

# Seedling

Winter 2020

Catch up on garden chores  
over winter

**E & S Manual  
for Agricultural  
Operations  
available**

**PHOTO  
CONTEST  
INFO**

**2020 SCHUYLKILL ON THE  
MOVE HIKE SCHEDULE**



**PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES**

**STREET ART CONTEST INFO**

Winter birds add color to the mostly gray, brown, and black landscape. Bird feeding is a virtual art to some and the more variety you offer the more diversity of birds that you'll see. Kaytee Products of Cressona makes great birdseed!



## Jenna St. Clair, District Manager

2019 has been a busy year where we have laid the groundwork for 2020—our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary year! We plan to celebrate this milestone with special events, articles, and a look to the future with our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

In 1955, Dr. James S. Shadle started a petition among county farmers to form a soil conservation service. The petition was presented to the County Commissioners and the “Soil Conservation District” was formed. In 1972 the name was officially changed to the Schuylkill Conservation District. We have grown from four founding directors to a nine-member board and 15 staff.

The District has evolved from an emphasis on soil conservation to one of all natural resource conservation efforts including erosion and sediment control, watershed protection, abandoned mine land remediation, environmental education, farmland preservation, farm conservation planning, outdoor recreation, riparian buffers, stream-bank stabilization, nutrient management, and land use.

The “20/20 vision” references will be endless this year, but we look forward to sharing our plans as we work towards the District’s vision for Schuylkill County:

**The Schuylkill Conservation District strives to become an accessible local leader in natural resource conservation to create an improved environment and better quality of life throughout Schuylkill County.**

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



**Jenna and board chair Glenn Luckenbill receiving the Leadership Excellence Award from the State Conservation Commission at a PACD meeting. The award recognized the district directors and staff.**



*Jenna St. Clair*

## Annual tree seedling sale update

You will notice that the seedling sale order form that benefits Sweet Arrow Lake County Park is not in this issue. Our long-time wholesale tree seedling farm has not gotten back to us with an order form as of press time. We may be switching to another supplier in order to provide you with the seedlings that you want for your property. Of special interest to readers is that a tree planting world record has been set this past summer by the African country of Ethiopia. More than 350 million trees were planted in that country in a 12 hour period. The burst of tree planting was part of a wider reforestation campaign named “Green Legacy” and spearheaded by the country’s prime minister.



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# PRPS/PAEE JOINT CONFERENCE & EXPO



The Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society and the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators are excited to announce a new partnership — the 2020 PRPS/PAEE Joint Conference & Expo — that will combine two conferences to provide new opportunities to learn from a broad network of outdoor professionals.

Our members mutually seek to increase healthful, sustainable connections between people and nature in our parks and public spaces. Our programs reach many of the same audiences.

We advocate for the same issues and for adequate funding to improve conditions and people's lives. We want better places to live, learn and play!

Here is what to expect:

- More than 100 vendors of products and services in the Expo Hall
- Network with over 500 persons involved in the broad field of recreation, parks, environmental education and conservation
- Educational sessions on the following tracks: Professional Development, Urban Recreation, Park Resources, Trails & Facilities, Aquatics, Programming, Social Media & Marketing, Inclusion and Accessibility, Directors and Environmental Education

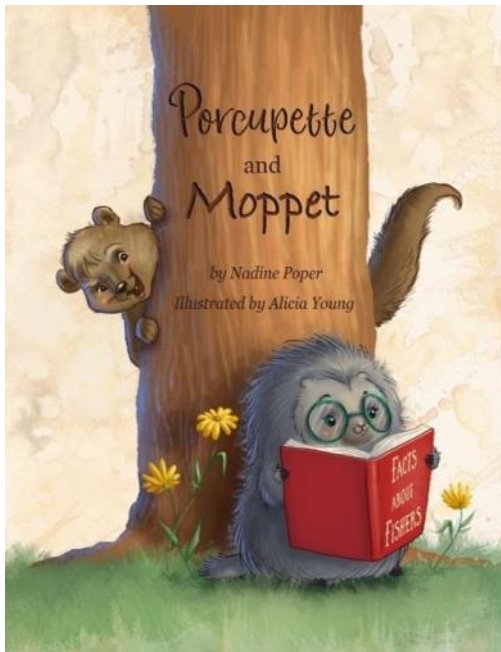
Seven Springs is located in scenic Somerset County near Champion, Pennsylvania. The resort offers all amenities and comfortable lodging.

For more information visit: <https://prps.org/2020Conference/Registration/2020Conference/Registration.aspx?EventKey=0bce6079-a7a9-48d8-bdec-0be75f9075f8&hkey=119267ff-95ca-4223-a446-3966fa9e496d>



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION of  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS

## New children's book focuses on a porcupine and a fisher



Porcupette loves to spend days alone in the quiet forest reading. But when Moppet, a bumbling predator, comes along with his silly antics and non-stop rambling, Porcupette's sanctuary is turned topsy-turvy. When Moppet finally makes his move, they both get a big surprise that suggests Moppet should read more, and Porcupette should listen more carefully. Alicia Young's delightful art brings even more life and humor to Nadine Poper's fun and educational story about a porcupine, a fisher, and their natural relationship in the wild. Available in hardcover (ISBN No. 978-0-9814938-3-1) and soft (ISBN No. 978-0-9814938-4-8)

A 32-page picture book for ages 4-8.

*Porcupette and Moppet* is written by [Nadine Poper](#), and illustrated by [Alicia Young](#).

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

[www.nadinepoper.weebly.com](http://www.nadinepoper.weebly.com)



**SCHUYLKILL**  
ACTS & IMPACTS  
An Expedition to Inspire Watershed Action



Schuykill Acts & Impacts is a week-long watershed expedition along the 120 miles of the Schuykill River from its headwaters in the anthracite coal lands of Schuylkill County to its confluence with the Delaware River in Philadelphia. Twelve select students from all five counties in the watershed come together to experience first-hand the impact of human development on water quality through guided tours, fieldwork, water sampling and interactive presentations with policy makers and planners.

Topics explored include the impact of legacy coal mining on water quality, agricultural impacts including soil erosion and manure management, the role of land preservation in watershed health, and the impacts of stormwater and land development on water resources. Daily reflection and discussion will challenge participants to think about their own habits and use of water, how they relate to others, and provide them with tools to take action in their own communities in the watershed.



**An application for the 2020 expedition is available as of mid - January by visiting [www.schuylkillheadwaters.org](http://www.schuylkillheadwaters.org)**



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## **Manual developed for E & S control for Agricultural Operations**

The Department of Environmental Protection published [notice in the October 5 PA Bulletin](#) that it has finalized the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Manual For Agricultural Operations (*not yet online*).

Chapter 102 regulations for a long time have required all agricultural operations to minimize accelerated erosion and sedimentation to the waters of this Commonwealth by implementing appropriate Best Management Practices.

Those operations that plow or till 5,000 or more square feet, including no-till, or that have Animal Heavy Use Areas that are 5,000 or more square feet in total, are required to have a written Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.

The Manual is designed to provide these agricultural operations with guidance on designing and implementing best management practices. More specifically the Manual describes--

- What: what is an Ag E&S Plan?
- Who: to whom does it apply?
- Why: attempted to focus on the benefits to the farmer as well as regulatory compliance
- When: when would it need to be developed, updated, implemented, etc.
- How: how should it be developed (i.e. how to identify and address resource concerns)
- Includes reference to tools and resources (i.e. NRCS, [PAOneStop](#), Conservation District planning assistance)



The new Manual is designed to complement the existing [Manure Management Manual](#) and make complying with the erosion and sedimentation requirements easier for small farmers.

DEP developed the Manual in consultation with county conservation districts, the State Conservation Commission, Penn State Extension, the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service-PA and DEP's own Agricultural Advisory Board members.

## **National Weather Service Recognizes Pennsylvania After All 67 Counties Achieve StormReady® Status**

This past November, PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) officials from the National Weather Service recognized Pennsylvania as one of only six states in the nation to have all counties achieve StormReady® status. "PEMA is really pleased to receive StormReady status, something that only six states have," PEMA Director Randy Padfield said. "It took the commitment and hard work of each of our counties, but because of this achievement, the commonwealth and our communities are now prepared for extreme weather."

"The commitment demonstrated by communities across Pennsylvania to meet StormReady requirements is a recognition that advanced preparation and planning are essential components of protecting the state's 13 million citizens and 200 million annual visitors from extreme weather events," said Louis W. Uccellini, Ph.D., director of the National Weather Service. "People flock to this beautiful state for outdoor recreation, drawn by the vast network of state parks, hiking trails, waterways, amusement parks, music festivals, and countless college and professional sporting events. StormReady programs are designed to help ensure readiness and action across the population as we work together to build a Weather-Ready Nation."

StormReady uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle all types of extreme weather, from tornadoes to winter storms. The program encourages communities to take a new, proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations by providing emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations. To be officially StormReady, a county must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public;
- Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally;
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars; and
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan that includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.



"We are pleased to recognize the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as StormReady, which means that each of the state's 67 counties across 46,000 miles is prepared for hazardous weather with robust operations and communications plans," said Barbara Watson, meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service's Central Pennsylvania Forecast Office.



# 6th Annual “Give Us Your Best Shot” Photo Contest

Grab your camera and start snapping photos, because March 8, 2020 marks the final day for local photographers to submit entries for the Sixth Annual “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 photo using the following theme:

**Theme: “Landscapes of Schuylkill County” focuses on the beauty of our rolling landscape. Your picture should include local scenery with a preference for the mountains that surround us. There are many locations to focus on that can include scenes of Second Mountain, Blue Mountain, Broad Mountain and more!**

## Contest Rules

- Photos must have been taken in Schuylkill County between January 1, 2019 and March 1, 2020.
- Submission must be the original work of each photographer.
- There is no entry fee but please enter only one photo.
- 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. Your photo will not be returned.
- Judging is based on originality, technical quality, creativity and natural beauty.
- Winners will be notified near the end of March 2020. All photos will be posted on the District’s Facebook page.

## Prizes

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

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| * <b>Grand Champion</b> - The winning photo will be enlarged, matted, framed and presented to the winner at the Conservation District’s Annual Awards Ceremony in August. | * <b>Second Prize</b> - \$75 |
|   | * <b>Third Prize</b> - \$50  |
|   | * <b>Fourth Prize</b> - \$35 |
| * <b>Runner-up (wins Second Prize)</b> - The winning photo will be printed on the cover of the Annual Report of the Schuylkill Conservation District.                     |                              |



**Good luck clickin’!**

**Give Us Your Best Shot Photo Contest is sponsored by**



PEOPLE - CONSERVATION - RESOURCES

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



For more info contact: “Porcupine Pat” McKinney at  
[porcupinepat@yahoo.com](mailto:porcupinepat@yahoo.com) or 570.391.3326

# STREET ART CONTEST ANNOUNCED

## Contest Rules

### Who Can Enter?

Any student **grades 6-12** who attends school within **Berks, Chester, Montgomery, or Schuylkill Counties**.

### How Do You Enter?

1. Create an **ORIGINAL** drawing showing how we can all **make the water cleaner**.

**Positive messages are encouraged!**

2. Submit your **ORIGINAL** drawing with the entry form to:

**Partnership for the Delaware Estuary**  
110 S. Poplar Street, Suite 202  
Wilmington, DE 19801

**By Friday, January 31, 2020**

Winning drawings will be digitally enhanced and enlarged to be applied around a storm drain. Your artwork will be a visual reminder that **only rain** should go down the storm drain!

### Requirements

- Each entry **MUST** have a copy of the **Entry Form** filled out legibly and entirely. Tape or glue the **form** to the back of your drawing - NO staples please. Only **ONE** entry may be submitted per student.
- Artwork **MUST** be **HORIZONTAL** and on an **8 1/2 x 11** inch sheet of **WHITE** paper.
- No Trademarks. Please do not use any trademarked phrases, logos, or images (for example "Just Do It" or Coca Cola).

### Deadline

All entries must be mailed by:

**Friday, January 31, 2020**

*(extended from the Dec. 20, 2019 deadline)*

## Winners!

There will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner for each of the following four counties: Berks, Chester, Montgomery, and Schuylkill, for a total of 12 winners. Winners will be announced in February of 2020.

## Prizes

- 1st Place Winner:** Artwork transformed into street art, a clean water presentation for the class, and a \$100 gift card
- 2nd Place Winner:** \$75 gift card
- 3rd Place Winner:** \$50 gift card

Your artwork can be transformed into street art!



Psst.... Pass it on! Please share this announcement with other educators!

Visit

[SchuylkillWaters.org](http://SchuylkillWaters.org)  
to learn more!

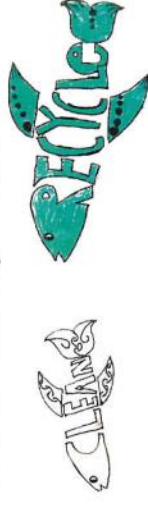
## Only Rain Down the Drain!

Did you know... when rain or melting snow flows over the land, it picks up pollutants like trash, dog poop, pesticides, sediments, and oil from leaking cars, and carries it into our storm drains - which lead to the Schuylkill River.

Most of us within Berks, Chester, Montgomery, and Schuylkill Counties get our drinking water from the Schuylkill River. By keeping our land and our storm drains clean, we're helping to keep our drinking water clean.



- Clean up after your pet
- Do not litter
- Plant native trees, plants, and flowers
- Recycle and use reusable items, like water bottles, containers, and bags
- Use products with natural ingredients
- Volunteer at cleanups in your township or for an environmental organization.



# SEEDS



There are about 7,000 varieties of apples in the world according to "Cook's Wisdom." So, even if you tried a different apple every day it would take you nearly 20 years to sample the entire spectrum!

**Click here to learn more about our water resources in Pennsylvania:**

<https://geology.com/lakes-rivers-water/pennsylvania.shtml>



Nearly three-quarters of Pennsylvania's seventeen million forested acres is in the hands of private forest landowners. Pennsylvania has an unusually abundant and high-quality hardwood resource—one of the best in the world. With the demand for our timber growing, private landowners face increasing pressure to harvest trees. We can meet the demand for Pennsylvania timber and sustain our forests for the future through well-planned harvests that consider all forest values. The need in our state for forest stewardship—wise management and use—is pressing. Winter is a good time to think about your forested property and to develop a Forest Stewardship Plan. To learn more visit: [www.dcnr.pa.gov](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov) and type Forest Stewardship Plan.



"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness. " -- John Steinbeck



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## TASTY TOMATOES!

Late winter is a good time to start your tomatoes. Tomatoes are packed with vitamins and nutritious goodness, but store bought tomatoes are often bland. Luckily, they grow pretty easily from seed, and you can ensure that your homegrown tomatoes are packed with flavor. Just sprinkle some baking soda over your seeds before you plant them. Before you know it, you'll have succulent and tasty tomatoes straight from your garden.



Attention students in Schuylkill County within the Schuylkill River Watershed. The new year is a great time to start filling out scholarship and award applications. The Schuylkill Headwaters Association has one such award. The link below will take you to the requirements and the application.

[https://www.sacfoundation.com/.../award\\_schuylkill\\_headwaters...](https://www.sacfoundation.com/.../award_schuylkill_headwaters...)



2020

## 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) Poor weather cancels!

\* **Saturday, January 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:** "The Pinnacle" led by Mark Schraeder. Excellent views of the area. Meets at Hamburg Reservoir parking lot. (9 miles—difficult)

\* **Sunday, January 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:** "Gold Mine Mountain Special" with "Sojourner Steve." See abandoned mines, old railroads, an old stage coach road and an old reservoir. Meet at the Game Commission parking lot across from Boxcar Rocks on Gold Mine Road. Dog friendly hike. (5 miles—easy) Info: 717-451-7042.

\* **Saturday, January 25 from 10:30 a.m. to noon:** "Shenandoah Kilbo Trail Hike" led by "Hiker Jim E." Meets at East Centre and Bower streets for this hike of the Lehigh Valley Railroad through Shenandoah. (2 miles—easy) Info: 570-527-7748

\* **Saturday, February 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:** "Broad Mountain Bench Trail" led by "Hiker Jim E." Meets at Mt. Pleasant Hose Company on Rt. 901. Hike the Ashland Extension RR and Centre Turnpike on Broad Mountain. Great view of Schuylkill County. Meet behind Mount Pleasant Hose Company in Buck Run on Rt. 901. Old Ashland Extension and Centre Turnpike featured. Dog friendly. (7 miles—easy) Info: 570-527-7748

\* **Sunday, February 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:** "Big Lick Mountain Adventure" led by "Sojourner Steve." Trek Big Lick Mountain trails to see railroads, Williamstown Tunnel, Big Lick Slope and Big Lick Water Level Tunnel. Meet at the Dollar General Store on Rt. 209 in Williamstown. Dog friendly hike. (6.5 miles—moderate) Info: 717-451-7042.

\* **Saturday, February 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:** "D & L Trail Meander" led by "Hiker Jim E." Meets at Rt. 54 and Morea Road to carpool to D & L rail trail in Jessup. Easy river grade hiking on macadam path. Length and direction will be hikers choice. Info: 570-527-7748

\* **Saturday, February 22 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.:** "Cabin Fever Walk" "Porcupine Pat" guarantees that this walk will cure your fever! Meet at the new Waterfall Road Pavilion at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. (2 miles—moderate)

\* **Sunday, March 22 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:** "Bear Valley Hike" led by "Sojourner Steve." Trek Bear Valley Loop to see Adams Rock, Bear Valley Swamp, and various old mines. Meets at Rt. 125 west of Good Spring at intersection of Gap Street and Bear Valley Road. Dogs welcome. (9.5 miles—moderate) Info: 717-451-7042.

\* **Saturday, March 28 beginning at 8:30 a.m.:** "Governor Dick State Park in Mt. Gretna" State park staff will lead this hike. Meets at Rt. 901 and I-81 at carpool lot at 8:30 a.m. to drive to park. (6 miles—easy) Info: 570-527-7748 Alternate meeting site is Loves at Exit 90 of I-81 by 9:00 a.m.

\* **Wednesday, April 1 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.:** "Wednesday Wander" with "Meandering Mandy" Fitzpatrick leads you on a stretch of the Schuylkill River Trail that parallels Rt. 61 at Tumbling Run. It is recommended that adults get 150 minutes of physical activity each week. Join Mandy for this stroll that meets at the old 84 Lumber parking lot for carpool to the hike start location. (3 miles—easy)

\* **Saturday, April 4 from 2:00 to 4:00 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 Rt. 61 northbound just north of Port Clinton. (3-4 miles—moderate)

\* **Sunday, April 5 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.:** "Mahanoy Plane Hike" led by "Hiker Jim E." See remains of Mahanoy Plane, enginehouse, Lawrence/Madeira Hill Coal Company Tunnel. (3 miles—easy) Hikers will need to sign waiver from Famous Reading Outdoors and a \$2.00 donation is requested to offset cost of FRO membership. Info: 570-527-7748

\* **Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 to 11:00 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)

For more hikes visit "Schuylkill County Hikes" on Facebook. You can download a "Trails Directory" for the county at [www.schuylkill.org/trailsdirectory](http://www.schuylkill.org/trailsdirectory). Click on MAPS to see this directory. You can also download or view the "Schuylkill County Outdoor Recreation Map" at this same location.

\* **Saturday, April 25 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.:** “Silver Creek Fire Tower & Reservoir Hike” Meet **Robin Tracey** at the Locust Lake State Park visitor parking lot at 10:15 a.m. to carpool. We’ll go to the reservoir then down to the fire tower for lunch. Bring a lunch and dogs are welcome. (8 miles--difficult)

\* **Saturday, April 25 from 1:00 to 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, April 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:** “Kalmia Tunnel Hike” led by “**Sojourner Steve.**” Hike Sharp Mountain Railroad to old Kalmia Tunnel Works and end at top of Gold Mine Mountain. Meets at Nelson’s Beer Distributor on Rt. 209 in Tower City. (5 miles—moderate) Info: 717-451-7042

\* **Wednesday, May 6 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.:** “Wednesday Wander” “**Meandering Mandy**” **Fitzpatrick** leads you on a stretch of the Schuylkill River Trail that parallels Rt. 61 at Tumbling Run. It is recommended that adults get 150 minutes of physical activity each week. Join Mandy for this stroll that meets at the old 84 Lumber parking lot for carpool to the hike start location. (3 miles—easy)

\* **Saturday, May 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** “**Glen Onoko Snakes Are Our Friends Hike**” led by “**Hiker Jim E.**” and **Mark Schraeder**. Hike the old rail bed looking for snakes in the retaining walls. We are not going to the falls as they are closed to the public. Meets at Rt. 54 and Morea Road to carpool. Easy short walk.

\* **Saturday, May 16 from 10:30 a.m. to 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 that loops around the lake and crosses the dam breast. We finish our hike on the Spirit of Tuscarora Trail. Dogs must be leashed and bring a lunch. Meets at the Crow Trail parking lot at Tuscarora State Park. (9 miles—moderate)

\* **Sunday, May 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:** “**Big Lick Mountain**” led by “**Sojourner Steve.**” Trek Big Lick Mountain trails to see railroads, Williamstown Tunnel, Big Lick Slope and Big Lick Water Level Tunnel. Meet at the Dollar General Store on Rt. 209 in Williamstown. Dog friendly hike. (6.5 miles—moderate) Info: 717-451-7042.

\* **Saturday, May 30 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.:** “**Stonehedge Gardens Tour & LNE Rail Trail**” “**Porcupine Pat**” leads this hike to explore the beauty of the gardens and the nearby rail trail. Meets in the parking lot of the gardens on Dairy Road in West Penn Township. (3 miles--easy)

\* **Wednesday, June 3 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.:** “Wednesday Wander” “**Meandering Mandy**” **Fitzpatrick** leads you on a stretch of the Schuylkill River Trail that parallels Rt. 61 at Tumbling Run. It is recommended that adults get 150 minutes of physical activity each week. Join Mandy for this stroll that meets at the old 84 Lumber parking lot for carpool to the hike start location. (3 miles—easy)

\* **Sunday, June 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:** “**Bear Valley Hike**” led by “**Sojourner Steve.**” Trek Bear Valley Loop to see Adams Rock, Bear Valley Swamp, and various old mines. Meets at Rt. 125 west of Good Spring at intersection of Gap Street and Bear Valley Road. Dogs welcome. (9.5 miles—moderate) Info: 717-451-7042.

\* **Saturday, June 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.:** “**Swatara State Park Sand Siding Hike**” Meet **Robin Tracey** at Sand Siding Road parking lot of Rt. 443. We will be following Swatara Creek and viewing some very unique wildflowers. Bring lunch and dogs are welcome. (6.5 miles-easy)

\* **Saturday, June 20 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.:** “**Mahanoy Plane Part 2**” Meet “**Hiker Jim E.**” at the Frackville Library on East Lehigh Ave for an easy three mile hike of the old plane ruins and Lawrence/Madeira Hill Coal Company Tunnel. Famous Reading Outdoors waiver must be signed. \$2.00 donation suggested. Info: 570-527-7748

\* **Friday, June 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon:** “**Pottsville Pennsy Trail Hike**” led by “**Hiker Jim E.**” Meet in the parking lot of the Schuylkill County Visitors Bureau for carpool to site. This is a three mile easy hike of Pennsylvania and Reading Railroad in Pottsville. We will also tour the old P&R station and old Mount Carbon yard. Info: 570-527-7748

### **Schuylkill On the Move walks are sponsored by these organizations**



PEOPLE \* CONSERVATION \* RESOURCES

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



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



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



 Find us on Facebook



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



# LandSCAPES



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

## **2019 ROLAND BERGNER LAND AND NATURE ADVOCATE AWARD**

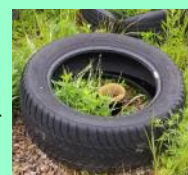
Jane Kruse was awarded the 2019 Roland Bergner Memorial Land and Nature Advocate Award at the annual Schuylkill County Conservancy Fall Gathering. Conservancy president "Porcupine Pat" McKinney presented the award to Jane. The late Roland Bergner was a charter member of the Conservancy and shared its vision of promoting land stewardship on his 448 acres located west of Weisample not far from Lavelle.



Jane is a Master Gardener with Penn State Cooperative Extension and volunteers many hours educating the public on pollinators and landscape planting. Her special project this year was the development of a children's interactive garden at Walborn Playground in Orwigsburg that was accomplished through her membership in the South Schuylkill Garden Club. She also cares for her neighborhood playground in Pottsville and is a member of the Pottsville Shade Tree Commission. She serves on the Conservancy's Membership Committee and writes for local newspapers on various topics relating to plants and the environment. Jane has a passion and commitment to share and promote natural surroundings in Schuylkill County's public places for all to enjoy. Congratulations Jane!

## **SCHUYLKILL COUNTY CONSERVANCY MEMBER INITIATES A GOOD DEED**

Schuylkill County Conservancy member Steve Zuk is true to one of the Conservancy's core values by "working to protect and enhance the quality of life in Schuylkill County." Zuk notified the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority of an old tire dump on their 77 acre property that stretches from Cressona to Branch Township. Zuk was aware of the tire dump since he was a child. Several parties, including Ken's Tires, Lehigh Law Enforcement and North Manheim Township were coordinated by the SCMA environmental engineer to remove approximately 150 tires in a cleanup held this past summer. Since the site is now clean, the risk for a tire fire and breeding site for mosquitoes that carry illnesses has been eliminated. Thank you Steve for your commitment and demonstration to the Schuylkill County Conservancy's mission!



## **2019 FALL MEMBERSHIP GATHERING HELD**

Twenty five members and guests of the Schuylkill County Conservancy met this past October at the Red Lion Café in Pine Grove for their annual Fall Membership Gathering. Dan Mummert, PA Game Commission Wildlife Diversity Biologist was the guest speaker. He presented an informative program on *"BARN OWL CONSERVATION IN PA."* Since 2005, Mummert has been working with the *Barn Owl Initiative Program* to track the number and location of barn owls in Schuylkill County and surrounding areas. The Initiative also works to improve barn owl habitat, longevity, dispersal (where fledglings relocate) and public outreach for education and awareness.

Barn owls, easily recognized by their heart shaped facial disk and screeching "Halloween" sounding song are one of Pennsylvania's Species of Concern. Because of increased urban development, decreasing large trees and barns with wide beams for nesting, barn owl population has been on decline in Pennsylvania over the past six years. In addition, the conversion of hay fields and meadows to row crop farming has impacted the population. Besides nesting areas to lay their eggs and raise their broods, barn owls need long valleys of continuous grasslands and meadows to feed on their main diet of meadow voles.

As part of his presentation, Mummert had photos of precarious situations climbing to the top of a grain silos and barn beams to locate nesting sites. Each fledging needs to be removed from the nest and banded for study and tracking. Mummert reported they tracked one Barn Owl as far away as the Bahamas. Mummert's passion for the Barn Owl Initiative has worked to protect and increase the richness of the barn owl in our county. The Schuylkill Conservancy applauds Mummert and shares his vision to "protect unique and threatened natural features, flora and fauna" of Schuylkill County.



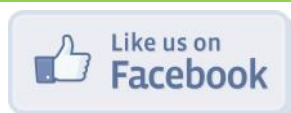
To learn more information about the PA Game Commission's Barn Owl Initiative contact [pgc.state.pa.us](http://pgc.state.pa.us) and click on "Barn Owl Initiative." Contact Mummert at [dmummert@pa.gov](mailto:dmummert@pa.gov)

Beside a good meal and fellowship with others who share the same passions and missions for our county, each attendee received a favor of a barn owl created with pine cones depicting the easily recognized feature of the owl's heart shaped facial disc. **MARK YOUR CALENDER NOW TO ATTEND NEXT YEAR'S MEMBERSHIP FALL GATHERING PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2020.**

**For information on membership in the Schuylkill County Conservancy email [schuylkillcountyconservancy@gmail.org](mailto:schuylkillcountyconservancy@gmail.org)**

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

[@SchuylkillCountyConservancy](https://www.facebook.com/SchuylkillCountyConservancy)



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## Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County

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

570.622.4225 ext. 23

### ***Catch up on your garden chores over winter*** *by Tom Reed*

Winter is the time that gardeners take a break.....right? There are plenty of catchup things to be accomplished.

Chores include ensuring that all tools are cleaned and properly put away. Gas powered equipment should be periodically operated for ten or fifteen minutes if they are stored with fuel in the tank or drain the fuel.

Larger equipment such as lawnmowers, tillers, and tractors should have their annual maintenance done now so they are ready in the spring. Review the garden log and have the plants ready for spring planting.

If it is cold, snowy and blowing, I recommend looking through the many seed catalogs and get your order in so you can be ready to go when conditions are right. Don't fret if you start your own seeds! The end of March and April will soon be here. You can follow seed package directions to get started for one more year.

Enjoy the down time and stay warm.



**Your tiller is an important tool that needs annual maintenance.**

### ***Try this idea for a seed organizer***

With everything going digital, your old photo albums are either gathering dust or being tossed. Instead of getting rid of them, use the albums to organize your seed packs. You never use all the seeds in one go anyway. Now you have a good way to store excess seeds!



### **Here is how to keep your fingernails clean after gardening**

Gardening can sometimes become a messy affair and you are left with the dirt under your fingernails to prove it. A little preparation beforehand can save you the hassle of cleaning your nails afterward. Just dig your nails into a bar of soap before you start gardening. The soap takes the place that the dirt would have taken. Once you are finished, just rinse the soap off and you'll have perfectly clean nails in no time.



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

## Award-Winning Water Education Tools For Youth Now Available From Penn State Extension

A bundle of award-winning [water education tools from Penn State Extension](#) is now available and designed to engage youth in learning opportunities about water, science, and technology, and will help to create a future generation of water stewards and innovators. Youth play an important role in becoming informed citizens and future decision makers.

Water is an essential resource. While most everyone knows that we need water to survive, we often overlook all the other important roles water plays in our lives. It's not hard to think of all the direct water uses we encounter day to day, like drinking, bathing, cooking, cleaning, and watering our gardens.

We use a lot more water indirectly everyday. Water is used for generating electricity, growing fruits and vegetable crops, raising livestock, manufacturing of nearly everything including electronics and construction materials, and transportation of products around the world.

### **Rain to Drain-Slow the Flow: Curriculum**

This hands-on curriculum book is easy to use in classrooms, afterschool programs, nature centers, scout meetings and even independently. This experiment style series of activities leads youth and adults to a better understanding of the movement of stormwater in natural and developed communities. It's also a great introduction to green infrastructure and stormwater best management practices.

### **Watershed Decisions Activity Kit**

This is a hands-on, inquiry-based activity that helps older youth and adults learn about water quality issues surrounding small watersheds and the decision-making processes that go into improving those water quality issues. As "new members" of a community organization interested in improving local water quality, Watershed Decisions participants role-play while examining simulated water samples, exploring the land users in their community, and then creating a plan for improving their watershed on a limited budget.

There is no one solution to this activity and the results are dependent upon the creativity, opinions, and ideas of the participants. Perfect for your classroom, environmental educational program, youth group, municipality, watershed association, or any other group interested in exploring this important topic.

This kit is geared towards adults and older youth (aged 12-18) with a basic understanding of watersheds and is designed for use with 2 or more small groups of 4-10 people each. For more information click on the link below:

<https://extension.psu.edu/watershed-decisions>



## Schuylkill Conservation District Board and Staff

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Vice Chair:  
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- Robert Carl, Jr.
- Frank Zukas
- Russell Wagner



Check out the enclosed Schuylkill On the Move hike schedule. Something there for people of all abilities.

### STAFF PHONE EXTENSIONS FOR 570.622.3742

- Jenna St. Clair, District Manager, 3335
- Martie Hetherington, Chesapeake Bay 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)
- Cherise Yost, Conservation Program Technician, 3327
- Bill Reichert, Upper Swatara Flood Recovery Manager, 3331
- Wayne Lehman, County Natural Resources Specialist, 3333
- Brittany Moore, Agricultural Program Coordinator, 3325
- Ryan Michlovsky, Conservation Program Coordinator, 3330
- Lorie Reichert, Conservation Program Asst., 3316
- Drew Kline, Parks & Rec. Supervisor, 570-527-2505
- Alexa Smith, Natural Resources Conservationist, 3336
- Kyle Schutt, Insect Management Technician, Cell: 484.331.4499



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# FAMILIES **GROW** TOGETHER



## You're Invited!

Families in Schuylkill County have a new opportunity to learn and grow together!

Many families face stress, challenges with bullying, difficulty sleeping, or concerns about how to support our young people. Families Grow Together will teach families new skills and ways to connect.

### To register, contact:

Tracy Frederick  
Program Manager  
(570) 728-3476  
tfrederick@sam-inc.org

## Important Dates:

### Parents in the Know

**TUESDAYS:**

**5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**



January 7, 2020  
January 14, 2020  
January 21, 2020  
January 28, 2020  
February 4, 2020  
February 11, 2020

### Art Classes

**SATURDAYS:**

**10:00AM - 11:30AM**



January 11, 2020  
January 18, 2020  
January 25, 2020  
February 1, 2020  
February 8, 2020  
February 15, 2020

- All sessions will be held at the YMCA in Pottsville. Parking is located across the street from the YMCA in the designated lot.
- You will get the most out of this program by attending all sessions, and participating together with your children.
- **Tuesday** nights we will have a discussion group for parents, and an interactive activity for kids.
- **Saturday** mornings a local art expert will lead a class for your entire family, helping you learn and bond.
- Families with children under 6 will have access to free childcare.
- This course is free, and open to any family in Schuylkill County.
- All staff associated with the Families Grow Together Program have valid child abuse/criminal history clearances AND are mandated reporters, which means they are obligated to directly report suspected child and older adult abuse.
- If a session must be cancelled due to inclement weather or any emergency, you will be contacted at the phone number you provided at registration.