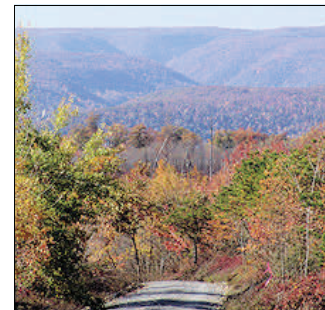
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn has released results of an independent review team's annual study of state forestlands, noting its findings continue to affirm Bureau of Forestry efforts to conserve these resources through sound management. "Once again our state forests were deemed 'well-managed' in an official certification reflecting the pride we take in overseeing our state forest system for many values and uses, while maintaining its long-term health and viability," Dunn said. "Auditors were very pleased with our management and dedication of staff, and I extend thanks to districts involved in this year's audit for another job well done."

For the 17th consecutive year, since 1998 when a team of scientists first began reviewing management of the 2.2 million acres of state forestlands, researchers applauded Pennsylvania's commitment to its forests, and exemplary practices and innovation in managing forest resources. "Forest management faces many threats and challenges, including fragmentation and disturbance, invasive plants, destructive exotic insects and challenges with regeneration," noted Dunn. "The certification process shows we are doing everything we can to improve our management plans and practices. More importantly, it helps us identify areas we can improve to ensure our forests are well-managed and in line with public expectations."

Ending Sept. 2, the three-day Annual Surveillance Audit was conducted by Scientific Certification Systems (SCS), an Emeryville, California based certification body accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) to conduct forest management and resource evaluations. An SCS project team consisting of two foresters specializing in wildlife biology, ecology, forestry management and socio-economic issues toured Rothrock, Bald Eagle, Weiser, and Pinchot state forest districts. They met with DCNR staff, scoring forests on timber-resource sustainability, forest-ecosystem maintenance, financial and socioeconomic considerations and other FSC indicators.

The audit team visited timber sales, recreational trailheads, research areas and a mine reclamation area. Auditors sought district input on effects of energy extraction; deer impact in the forests; forest regeneration; and bureau public input and education efforts. Their study focused on public involvement; timber harvests; chemical use; landscape considerations in timber sales; soil, wildlife and other ecological safeguards; and use of non-native species.

Certification assures consumers that wood products from the state's public forests come from a sustainable, well-managed system, which helps Pennsylvania to compete in the growing niche consumer market for "green" label wood products.



Graduating senior scholarships offered by Schuylkill Area Community Foundation

Graduating high school seniors from Pottsville and Minersville should check out these award opportunities from the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation. **Applications and more information can be found** on the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation's website at www.sacfoundation.com under the "Students" tab and then "High School Awards".

Paul Lohin Schuylkill River Watershed Conservation Award Fund

This fund provides an award to a graduating senior of Minersville Area High School who has demonstrated a commitment to the community by participating in environmental and conservation projects or programs outside the classroom and maintained a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 or greater for five consecutive semesters over the last three years.



David Derbes Schuylkill River Watershed Conservation Award Fund

This fund provides an award to a graduating senior of Pottsville Area High School who has demonstrated a commitment to the community by participating in environmental and conservation projects or programs outside the classroom and maintained a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 or greater for five consecutive marking periods over the last three years.

Seeds



In 2009, some of Pennsylvania's prominent historical and environmental organizations came together to answer: *Where will we find our future conservation leaders?*

It became apparent that the best way to look forward was to look back and standing head and shoulders above all others was Maurice K. Goddard, for almost 25 years the Secretary of what is now the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. "Doc" Goddard and the lessons to be learned from his leadership became the foundation of the *Goddard Legacy Project*.

You can read about other giants of Pennsylvania's conservation heritage at

www.paconservationheritage.org

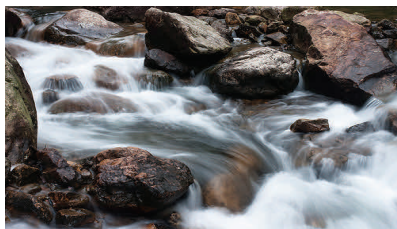
791

...equals the number of farms in Schuylkill County!



Schuylkill County ranks second in PA potato production with 1,088 acres!

Click on this link below to see good work being done for watersheds.



http://pacd.org/?utm_source=Front+Page+2015%2F11%2F23&utm_campaign=Front+Page+11.23.15&utm_medium=email

Buy bulk non-packaged items



One way to help reduce waste is to limit the amount of stuff you bring into your home, but what about the basics? Some stores offer you the option of shopping bulk. Instead of using store bags or plastic containers, you can simply bring your own! If you don't have any, you can easily save some from food containers (like tubs of yogurt) to get you started. Nuts, seeds, grains, granola, cereal, dried fruits, and more can be purchased bulk.

Green Cleaning Recipe "GENERAL CARPET CLEANER"

1 part liquid soap
1 part water
Whip together by hand or in blender. Make at least one cup's worth. Sponge onto carpet, rub in, and wipe dry with rag. Rewhip mixture before each use.

Penn State **Extension** Master Gardeners

of Schuylkill County



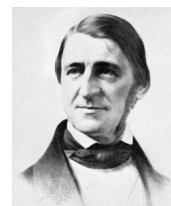
Master Gardeners has a speaker's bureau for bees and pollinators. For a presentation to your school or group contact:

* Jessica Simkulet: 570.943.3131
* Kym Richardson: 570.739.4764
* Laura Field: 570.943.2223



"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn."

— — — Ralph Waldo Emerson



**Winter 2016
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JOB OPENING



AmeriCorps OSMRE/VISTA

Outreach and Education Coordinator for the Schuylkill Headwaters Association based in Pottsville, PA

Duties include:

- Assist with preparing and submitting grants.
- Lead both teacher and student tours of abandoned mine drainage passive treatment systems and other water quality and conservation sites.
- Work to build the capacity of Schuylkill Headwaters.
- Assist with planning annual activities such as the Bear Creek Festival, tree plantings, and trash cleanups.



Schuylkill Headwaters Association (SHA) was founded in 1997 with the mission "to promote the environmental integrity of the Schuylkill River, its tributaries, and the watershed that lies within the boundaries of Schuylkill County." SHA works to protect and enhance the headwaters of the Schuylkill River by educating residents about the Schuylkill River and by implementing projects to reduce and control pollution. The coordinator position will be with this organization.



**DETAILS
AND HOW
TO APPLY
BELOW**



For more details about this position or directions on how to apply, please contact Alexa Kramer at outreach@schuylkillheadwaters.org or 570-640-8896. Also, you may visit these two websites for more information about AmeriCorps VISTA and the Appalachian Coal Country Team: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps/ameriCorps-vista> <http://www.osmrevista.org/> A Bachelor's degree is required.

WALK **2016 SCHEDULE**



Info for directions or cancellation: (best way via email!) porcupinepat@yahoo.com or 570.622.4124 x 113
Schuylkill On the Move promotes positive steps toward good health through walking.

* **Sunday, January 31 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.:** “Mahanoy City Meander” Explore the “Town on the Level” with Paul Coombe of the Mahanoy Area Historical Society who highlights points of interest. Meets on North Main Street by Kaier Brewery. (3 miles-moderate)

* **Sunday, February 14 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.:** “Shenandoah Shuffle” John Domalakes highlights an urban winter hike on Rotary Way. Hike is dedicated to the late Dr. Stan Rakowsky who was superintendent of Shenandoah Valley and a proponent of the trail. (2 miles-easy)

* **Saturday, February 27 from 10:00-11:30 a.m.:** “Cabin Fever Walk” Porcupine leads you on a walk guaranteed to cure your fever! Meets at the Waterfall Road parking lot of Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. (3 miles-moderate)

* **Sunday, March 13 from 1:00-3:30 p.m.:** “Frackville Foray” Frackville native John Domalakes visits the grave of Frackville’s founder and offers a spectacular view of historic Mahanoy Valley. Meets at Saint Ann Church on Line Street in Frackville. (3 miles-moderate)

* **Sunday, April 10 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.:** “West Mahanoy Township Nature Trail” Scenery, wind-mills,...what more could you ask for? Porcupine leads you on this new hike that includes checking into all the local cemeteries! Meets at the Coal Miner’s Memorial on the north side of Shenandoah for travel to the hike start. (3 miles-easy)

* **Saturday, April 16 from 10:30 am to 2:30 p.m.:** “Roaring Creek Tract” Robin Tracey takes you on a beautiful hike past two reservoirs. Meet at the Roaring Creek parking lot off Route 42 north of Aristes. Bring a lunch. Dogs are welcome. (8 miles-moderate)

* **Saturday, April 30 from 1:00-4:00 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. Meets in the parking lot of Frog Hollow on Stone Mountain Road in Friedensburg. (2 miles-easy)

* **Sunday, May 15 from 1:00-3:30 p.m.:** “Orchid Adventure” Local outdoor enthusiast Tom Pesock takes you on a new path that features many ladyslippers and intriguing stones. Meets initially at the old Schoolhouse Auction on Rt. 924. (3 miles-easy)

* **Saturday, May 21 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.:** “SCEETR Sojourn” We visit the site of a major watershed improvement project led by Schuylkill Headwaters. Porcupine then takes you along some back country coal roads near the site. Meets at the post office in New Philadelphia along Rt. 209. (3 miles-moderate)
SCEETR=Silver Creek Environmental Education Trail Recreation.

* **Saturday, May 28 from 10:30 am. to 2:30 p.m.:** “Silver Creek Fire Tower Hike” Very nice turkey and grouse habitat with a stop for lunch at the bottom of the historic fire tower. Meet Park education specialist Robin Tracey in Locust Lake State Park parking lot. Dogs are welcome. (8.5 miles-challenging)

* **Saturday, June 11 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.:** “PPL Susquehanna Riverlands/Wetlands Hike” You must register for this hike by calling Robin Tracey at 570.467.2506. Great place to see wild-life. No dogs allowed. (6.5 miles-moderate)

* **Sunday, June 12 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.:** “Kaufman Run Caper” Enjoy Mountain Laurel in bloom as John leads us on a challenging hike on the Broad Mountain. Meets at the south end of the Schuylkill Mall parking lot. (4 miles-challenging)

* **Saturday, June 18 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.:** “Old Schuylkill Haven Water Dam Hike” Mike takes you to a site that is surrounded on three sides by the Second Mountain Tract of Weiser State Forest. Meets along Ketner’s Road off Panther Valley Road west of Cressona. (4 miles-moderate)

>>>>>>>see next page for remainder of 2016 schedule>>>>>>>

* **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 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.:** “Long Loop Trail Hike” at Tuscarora State Park to highlight 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 turnpike 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.schuylkill.org



www.schuylkillvision.com



www.schuylkillconservancy.org



www.schuylkillhistory.org



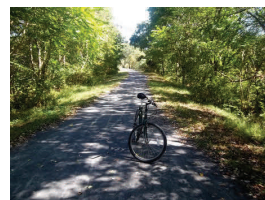
www.schuylkillconservancy.org

"A heritage worth saving is a legacy worth protecting"

Update on trail projects

Hiking trails are popular in Schuylkill County especially since the Appalachian Trail for the most part comprises the southern border of our county. Two initiatives are being pursued by the Conservancy. One is the almost 7-mile long Blackwood Trail that is in cooperation with the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority that owns the land. A grant has been submitted to the state but the budget impasse has stalled efforts.

The other trail being developed is in cooperation with the Borough of Schuylkill Haven and parallels Rt. 61 from the Seven Stars Road exit ramp to Tumbling Run. The water line for Schuylkill Haven runs underneath this trail and is 1-1/2 miles in length. This will be in cooperation with the Schuylkill River Heritage Area that is developing the Schuylkill River Trail from Philadelphia to Pottsville area. This segment will be part of that trail development work. Two Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with the Borough and the Heritage Area to detail specifics to trail development.



Thanks to Blue Mountain High School especially to Melissa Gehman and her Lifeskills students for working on the Rt. 61 path. They cleaned up litter, trimmed overhanging branches and helped smooth the trail.

SAVE THE DATE

Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference

Registration materials will be available in early January. For more information visit:
www.conserveland.org

May 19-21, 2016

Penn Stater Conference Center (State College)

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!

DO YOUR PART TO HELP OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT...JOIN THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY CONSERVANCY!



**Winter 2016
Page 10**

National water quality database released to address nutrient challenges

The National Corn Growers Association and the Water Environment Research Foundation announced the completion of the Agricultural Best Management Practices Database at the American Water Resources Association's Annual Conference on Water Resources. Along with other project sponsors, such as the United Soybean Board, this database was developed to create a centralized repository of agricultural best management practice performance studies related to water quality in agricultural areas.

"The goal of the database is to provide farmers, agricultural advisors, planners, and consultants with information that enables them to implement cost-effective water quality improvement solutions," said NCGA Production and Stewardship Action Team Chair Brent Hostetler. "Currently, many conservation practices and pollutant reduction measures are being voluntarily adopted. However, until now, the effectiveness of various practices has been uncertain due to the limited availability of comprehensive and comparable field-scale data. The Agricultural Best Management Practices Database addresses this problem by providing a comprehensive set of monitoring and reporting protocols and a clearinghouse for collecting, storing, and evaluating agricultural best management practice performance information."



"WERF appreciates the proactive approach that NCGA and USB are taking with creation of the Ag BMP Database," explained WERF Research Program Director Theresa Connor. "Having a clearinghouse of meta and performance data for agricultural conservation practices will assist both growers and watershed managers make more informed decisions on the impact of their conservation practices on water quality, and as information is available costs and crop yield. Bringing the many available, diverse research projects into one data system can ultimately help growers more effectively implement conservation practices and researchers share information."

The database includes performance data and metadata that document the many variables that affect BMP performance. These variables include geographic area, field conditions such as soils and slopes, tillage and nutrient management practices, and the existence of buffers, constructed wetlands, and other edge-of-field practices. The database's initial release focuses on row crops, particularly corn and soybeans, and its primary analytical focus is on phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment.

The project data summary, appendices, and database are available at <http://www.bmpdatabase.org/agBMP.html>



Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators
Linking Pennsylvania to the Environment

Annual conference to be held on Monday, March 14 & Tuesday, March 15, 2016
The Inn at Pocono Manor
Conference theme: "Breaking Bad, Creating New"



The Inn at Pocono Manor grounds in the scenic Pocono Mountains.

*** cutting edge workshops * first-rate exhibits * opportunities to network * great food and lodging * super keynote speakers who focus on timely topics * EE certification sessions * great fun!**

Click here for more information:
www.paee.net



Winter 2016
Page 11



41st ANNUAL SEEDLING SALE 2016

All proceeds from the sale benefits Sweet Arrow Lake!



Your quality seedlings will increase property value, enhance wildlife habitat, beautify the landscape, improve the environment, and can provide a source of income. Proceeds benefit programs at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. The Sweet Arrow Lake Conservation Association (SALCA) and the Schuylkill Conservation District work together on this sale. **Your support is greatly appreciated!**

- **CONCOLOR FIR:** Extremely popular tree in past sales. Excellent ornamental or Christmas tree. Has flat, soft green to deep blue citrus-scented needles. Hardy because it withstands dry periods and high temperatures. 4 year old seedlings. Size: 8-16."
- **NORWAY SPRUCE:** Fastest growing of the spruces. Develops pyramidal shape and strong graceful branches that are covered with dark green needles. Ideal windbreaker that likes full sun and grows in various soils. Matures at 60 feet and has a beautiful 25 foot spread. 4 year old seedlings. Size: 10-24."
- **BLACK HILLS SPRUCE:** Desirable, symmetrical cone shape to this conifer. Dense bright-green needles mature to an interesting blue-green. Great landscape accent, useful as windbreak or screening. Browsed by mammals and attracts birds. Serves as a good yard or ornamental tree either solo or in a group. 5 year old seedlings. Size: 10-24."
- **AUSTRIAN PINE:** This is an extremely tolerant pine of adverse soil conditions. This stately tree can be seen in parks, along streets, in residential landscapes, and as farm windbreaks throughout much of the United States. Landscapers use the dark beauty of these trees for backdrops, but it is also an excellent specimen tree because of its leaf pattern. Can grow up to 60 feet high with a 20-40 foot spread. 4 year old seedlings. Size: 10-28."
- **AMERICAN ARBORVITAE:** This slow-growing tree prefers full sun to partial shade but adapts to a variety of soil conditions. Prefers moist soils but can withstand drought. It grows to a mature height of 25-40 feet, and has a mature spread of 10-15 feet. Makes a good wind-block and provides cover for all types of wildlife year round. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 6-12."
- **RED MAPLE:** This maple grows at a moderate to rapid rate and does best in bright sun to partial shade. It will grow in a range of soil types from sandy loam to clay. Better soil will result in a better healthier tree. The tree has a pyramidal shape when young. When tree matures it will attain a larger more rounded crown and will grow to a size of 40-60 feet with a width of 25-45 feet. Leaves turn a brilliant red during fall and accent any yard. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 5-10."
- **RED OAK:** Very popular landscaping tree for shade on lawns, parks and golf courses. This oak is fast growing and easy to transplant. It is tolerant of urban conditions including dry and acidic soil and has abundant acorns that attract wildlife. Leaves turn a brilliant brick-red fall color and adds color to a forest. This tree has been used in mine reclamation sites for revegetation purposes. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 10-24."
- **TULIP POPLAR:** This tree is considered both a shade tree and an ornamental tree. It features a spreading canopy capable of blocking sunlight and adds visual interest and beauty to landscaping. It is the tallest of the eastern hardwoods—and a rapid grower when conditions are right. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 10-28."
- **AMERICAN CRANBERRY:** *Popular seedling the last three years!* This is an excellent deciduous shrub for screening up to 10 to 12 feet high. It grows to a width of 8 feet with very dense growth of up to 3 feet per year in full sun or part shade. This bush has showy white flowers in spring followed by red berries in fall and winter. Berries hang through mid winter making excellent bird feed. This shrub has very few insect problems and prefers good, well-drained soil. For best growth, provide supplemental water during dry periods. For a solid screen, plant bushes 2 to 3 feet apart. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 10-22."
- **FORSYTHIA:** Beautiful yellow-flowered shrub that is fast-growing to about seven feet tall. Tolerates poor soil and city conditions. Good for screens and hedges and cover for birds and small wildlife. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 10-24."
- **WINTERBERRY:** Winterberry is a deciduous shrub growing to 6-15 feet tall and often as wide. It develops a rounded habit through suckering, eventually growing into a sizeable colony of upright stems. The stems tend to be dark brown and often develop a pleasing gray sheen. The 3 inch long, elliptic, toothed, and pointed leaves vary from light to dark green, taking a yellow hue in autumn. Insignificant flowers appear in May – June and are followed by bright red berries in late summer. The berries, for which the common name was derived, remain after leaf fall and persist into the winter months to provide food for wildlife. Winterberry prefers evenly moist, acid soils in full sun to partial shade. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 8-18."
- **COMMON LILAC:** A medium to large hardy shrub with stout, spreading branches developing an oval to irregularly-rounded crown. The showy flowers are fragrant and enjoyed each spring. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 10-20."

41st Annual Seedling Sale Order Form—2016 To benefit Sweet Arrow Lake County Park

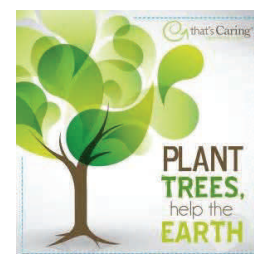


- **ORDER DEADLINE:** Wednesday, April 6, 2016 or while supplies last!
- **PICK UP INFO:** Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in the Clubhouse parking lot at Sweet Arrow Lake.
- **NOTE:** Seedlings are bare root and will be healthy at pick up. No guarantees after this date.
- **INFO:** "Porcupine Pat" at 570.622.4124 x 113 or porcupinepat@yahoo.com or Denise Donmoyer at 570.345.8952 or nightowl57@verizon.net

Date _____ Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (day) _____ (night) _____



Help save postage and the environment by providing your email for us to send you a reminder:



ITEM	# PER BUNDLE	# DESIRED	COST/BUNDLE	TOTAL
Concolor Fir	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
Norway Spruce	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
Black Hills Spruce	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
Austrian Pine	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
Am. Arborvitae	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
Red Maple	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
Red Oak	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
Tulip Poplar	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
Am. Cranberry	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
Forsythia	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
Winterberry	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
Common Lilac	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
			Total Sale =	
			Please be sure to pay 6% sales tax =	
			Grand Total =	



- Please make your check payable to SALCA. Mail check and this form to: SALCA, PO Box 143, Pine Grove, PA 17963.
- A reminder will be sent to you by mid-April. (Note: SALCA stands for Sweet Arrow Lake Conservation Association).
- We appreciate your support of Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. For more information: www.sweetarrowlakepark.com



Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County

schuylkillmg@psu.edu

570.622.4225 ext. 13

Don't be blue, think spring like we do! Join us for "Spring Series" on March 5

Schuylkill Master Gardeners are offering a day of "Spring Series" topics to help you get gardening.

- "Award Winning Lawn – Let's Grow a 'Yard Beautiful' "
- "To Spray or Not to Spray – That's Not the Only Question"
- "Vegetables Demystified - By Two of Our Vegetable Wizards"
- "The Gardener's Best Friend – The Toolshed"
- "What's the Buzz? – Good Bugs and Bad Bugs"

Join us Saturday, March 5, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Schuylkill County Ag Center Conference room lower level in Pottsville.

Fee \$18.00 (lunch included). Call 570.622.4225 to register. Deadline is March 1.



Compost your yard and kitchen waste! Compost happens! Learn how to make compost happen for you at a FREE Penn State Compost Clinic to be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clubhouse at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. Call 570.622.4225 to register.

Welcome to these new Master Gardener volunteers!

Penn State Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County welcomes twelve of your friends and neighbors as volunteers to the program. Omar Ballard, Steve Bamford, Natasha Bradley, Jen Clinton, Steve Daderko, Wendy Jochems, Kim Reed, Cindy Reiter, Jim Reiter, John Place, Tracey Schaeffer, and Machina Williams. Master Gardeners are available all year 'round to help with your tree, flower, lawn, garden, soil, pH, insect, disease, or wildlife questions. Email us at schuylkillmg@psu.edu or call 570.622.4225 x 20.



**We are here
to help!**

Free resources from Penn State Extension!

The best kept secret is revealed! Did you know that Penn State Extension—Schuylkill County has these resources available to you? FREE horticulture literature on hundreds of topics – forestry, ecology, lawn care, bee keeping, tree ID, Marcellus Shale and many more.

FREE Diagnosis of plant diseases and insect damage through the experts at Penn State Plant Disease clinic and Entomology lab. Many books for purchase on topics such as wine making, tree fruit growing, agronomy guide, and commercial vegetable growing all backed by Penn State's science research on these topics and many more. Soil Test kits are also available for \$9.00 the cooperative extension office with hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

**The
Secret
REVEALED**



Get the gang together on a chilly night this season to warm up with these resources.

Click on these web addresses to be directed to the respective site.



- **www.pecpa.org** Pennsylvania Environmental Council connects citizens with the natural treasures in the state and expands the constituency for resource conservation and helps facilitate nature-based economic development while transforming communities with innovative green infrastructure.
- **www.sites.allegHENY.edu/creekconnections/classrooms-resources** Stop here to learn more about the award-winning Creek Connections program that includes aquatic insect and stream chemistry fact sheets.
- **<http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/paimap.aspx>** The Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program is a partnership between The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, The PA Fish and Boat Commission and, The PA Game Commission. in cooperation with US Fish & Wildlife Service and is a member of the International Network of Heritage Programs called NatureServe. PHNP helps guide conservation work and land-use planning, ensuring the maximum conservation benefit with the minimum cost. PNHP conducts inventories and collects data regarding the Commonwealth's native biological diversity. Information is stored in an integrated data management system consisting of maps, manuals, and computer files.
- **www.schuylkill.org** Inside this site from the Schuylkill County Visitors Bureau you will find visitor information for your next trip. As a popular outdoor destination, Schuylkill County features - Three State Parks, Seven Campgrounds, the Appalachian Trail, the Little Schuylkill River, Sweet Arrow Lake County Park and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.
- **<http://www.acornnaturalists.com/>** Good inventory of materials to purchase for children and adults to learn more about nature. Excellent service and reasonable prices!

Schuylkill Conservation District Board and Staff

- **District Chair:** Glenn Luckenbill
- **Vice Chair:** Scott Graver
- **Directors:**
- Commissioner Gary Hess
- Stanley Fidler
- Helen Masser
- Dottie Sterner
- F. Diane Wolfgang
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- **Associate Directors:**
- Chris Bentz
- Wayne Bowen
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- Robert Carl, Jr.
- Frank Zukas
- "Boots" Hetherington
- Ronny Aungst
- Russell Wagner
- Ben Vaupel
- Wayne Haas
- Diana Beausang

District Staff phone extensions for 570.622.3742:

- Elizabeth Hinkel, District Manager, 117
- 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, Parks and Recreation Supervisor, 122
- Christy Zulli, Conservation Program Technician, 114
- Bill Reichert, Upper Swatara Flood Recovery Manager, 118
- Wayne Lehman, County Natural Resources Specialist, 120
- Andrea Geist, Agricultural Program Coordinator, 112
- Jenna Fehr, Conservation Program Coordinator, 123
- Lorie Reichert, Conservation Program Asst., 102
- Drew Kline, Asst. Parks & Rec. Supervisor, 122



This is a "heads-up!" The annual tree seedling sale to benefit Sweet Arrow Lake County Park is now underway. Look for a flyer inside Seedling Winter 2016.



Winter 2016
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THE WOODS IN YOUR BACKYARD

Learning to create and enhance natural areas around your home

You are invited to attend this workshop

Saturday, February 20, 2016

8:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Penn State University — Schuylkill Campus

Health and Wellness Building

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Jim Finley who is a noted forest resources professor from Penn State University and an author of the workshop manual

**Because small
spaces are a
big deal!**

Because the vast majority of landowners in Pennsylvania have less than 10 acres, these workshops are designed specifically *but not exclusively* for smaller landscapes. Owners of even the smallest landscapes can make a positive difference in their environment through planning and implementing simple stewardship practices. Participants will receive a manual and speakers will focus on landscape planning for recreation and wildlife, using native plants to enhance your property, attracting pollinators, and how to manage water runoff if you want an ecologically-friendly lawn. **Cost is \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a couple that includes the workshop manual. Space is limited so register today!**

Information: Lorie Reichert — lreichert@co.schuylkill.pa.us or 570.622.3742 ext 5

Woods in Your Backyard is sponsored by:



PennState Extension



The Woods in Your Backyard Workshop Registration Form

\$15 individual

\$25 couple

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Make check payable to: SCHUYLKILL COUNTY CONSERVANCY

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

No receipt will be sent. If you are unable to attend, you may send a substitute. All registrations must be postmarked by February 10, 2016.