

# Seedling

WINTER 2018

**2018 hike schedule  
inside**

**Seedling sale underway with all proceeds  
going to Sweet Arrow Lake County Park**

**NEW SEGMENT OF SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAIL IS  
DEDICATED AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



**PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES**

**Give Us Your Best  
Shot Photo Contest  
submissions being  
accepted**

**Schuylkill Alert now available**

**Winter bird feeding is wildly popular here in Schuylkill County as people appreciate the many types of birds that visit their feeders whether in town or countryside. Provide food in a host of places from the ground on up to the side of a tree. It is a sure way to add color to your winter scene.**







## Jenna St. Clair, District Manager

As we say goodbye to 2017, it is time to look forward to 2018 here at the Conservation District. We try to use this “quiet” time to prepare for the busy spring and summer seasons. Planning begins for annual events like the Bear Creek Festival (mark your calendars: Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>!), but this year we’ll be doing some hiring.

Conservation Program Coordinator Tyler Heffner has accepted a new job and will be leaving his position. We are very grateful to have had his talents on our staff. We hope to introduce his replacement in the next issue of Seedling.

The Conservation District has also elected to administer the Mosquito-borne Disease Control Program, run by PA Department of Environmental Protection. The Schuylkill County Mosquito-borne Disease Program seeks to implement an effective integrated pest management program through education of the public, reduction of mosquito breeding habitat, larval mosquito control and, if necessary, adult mosquito control. We will be hiring a full-time, seasonal position (April to October) to conduct this program.

This is also the beginning of our recruitment for summer interns. An internship provides students with experience in all aspects of the Schuylkill Conservation District. An internship is a great way to network, meet professionals in natural resources conservation, and gain experience in a work environment. Internships are generally offered in the summer (May-August).

For current employment and internship information, visit our website: <http://www.schuylkillcd.com/about/employment-internships>

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](mailto:jstclair@co.schuylkill.pa.us).



Jenna (L) with some other staff at the annual holiday party.



Follow us on Instagram  
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Facebook

***Your Seedling will have you talking around your dinner table!***



- Page 3—Photo Contest flyer
- Page 4—Seedling sale order form
- Page 6—Schuylkill On the Move schedule
- Page 9—Mighty Mini Microbs Tale
- Page 11—Learn more about trails
- Page 12—Nature profile
- Page 13—Trail dedication ceremony pix
- Page 14—Master Gardeners
- Page 15—Conserving resources websites



Winter 2018  
Page 2



# 4th Annual "Give Us Your Best Shot" Photo Contest



Grab your camera and start snapping photos, because Friday, April 6, 2018 marks the final day for local photographers to submit entries for the "Give Us Your Best Shot" Photo Contest. This is the perfect chance to practice nature photography and capture the beauty of Schuylkill County. Photographers of any age and skill level can enter their best photos in two categories.

**Theme 1– "Wildlife of Schuylkill County"** focusing on the beauty of the wild birds and animals of our county.

**Theme 2 – "Why Nature Matters to Me"** highlighting the connections that people have with nature and why those connections are important to them.

## Contest Rules

- Photos must have been taken in Schuylkill County between January 1, 2017 and April 6, 2018.
- Submissions must be the original work of each photographer.
- There is no entry fee but please enter only one photo per theme.
- All submissions should be via email or unframed prints via US mail and include the name, address, phone number and email address of the photographer as well as the type of camera used to take the photo. Email a JPEG file to [lreichert@co.schuylkill.pa.us](mailto:lreichert@co.schuylkill.pa.us) or mail an 8" x 10" print to the Schuylkill Conservation District, 1206 Ag Center Drive, Pottsville, PA 17901. Photos will not be returned.
- Judging is based on originality, technical quality, creativity and natural beauty.
- Winners will be notified on April 23, 2018. All photos will be posted on the District's Facebook page.

## Prizes

There will be a Grand Champion and Runner-up. Three cash prizes for each theme will also be awarded.

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| ★ Grand Champion - The winning photo will be enlarged, matted, framed and presented to the winner at the Conservation District's Annual Awards Ceremony in August. | ★ Second Prize - \$50 |
|  | ★ Third Prize - \$35  |
| ★ Runner-up - The winning photo will be printed on the cover of the Conservation District's Annual Report.   | ★ Fourth Prize - \$25 |



**Get clickin'!**

*The Photo Contest is co-sponsored by*



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



[www.schuylkillconservancy.org](http://www.schuylkillconservancy.org)

For more info contact "Porcupine Pat" McKinney at  
[porcupinepat@yahoo.com](mailto:porcupinepat@yahoo.com) or 570-391-3326.



## 43rd Annual Seedling Sale



Your seedlings will increase property value, enhance wildlife habitat, beautify the landscape, improve the environment, and can provide a source of income. The Sweet Arrow Lake Conservation Association (SALCA) and the Schuylkill Conservation District cooperate together to make this sale possible. ***Your support for Sweet Arrow Lake is appreciated!***

- **DOUGLAS FIR:** Beautiful, symmetrical evergreen that makes an excellent Christmas and landscaping tree. Grows fast in moist, well-drained soil. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 7-14"
- **NORWAY SPRUCE:** Fastest growing of all 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"
- **COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE:** Handsome ornamental or Christmas tree with blue-green needles. Great for wildlife cover. Likes ordinary soil, average moisture, and full sun. 4 year old seedlings. Size: 9-18"
- **AMERICAN ARBORVITAE:** This slow-growing tree prefers full sun to partial shade but adapts to a variety of soil conditions. Prefers moist soils but withstands drought. It grows to a mature height of 25-40 feet, and has a mature spread of 10-15 feet. Good wind-block and provides cover for all types of wildlife year round. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 5-10"
- **EASTERN WHITE PINE:** Great ornamental or Christmas tree with soft, long blue-green needles. Excellent for wildlife cover. Likes ordinary soil, average moisture, and full sun. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 5-10"
- **AUSTRIAN PINE:** Good landscaping tree with 4-6 inch long and stiff needles. Grows to a medium-sized tree with a very dense crown. Nice brown to gray bark color. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 10-16"
- **PIN OAK:** Named for a characteristic where small, thin, dead branches stick out like pins from the main trunk. This is among the most widely planted and fastest-growing native oaks. It tolerates drought, poor soils and is easy to transplant. Popular because of an attractive shape and trunk. The green, glossy leaves show brilliant red to bronze fall color. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 10-20"
- **WHITE FLOWERING DOGWOOD:** Prolific, large, pure white, overlapping petal-like blooms in spring, dark green foliage in summer, red-purple leaves in fall and glossy red berries that persist into winter make this a lovely ornamental tree for all seasons. It has a short trunk, horizontal branches, and a moderately globe-shaped crown. The dense branching provides shade and nesting sites, fruit and buds are a favorite with dozens of bird species, and the nectar and pollen attract butterflies. Dogwoods prefer acidic, moist, well drained sites with partial shade, but will take full sun. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 10-24"
- **RED BUD:** Red Bud grows as a small tree with an abundance of purple blossoms in the spring. It has large heart shaped leaves during the summer, and long seed pods in the fall. Popular landscaping tree. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 15-30"
- **AMERICAN CRANBERRY:** 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: 15-30"
- **WINTERBERRY:** Winterberry is a deciduous shrub growing 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. Offers 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: 10-30"
- **POND CYPRESS:** Similar to Bald Cypress except with finer foliage, thicker bark and always found in non-flowing bodies of water. These trees maintain a desirable straight trunk and develop thick calipers towards the base. Relatively maintenance free requiring minimal pruning. Will grow 50-60 feet tall with a 10-15 foot spread. Likes wet, poorly drained acidic soil. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 10-20"



## 43rd Annual Seedling Sale Order Form—2018

### All proceeds directly benefit Sweet Arrow Lake County Park

**ORDER DEADLINE:** Wednesday, April 4, 2018 or while supplies last!

**PICK UP:** Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in the Clubhouse parking lot at the park.

**NOTE:** Seedlings are bare root and healthy at pick up. No guarantees after this date.

**INFO:** "Porcupine Pat" at 570.391.3326 or porcupinepat@yahoo.com or Mike Stefanick at 570.345.4963 or mikastefanick@comcast.net



Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (night) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_



ITEM	# PER BUNDLE	# DESIRED	COST/BUNDLE	TOTAL
Douglas Fir	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
Norway Spruce	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
Colorado Blue Spruce	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
American Arborvitae	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
Eastern White Pine	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
Austrian Pine	10/bundle		X 9.00 =	
Pin Oak	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
White Flowering Dogwood	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
Red Bud	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
American Cranberry	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
Winterberry	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
Pond Cypress	5/bundle		X 8.00 =	
			<b>Total Sale =</b>	
			<b>Please be sure to pay 6% sales tax =</b>	
			<b>Grand Total =</b>	

- Please make your check payable to SALCA\*. Mail check and this form to: SALCA, PO Box 143, Pine Grove, PA 17963.
- SALCA stands for Sweet Arrow Lake Conservation Association.
- We appreciate your support of Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. For more information: [www.sweetarrowlakepark.com](http://www.sweetarrowlakepark.com) *Thank you for your order!*







# 2018 WALK SCHEDULE



Schuylkill On the Move is a project of Schuylkill County's VISION and promotes positive steps toward good health through walking and an appreciation of the natural beauty and fascinating history of our area. For more information on each walk: [porcupinepat@yahoo.com](mailto:porcupinepat@yahoo.com)

- **Sunday, January 28th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., “Stump Dam”.** “Hiker Jim” Murphy will take you to the Gumboot then Black Diamond Road to Blackwood and then Stump Dam. You’ll follow the old Lehigh Railroad to Silverton. Meet at Llewellyn Hose parking lot. (9 miles, easy) This walk goes on even with light snow on ground.
- **Sunday, January 28th, 2:00-4:30 p.m., “Fort Dietrich Snyder and Appalachian Trail”.** Located on top of Blue Mountain at Rte.183. A short hike to a monument for the fort location. See a natural spring along an abandoned farm pond and continue to hike the AT. Meet at Rte. 183 on top of Blue Mountain. (3 miles, easy)
- **Saturday, February 24th, 10:00-11:00 a.m., “Cabin Fever Walk”.** “Porcupine Pat” guarantees that this walk will cure your fever! Meet at the Waterfall Road parking lot of Sweet Arrow Lake Park. (3 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, February 25th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., “County View”.** “Hiker Jim” offers plenty to see including the “88” and diversion canal plus “The Old Jerk” and a spectacular view of County Schuylkill. Meet behind Mt. Pleasant Hose Company in Buck Run on Rte. 901. (8.4 miles, easy)
- **Sunday, March 11th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., “Broad Mtn. Bench Trail”.** Trek the old Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railbed and historic Centre Turnpike with “Hiker Jim.” There is a lot to see on this dog friendly hike. Meet at 806 Valley Road, Pine Knot. (10.6 miles, easy)
- **Sunday, March 25th, 2:00- 4:00 p.m., “Tri-Valley Trail Trek”.** “Porcupine Pat” takes you on a wilderness-like experience in the outskirts of Hegins. Meet in front of Tri-Valley High School in Hegins. (3 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, April 8th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., “West Creek Headwaters and Waterfall Hike”.** Start on Old Airport Road with “Hiker Jim” as you follow the stream to the waterfall and end in Forestville. The downhill is rocky in spots. Meet outside of 901 Pub on Old Airport Road. (8 miles, moderate)
- **Saturday, April 14th, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., “Rausch Gap”.** State Park Education Specialist Robin Tracey takes you on a hike up the mountain and across to the Village of Rausch Gap. There will be one difficult stream crossing. You’ll be taken back in time! Meet at the concrete pad at the state game lands parking lot on Gold Mine Road off Rte. 443 outside of Pine Grove. Bring a lunch and dogs are welcome but must be leashed. (9.5 miles, difficult)
- **Sunday, April 15th, 1:00-3:30 p.m., “Peak Experience”.** Traverse the top of the Blue Mountain above Port Clinton on this trek that features an overlook and charcoal history. Meet “Porcupine Pat” at the entrance to Conrad Weiser State Forest along Rte. 61 northbound just north of Port Clinton. (3-4 miles, moderate)
- **Saturday, April 28th, 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. Meet in the parking lot of Frog Hollow on Stone Mountain Road just outside of Friedensburg. Open to all ages. (2 miles, easy)
- **Sunday, May 6th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., “Dyer Run Gorge”.** “Hiker Jim” leads you on this Gorge Trail that was re-opened in 2014. Walk in a wilderness area then downhill on “Stephen’s Road.” Meet at 806 Valley Road in Pine Knot. (7 miles, moderate)
- **Saturday, May 19th, 10:00 am.-3:00 p.m., “Silver Creek Fire Tower & Reservoir Hike”.** Meet Robin Tracey at the Locust Lake State Park parking lot to carpool. We’ll go to the reservoir then down to the fire tower for lunch. Bring a lunch and dogs are welcome but must be leashed. (8 miles, difficult)
- **Saturday, May 19th, 1:00-3:00 p.m., “SCEETR Sojourn”.** Visit the site of a major watershed improvement project managed by Schuylkill Headwaters. “Porcupine Pat” leads this walk that features mine water drainage being cleaned before it empties into the nearby river. Meet at the New Philadelphia Post Office along Rte. 209. (3 miles, moderate)
- **Saturday, June 9th, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., “Cold Springs”.** Cold Springs at Hawk Watch, Fort Indiantown Gap. **You must register for this walk by calling Robin at 570-467-2506.** Bring a lunch. **No dogs please.** Meet at the AT parking lot at Rtes. 443 & 72 to carpool. (8 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, June 10th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., “Mine Hill to Mine Hill Gap”.** “Hiker Jim” offers another view of Broad Mountain. See strip mine regrowth, the “black desert”, Mine Hill Gap and views of Heckscherville Valley. Meet at Sunbury Road and Hillside Road. (7 miles, easy)
- **Saturday, June 16th, 1:00-4:00 p.m., “St. Anthony’s Wilderness Walk”.** Hike Pennsylvania’s second largest roadless area with Mike Centeleghe who will also teach you about the trees of Penn’s Woods. Open to all ages. Meet in State Game Lands 211 parking lot on Gold Mine Road. (3 miles, moderate)
- **Saturday, July 7th, 2:00-4:00 p.m., “Rte. 61 Schuylkill River Trail Segment”.** Hike a new stretch of the Bartram Trail, aka Schuylkill River Trail, with “Porcupine Pat”. Scenic views from Tumbling Run to Seven Stars. Meet at the Schuylkill County Ag Center for carpool to the trailhead. (2 miles, easy)
- **Saturday, July 21st, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., “Sweet Arrow Splash”.** Join Mike Centeleghe for a walk around the lake at our first county park. End up at the Waterfall Pavilion area to catch and observe some aquatic critters. Open to all ages. Meet at the Waterfall Road parking lot. (3 miles, easy)



- **Saturday, July 21st, 10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., “Trout Run”.** Robin Tracey leads you on this hike near the creek that includes a visit to the Bordner Cabin. Dogs must be leashed and bring a lunch. Meet at the Trout Run Trailhead located just off Rte. 443 in Swatara State Park. (8 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, July 22nd, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., “Broad Mt. Bench Trail”.** Trek the old Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railbed and historic Centre Turnpike with “Hiker Jim.” There is lots to see on this dog friendly hike. Meet at 806 Valley Road, Pine Knot. (10.6 miles. easy)
- **Saturday, August 11th, 1:00-4:00 p.m., “Swatara State Park Stroll”.** Hike the Swatara State Park with Mike Centeleghe to view natural beauty and see some of nature’s edibles. Open to all ages. (3 miles, moderate)
- **Saturday, August 18th, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., “Long Loop Hike”.** You will hike with Robin Tracey on most of the trails in Tuscarora State Park. See great lake views and cross the dam breast. We finish our hike on the Spirit of Tuscarora Trail. Dogs must be leashed and bring a lunch. Meet at the Crow Trail parking lot at Tuscarora State Park. (8 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, August 19th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., “West Creek Headwaters and Waterfall Hike”.** Start on Old Airport Road in Mt. Pleasant with “Hiker Jim” as you follow the stream to the waterfall and end in Forestville. The downhill is rocky in spots. Nice shady walk! Meet outside of 901 Pub on Old Airport Road. (8 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, August 26th, 2:00-4:00 p.m., “Frackville Foray”.** Hike leader John Domalakes showcases the grave of Frackville founder Daniel Frack and then an awesome overlook of the Mahanoy Valley. Meet at St. Joseph’s Church on North Line Street, Frackville. (3 miles, easy)
- **Monday, September 3rd, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., “Wolf Creek Falls & Reservoir Hike”.** Meet Robin Tracey at the east end of the Wal-Mart parking lot in Saint Clair. **You must register for this walk by calling Robin at 570-467-2506.** A hidden gem! Bring a lunch and dogs must be leashed. (7.5 miles, difficult)
- **Sunday, September 9th, 1:00-4:30 p.m., “Mystical Red Hole Ramble”.** Hike leader John Domalakes leads this tour that features this historic site from the 1750’s French and Indian War. Meet in the parking lot of the Schuylkill County Ag Center, Rte. 901, Pottsville for carpool to the trailhead. (3-4 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, September 16th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., “Mine Hill to Mine Hill Gap”.** “Hiker Jim” offers another view of Broad Mountain. See strip mine regrowth, the “black desert”, Mine Hill Gap and views of Heckscherville Valley. Meet at Sunbury Road and Hillside Road. (7 miles, easy)
- **Saturday, September 22nd, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., “The Pinnacle”.** Gorgeous views from the top of Blue Mountain. Meet Robin Tracey in the State Game Lands parking lot off Rte. 61 south near Port Clinton to carpool. **You must register for this walk by calling Robin at 570-467-2506.** Bring a lunch. **No dogs please.** (11 miles, difficult)
- **Saturday, October 6th, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., “Lebanon Reservoir and Swatara Furnace”.** Robin Tracey leads you on this historic and scenic tour. Meet at the concrete pad at State Game Lands off Gold Mine Road. See a large reservoir and follow the old railbed and then drive to the Swatara Furnace. Bring lunch and dogs are welcome. (7 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, October 7th, 1:00-4:00 p.m., “Walk in Penn’s Woods—Tuscarora State Park”.** Walk in Penn’s Woods aims to get people out to enjoy the woods and to learn about how these woods work for us – from recreation and wildlife habitat to seeing the outcomes of timber harvests. Last year every county in PA hosted this kind of walk and this year is no exception. Meet at the office of Tuscarora State Park. Open to all ages. (2 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, October 14th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., “County View”.** “Hiker Jim” offers plenty to see including the “88” and diversion canal plus “The Old Jerk” and a spectacular view of County Schuylkill. Meet behind Mt. Pleasant Hose Company in Buck Run on Rte. 901. (8.4 miles, easy)
- **Sunday, October 21st, 1:00-4:00 p.m., “Peddler’s Grave”.** Visit the site of the first murder in our area along a turnpike from the late 1700’s. Meet in the parking lot for the Coal Miner’s Memorial on the north side of Shenandoah for carpool to the trailhead. (5 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, November 4th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., “Dyer Run Gorge”.** “Hiker Jim” leads you on this Gorge Trail that was re-opened in 2014. Walk in a wilderness area then downhill on “Stephen’s Road.” Meet at 806 Valley Road in Pine Knot. (7 miles, moderate)
- **Sunday, November 4th, 1:00-3:00 p.m., “Bartram Trail North Stretch”.** Some nature, some history on this trail section. Meet at the Auburn Trailhead on Rte. 895 just before the river to travel to hike start location. (4 miles, easy)
- **Saturday, December 1st, 10:00-11:00 a.m., “Sweet Arrow Sojourn”.** “Porcupine Pat” leads us on a different path for a jaunt around the park that includes some nice scenes of the water. Meet at the Waterfall Road parking lot of Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. (3 miles, easy)
- **Sunday, December 9th, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., “Stump Dam”.** “Hiker Jim” Murphy takes you to the Gumboot then Black Diamond Road to Blackwood and then Stump Dam. You’ll follow the old Lehigh Railroad to Silverton. Meet at Llewellyn Hose parking lot. (9 miles, easy)

**Many thanks to our sponsors. Learn more about our sponsors by visiting their websites.**



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



[www.schuylkill.org](http://www.schuylkill.org)



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



[www.schuylkillhistory.org](http://www.schuylkillhistory.org)



[www.schuylkillconservancy.org](http://www.schuylkillconservancy.org)





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2. Click REGISTER for the SWIFT911 Registration Portal
3. Select the alerts you want and the way that you want to receive them.

Questions?? [ALERTS@SCEMA.ORG](mailto:ALERTS@SCEMA.ORG)

## 2018 PAEE CONFERENCE growing from our roots SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 12th & 13th

Toftrees Resort & Conference Center - State College, PA

The theme of this year's conference – Growing from Our Roots – explores how programs can include local lore and native cultures to increase people's attachment to the environment in their community.

Our annual conference provides rich opportunities to connect with other environmental educators, gain skills related to teaching and interpretation, and learn more about nature and the outdoors.

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*For information about workshops, fieldtrips, speakers, and scholarships, visit [www.paee.net](http://www.paee.net)*

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### ***Wondering how to responsibly recycle materials close to home? Call the Recycling Hotline! 800-346-4242***

The hotline was created as a collaboration between the PA Resources Council (PRC) and what was then the Department of Environmental Resources for the first Recycling Month back in October of 1984. The hotline continues to offer residents of Pennsylvania a resource to get answers to their recycling related questions.

Since adopting the Recycling Hotline, PRC has received thousands of calls from across the state. Residents from 53 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties have called with questions about how to recycle their materials – in fact, PRC received calls from places as far as Colorado, New Mexico, and Florida!

PRC is typically able to connect callers with recycling options for their materials, should they exist, in their counties. This information helps us continue to connect residents across Pennsylvania with the resources they need to responsibly recycle and manage their materials. These calls also enable us to see a bigger picture of what types of needs Pennsylvanians have in regards to disposal.



**Winter 2018  
Page 8**





**Installing foam gaskets on outlets and switches can help prevent drafts.**

This is especially important on outside walls with little insulation. On cold days, you might be able to feel cold air blowing out from the receptacle. Buy foam gaskets at your local hardware store for this simple energy upgrade.



**Toss a Tennis Ball into the Dryer**

This old-school trick really works. When you're drying large, bulky items — such as down comforters, jackets, blankets or pillows — throw in a couple of new tennis balls with the load. The balls bounce around in the dryer to separate the waterlogged, heavy material, which reduces drying time and energy usage.

The creators of a new soil health-themed coloring book believe "Mighty Mini Microbe's Tale" will encourage the next generation of farmers, conservationists and scientists to further unlock the secrets in the soil. The 24-page coloring book is produced by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and is part of its on-going "Unlock the Secrets in the Soil" soil health awareness and education campaign. The coloring book can be ordered or downloaded at [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)



**Winter Tree Tip**

"Pruning during dormancy is the most common practice. It results in a vigorous burst of new growth in the spring and should be used if that is the desired effect. Some species, such as maple, walnuts and birches, may "bleed" when the sap begins to flow. This is not harmful and will cease when the tree leafs out."  
- Arbor Day Foundation



**Winter 2018  
Page 9**



## Trail organization has new name

***“We have changed our name and our logo, but we are not changing what we do,” said Schuylkill River Greenways Executive Director Elaine P. Schaefer. “Our new identity better represents the work we do, building and promoting the Schuylkill River Trail, championing the river and revitalizing the communities along it.”***

Both the new name and the logo, are reflective of the organization’s mission to connect people and communities to the river and the river corridor. The new logo’s green and blue graphic represents fields and towns with a river running through the center. It replaces an old logo with an encircled image of sun and water.

The new name and logo was announced on November 15 at the annual Scenes of the Schuylkill Art Show reception and membership meeting. Over time, all of our signage and web presence will be updated with our new logo.

The new name, Schuylkill River Greenways NHA, was selected following a series of meetings that sought input from board members, staff and other constituents. It harkens back to the group’s roots, while incorporating its present identity as a National Heritage Area.

The organization was founded in 1974 as the Schuylkill River Greenway Association. The Schuylkill River Greenway Association changed its name to the Schuylkill River Heritage Area after being designated as a National Heritage Area by Congress in 2000. Prior to that, in 1995, it had been named a Pennsylvania State Heritage Area. However, the non-profit managing entity for the Schuylkill River Heritage Area maintained the name Schuylkill River Greenway Association.

“Having two names became problematic for us,” said Schaefer. “Some people continued to call us the Greenway, while others knew us as the Heritage Area.

The new name, Schuylkill River Greenways NHA maintains the National Heritage Area distinction and embraces the founding identity. Furthermore, making the word Greenways plural (rather than singular as it had been), speaks to the fact that there are many greenways along the tributaries of the Schuylkill that are important to the river’s health and the region’s economic well-being.

The rebranding comes on the heels of a new strategic plan that sets a course for the Schuylkill River Greenways for the next decade. That plan, completed earlier this year, calls for finishing the entire Schuylkill River Trail, which will run a projected 130 miles from Philadelphia to Pottsville. It also sets goals for protecting and restoring the river, connecting communities to it, and engaging people in programs that encourage them to value and advocate for the river.

Editor’s note: Check out the new stretch of the Schuylkill River Trail that runs along Rt. 61 from Tumbling Run to Seven Stars. The parking lot is just off Tumbling Run Road. For more information: [www.porcupinepat@yahoo.com](mailto:www.porcupinepat@yahoo.com)







# LandSCAPES

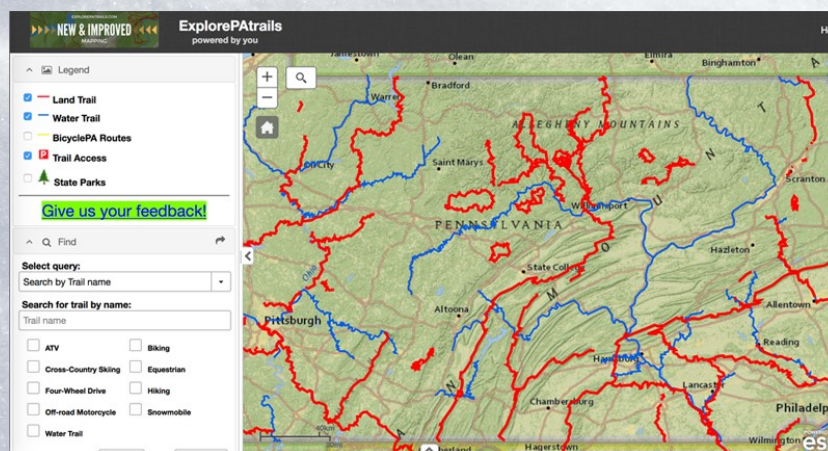
[www.schuylkillconservancy.org](http://www.schuylkillconservancy.org)



*"A heritage worth saving is a legacy worth protecting"*

## Improved Mapping Platform at ExplorePATrails.com

Search the new database at [ExplorePATrails.com](http://ExplorePATrails.com) for the trails that suit your recreation interests. From hiking, to biking to water trails and more, discover the variety Pennsylvania has to offer. The new interactive map will get you exactly where you need to be. Send pictures, data, maps and memories, and help position Pennsylvania as the top trail state in the nation!



## Greenways andTrails.org

**This site showcases numerous trails projects throughout Pennsylvania and the United States. From grant announcements to volunteer opportunities to help create trails, this site is a must for the trails enthusiast. The Schuylkill County Conservancy is working hard to help create trails in our own backyard!**

**Like us on:**



Search *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!



**Winter 2018  
Page 11**



# Mother Nature's Neighbors

**Spotlighting William "Bill" Reichert who serves as president of Schuylkill Headwaters Association and works as the Upper Swatara Flood Recovery Manager for the Schuylkill Conservation District**

## **Why do you care about the environment?**

It's a lifelong commitment. I grew up with a father who hunted and fished. When I was young, we existed on the game and fish he brought home. We always had a deep love for the outdoors and respect for the environment and how it impacted our daily lives.

## **You serve as president of Schuylkill Headwaters. What are the goals of this organization?**

The 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 did work early on to decide what impacted the river most and that led to addressing Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) issues. We successfully developed a plan that noted multiple AMD impacts and were successful in obtaining funds and implementing practices to treat a number of those. More recently, our work has focused on educating the public about different environmental issues. Our Schuylkill Acts and Impacts program introduces school students to man's acts and their impacts through the entire Schuylkill River watershed from here in the county to Philadelphia.

## **How can people help their watershed?**

People can help their watershed in a variety of ways. Simple action steps such as installing a rain barrel or rain garden or planting native plants in their own landscape can slow stormwater runoff and help prevent erosion and



sediment issues. Getting involved in local planning to encourage environmentally sensitive development can also help reduce storm water runoff, recharge groundwater, and help mitigate flooding.

## **Do you have advice for someone who wants to make a difference for our environment?**

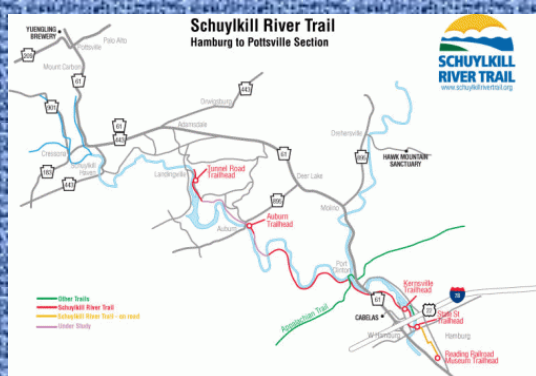
The advice I would offer is to become educated about the issues impacting our environment. Environmental issues can vary from global climate change to local issues such as streambank erosion or stormwater runoff. Joining active groups such as Schuylkill Headwaters, the Schuylkill County Conservancy, or any one of the county watershed groups will allow them to learn more about what they are doing and how they may help.



**The Schuylkill River Trail is wending its way up to Pottsville and points north. A 1.4 mile stretch of new trail was dedicated this past fall as seen in these photos. Located along Rt. 61, the trail was made possible with thanks to the Borough of Schuylkill Haven who graciously permitted the trail to be located on top of their water line from Tumbling Run. Trail users can park along Tumbling Run Road to the right of the gate leading to the water plant located below the reservoir. The trail is flat and scenic from its vantage point above Rt. 61. For more information: [www.schuylkillriver.org](http://www.schuylkillriver.org)**



*Chances are you've already been on this trail! It is also called the John Bartram Trail and is located at Auburn, Hamburg and Landingville.*







PennState Extension

# NEWS LEAF

## Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County

schuylkillmg@psu.edu

570.622.4225 ext. 23

### Winter Gardening by Emily Bradley, MG

Stay in the gardening spirit during the winter months... and start planning! As I sit near the window in my kitchen, with my hands wrapped around a hot cup of coffee, watching the snow come down and creating an insulating white blanket over the ground outside, I wonder how many of you are thinking of gardening.

With the brutally cold temperatures outside, now is a good time to inspect your gardening tools. Either sharpen them yourself or take them to a garden center or hardware store for sharpening.

Perusing seed catalogs can send you dreaming of the beautiful flowers or the ripe fruits and vegetables yet to come. Use these catalogs to help you plan this season's garden.

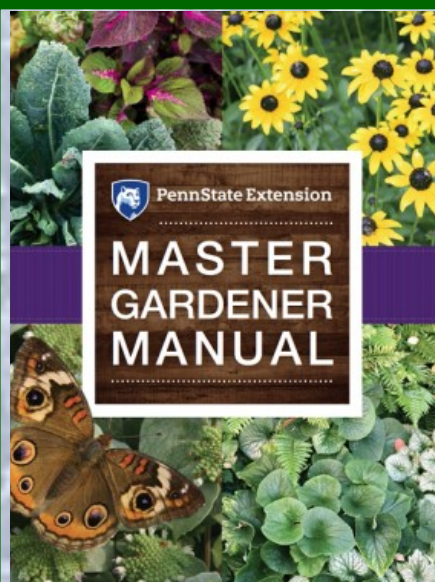
Visiting flower shows, including the Philadelphia Flower Show surely will give you the fever.

Bird feeders need to be kept filled as their food supply is covered now. Birds and all wildlife have a difficult time finding a water supply that is not frozen over so it is important to keep that heated bird bath filled. The birds will thank you with their presence, song and by greatly reducing the insect population.

Pruning shrubs and trees can begin (once the temperature moderates a bit). Begin by removing any dead, diseased or damaged stems. Dead stems attract insects and allow disease to develop. Also remove cross branches so they don't rub together. Some shrubs require pruning in winter and others need to be done in spring after blooming since some flowers form on "new" wood and some form on "old" wood. Information on pruning specific shrubs and trees can be obtained online or through your local extension office.

Don't forget your houseplants. Inspect all of them for insects and diseases that may have hitchhiked into the house with the plants. Remove any dead or diseased leaves and then rinse all of the dust off so they can "breathe" again. I find that placing them in the bathroom shower works beautifully.

Happy Winter – Happy gardening...! Monroe County Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners



#### Who is this for?

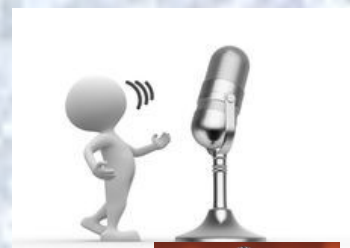
Beginning and advanced gardeners; plant, landscape, and pest professionals

#### What will you learn?

Botany; plant propagation and care; soil health, fertilizer management, and composting; plant diseases and pests; indoor plants; vegetable gardens; lawn care and landscape design; ornamentals; tree fruit and small fruit; herbaceous plants; native plants; weeds and invasive species; garden wildlife; gardening equipment.

#### How do I get a copy?

<https://extension.psu.edu/master-gardener-manual>



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



Winter 2018  
Page 14





**Searching for something related  
to the environment?  
We did the legwork for you!  
Click on these sites for more info.**

**www.wilderness.net/NWPS/maps** Wilderness.net's GIS-based map overlays legislative designated wilderness boundaries on satellite data provided by ESRI and Bing Maps. Boundary updates are obtained from the wilderness management agencies. The site connects educators, the public, scientists and more to their wilderness heritage.

**www.kidsplanet.org** Wildlife games, a teacher's link, adopt program and more cool stuff on this site for anyone interested in wildlife issues from throughout the world.

**www.redcreekwildlifecenter.com** Schuylkill Haven based wildlife rehabilitation center led by director Peggy Hentz. Their goal is to rehabilitate animals and then return to the wild. Good source of information on what to do when you find an injured animal. The center relies on donations for their program.

**www.lvzoo.org** The Lehigh Valley Zoo is not far from Schuylkill County in Lehigh County. Lehigh Valley Zoo's mission is to create a safe, engaging and enlightening wildlife experience for guests of all ages as it demonstrates leadership in the cultural, scientific and conservation communities.

**www.laketobias.com** Since 1965 Lake Tobias Wildlife Park has been fascinating patrons with its wild, exotic animals and adventure-seeking safari tours. Located near Halifax in Dauphin County.

**www.pgc.pa.gov** The site for the Pennsylvania Game Commission that features loads of information about local wildlife with ample resources for sportsmen, teachers, and the general public. There is a special kids corner and a wildlife coloring book in that section.

### **Schuylkill Conservation District Board and Staff**

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- **District Chair:**  
Glenn Luckenbill
- **Vice Chair:**  
Scott Graver
- **Directors:**
  - Commissioner Gary Hess
  - Stanley Fidler
  - Helen Masser
  - Dottie Sterner
  - F. Diane Wolfgang
  - Eric Leiby
  - Glenn Hetherington

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- Chris Bentz
- John Usalis
- Robert Carl, Jr.
- Frank Zukas
- "Boots" Hetherington
- Russell Wagner
- Ben Vaupel
- Diana Beausang

#### **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
- Robert Evanchalk, Assistant Parks and Recreation Supervisor, 3334
- Christy Zulli, Conservation Program Technician, 3327
- Bill Reichert, Upper Swatara Flood Recovery Manager, 3331
- Wayne Lehman, County Natural Resources Specialist, 3333
- Andrea Reiner, Agricultural Program Coordinator, 3325
- Vacant, Conservation Program Coordinator, 3330
- Lorie Reichert, Conservation Program Asst., 3316
- Drew Kline, Parks & Rec. Supervisor, 3334
- Alexa Kramer, Natural Resources Conservationist, 3336



**The Annual Seedling Sale is now underway. You can help benefit Sweet Arrow Lake County Park by making a purchase. Look for a flyer inside this issue.**



**Winter 2018  
Page 15**