

Seedling

Winter 2024

SEEDLING SALE ORDER FORM INSIDE

WINTER BIRDWATCHING TIPS

PHOTOS FROM LAKEFRONT FESTIVAL

**REWILD SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
USING INATURALIST**



**DCNR INTERNSHIPS
AVAILABLE**

PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES



**WINTER GARDENING
ADVICE**



Feature

Walk in the Woods

Frog Hollow is slated to become our second county park sometime this year. This site has trails, a stream and a picnic pavilion. An organization of volunteers has been doing much to have the land become another jewel found in our county. Check out their program schedule and take time to visit!

Lead walks in Frog Hollow, 170 Stone Mountain Road, just outside of Friedensburg, have been organized by Friends of Frog Hollow.

2024	Time	Walk	Leaders
Jan 1, Mon	10:00 AM	First Day Hike Polar Bear Amble	Jerry Bowman Steve Hepler Barbara Ritzheimer
Jan 20, Sat	6:30 PM	Night Owl Prowl (Jan 27 snow day)	Dave Kruel Audrey & Lee Wells
Feb 10, Sat	1:00 AM	Evergreen Plant Walk	Will Thomas Jane Kruse
Mar 17, Sun	10:00 AM	Signs of Spring	Barbara Ritzheimer Sue Reier
Apr 27, Sat	10:00 AM	Whisper Walk Five Senses Walk	Sue Reier Audrey Wells
May 4, Sat	8:00 AM	Bird Watching (bring binoculars)	Barbara Ritzheimer Steve Hepler
May 11, Sat	10:00 AM	Wildflower Walk	Audrey & Lee Wells Sue Reier



Parking at Frog Hollow is limited.
There is no cost for the Nature Walks.

Photo is from the First Day Hike 2024 at Frog Hollow.

Time to pass the baton

It's been my privilege to serve our community as your full-time education coordinator. Many of you have crossed paths with me in one way or another. I will be retiring from full-time to go part-time at the end of January. I'll be starting a new chapter in my



life's story but will still be involved with the conservation district. Please welcome aboard Emily "Egret Emily" Cantor who is the full-time Environmental Education and Outreach Coordinator. You can visit her Facebook page for her happenings. Yes, awareness leads to appreciation and then actions to make the world and our neck of the woods a better place!

Introducing the Schuylkill Conservation District's newest staff:

"Egret Emily" Cantor: Environmental Education and Outreach Coordinator

Emily comes from a strong background in early childhood and outdoor education. She obtained her associate's degree in Early Childhood Education Pre-k thru 4th from Reading Area Community College in 2016. After working for a few years in the childcare industry, she went back to finish her bachelor's degree in Geography from Kutztown University, graduating at the end of 2018.

In October of 2018, Emily's research on naturally induced wildfires won 1st place at the American Association of Geographer's Middle States regional conference for the best undergraduate research poster. She is currently enrolled at Slippery Rock University within the master's program for Environmental Education and will graduate at the end of 2024.

Emily started working with The Boy Scouts of America in 2014 as the Assistant Ecology Director. Since then, she has continued to work with scouts on and off the camp boundaries, and found her true passion for teaching outside through the program. "I think it's important for people to learn about the environment surrounding us. Nature can heal people in many ways, and that is what I'm here to help guide others to do while having fun in the great outdoors."



Kelse Brown: Agriculture Program Coordinator



Kelse comes from a strong background in agriculture and education. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science Education from The Ohio State University in 2018. As an Ohio native, Kelse is a fan of watching the Buckeyes play on Saturdays in the fall, but is still transitioning to cheering for the Nittany Lions. Throughout his youth to now he has always enjoyed the outdoors and learning about the many aspects of the agricultural industry including conservation.

While starting for the Schuylkill Conservation District in October 2023, Kelse focuses his work on the County Farmland Preservation Program, Agricultural Conservation Programs, and Agricultural Conservation Technical Assistance. He is excited to learn more about each of these programs and how to better serve the farmers of Schuylkill County. One of Kelse's favorite quotes comes from Thomas Jefferson explaining, "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness."

WINTER

Bird Watching Tips

The winter season is a fantastic time to start bird watching. As the deciduous trees have lost their leaves, look to the trees for our feathered friends.

Visit one of our many parks within Schuylkill County in search of pine cones! Collect a few, enjoy the view, and bring some home to create your own feeding station.

Here's how:

Activity:

- o Take one pinecone. Measure out a piece of string to the desired length for hanging the cone on a tree or porch. Tie the string around the pinecone, closer to the top end.
- o Using a knife, spread peanut butter or soy butter on all sides of the pinecone while keeping the string out of the way.
- o Once the sticky stuff is on, take your peanut butter pinecone and roll it in bird seeds. You can purchase some at a local store or use sunflower seeds. The seeds should stick and stay on your cone.

Take your covered pinecone outside and find an elevated place to hang it. Wait and watch to see what birds will come!

"Egret Emily" Cantor



Northern Cardinal



American Robin



Black-capped Chickadee



Blue Jay



Red-bellied Woodpecker



Hairy Woodpecker

APPLY NOW FOR DCNR INTERNSHIPS IN 2024!



**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, PARKS,
FORESTRY, RECREATION, NATURAL
RESOURCES, GEOLOGY, AND MORE**

Attention college students: Looking for internships in 2024? DCNR has opportunities in Pennsylvania state parks and forests, the Pennsylvania Geological Survey, and its main office in Harrisburg. Opportunities are still being added, so keep checking and apply here <https://bit.ly/34EDAzX>. #DCNRinterns

Explore PA Trails All Trails in PA



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

BUREAU OF
CONSERVATION &
RECREATION

AUTHORITATIVE FEATURE SERVICE

Winter is a pretty decent time to do a hike outside. You get opportunities to see more birds and appreciate the different personalities of trees. Check out this link to go exploring!

[ExplorePaTrails](#)

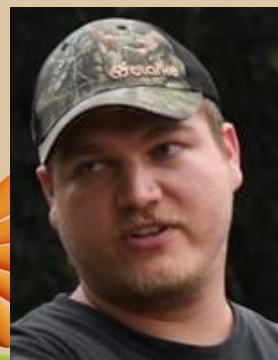
Plan on Planting for Pollinators

Tips to help Pollinators:

- *Choose plants native to your area
- *Choose plants that provide a variety of shapes and colors
- *Provide a variety of plants that bloom throughout spring, summer, and fall
- *Provide drifts of the same plant so it is easier for pollinators to find them

Native Perennials for Sunny Gardens	Native Perennials for Shaded Gardens
Butterfly Weed Swamp Milkweed Sneezeweed Gray Goldenrod	Jack-in-the-Pulpit White Wood Aster Blue Wreath Goldenrod Creeping Phlox

Native species are being challenged by invasive plants. You can help natives by planting natives. — Kyle Schutt, Insect Mgmt. Technician



SEEDS



With the [#PAPreferred](#) brand, you are guaranteed to be buying the highest quality products made by Pennsylvania's dedicated farmers, producers, and processors. Find a [#PAPreferred](#) brand near you: <https://bit.ly/3EBGmoC>

Plant Trouble?

Yellow Leaves	Over watered. Allow soil to dry before rewatering.
Brown Leaves	Dry! Increase humidity and keep away from vents.
Black Leaves	Rot. Too much water. Dry soil out as soon as possible.
Grey Leaves	Needs fertilizer. Fertilize with 10-15-10.
Brown Tips	Over watering. Use moisture meter or a finger in soil to determine moisture level.
White Fuzz	Mealy Bug. Remove with cotton swab and apply insecticidal soap.
Sticky	Aphids or Spidermite. Apply insecticidal soap.
Flies	Gnat flies. Let soil dry out more. Add pebbles on top of soil.
Black Stem	Rot from bacterial or fungal issues. Apply defender or 3 in 1 spray.
Going Green	Not enough light. Place in higher light to bring colour back into leaves.

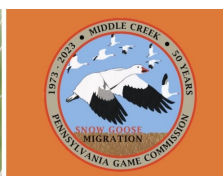
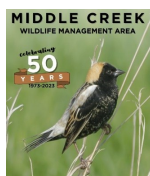
6 EASY THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

- 1 CAN IT**
Use trash cans with lids
- 2 TAP IT**
Use tap water in a reusable bottle
- 3 BUTT IN**
Write your legislators to ask for policies that address our ocean trash problems
- 4 RECYCLE IT**
Take the extra step to sort and separate items that can be recycled
- 5 REUSE IT**
Bring reusable coffee cups and shopping bags while you're out and about
- 6 REMOVE IT**
Help clean up our coasts! Go to signuptocleanup.org to learn how!

#HowIHelpTheEarth

Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area hosts the PA Game Commission's Visitor Center located near the point where Lancaster and Lebanon counties meet. The site is less than an hour from Pottsville and offers a variety of free programs throughout the year. Middle Creek is renowned for being a stopover for migrating snow geese and swans. And, I mean thousands upon thousands of birds! Check out this video from The Wandering Woodsman: <https://youtu.be/F1Wqh2VRevM?si=3J8xLb5HQTA141nE>

While birding at the site this winter be sure to check out this program: Saturday, February 24th at 10:00 AM: On the Search for Silk Moth Cocoons Most parks, rail trails, and other public areas have moth cocoons hiding within variable habitat. Learning how to find them can be a ton of fun and in most cases, requires minimal effort. This event will start with a quick discussion about local silk moth species and the cocoons in which they hibernate. Then we'll take the group on a hike, in order to help teach everyone how to find cocoons. Host plant, habitat, geography, time of day, and identifying moths to specific habitat will be the focus of the day. Actually finding cocoons will be a huge bonus!



Scenes from the Lakefront Festival that took place at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park in mid-October. Also featured was a dedication of the stream habitat improvement project upstream from the park.



**Be sure to visit the park's website for more program info:
www.sweetarrowlakepark.com**



49th Annual Seedling Sale

To benefit Sweet Arrow Lake County Park



Your seedlings will increase property value, enhance wildlife habitat, beautify the landscape, improve the environment, and can provide a source of income. *Thanks for your support of the lake!*

- **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"
- **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: 1-2 ft.
- **EASTERN REDCEDAR:** Pyramidal evergreen growing up to 50 feet. Medium green needles are flat and scale-like. Grayish to reddish brown bark is considered part of its ornamental interest. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 3-6."
- **RIVER BIRCH:** Native tree to Pennsylvania that is popular for its ornamental peeling bark. As a landscape plant, it is grown as a single-stem tree or in a clump as a multi-stemmed tree with three or more trunks. It transplants easily and grows quickly in a wide variety of soils. Can grow to over 50 feet tall. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 4-8."
- **CATALPA:** Catalpas have large attractive leaves and are generally deciduous. The showy flowers are white, yellowish, or purplish and are popular with bees and hummingbirds. The fruit is a long cylindrical pod bearing numerous seeds with white tufts of hair at each end. Grows to 40 to 60 feet tall. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 1-2 ft.
- **SUGAR MAPLE:** A landscape standout! Medium to dark-green leaves turn a spectacular yellow, burnt orange or red in fall. Tolerates shade, likes a well-drained, moderately moist, fertile soil. Grows to 60' to 75', 40'-50' spread. Future generations will thank you as they pour delicious home-made maple syrup tapped from your trees onto pancakes! 2 year old seedlings. Size: 6-12."
- **WASHINGTON HAWTHORN:** A deciduous tree in the Roseaceae (rose) family is noted for its attractive flowers and foliage, bright red fruits long straight thorns, and fall color. It is a small, low-branching, deciduous tree that typically grows 25 to 30 feet tall with a rounded crown. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 4-8."
- **SWAMP WHITE OAK:** Swamp white oak produces a large crop of acorns every 3-5 years, with lighter crops produced in the off years. Its bark is light brown or gray, becoming darker brown with age and is deeply fissured and flaky when mature. This tree is a great choice for a shade or street tree, with the ability to grow at a moderate pace and live more than 300 years. It's the kind of tree you plant for not only your enjoyment but for the benefit of generations to come. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 12-24."
- **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. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 12-24."
- **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: 12-24."
- **BLACK CHOKEBERRY SHRUB:** A deciduous shrub that features white flowers, black fruits and bold red fall foliage. Can be planted in either full sun or partial shade. You will get the best flowering and fruiting in full sun locations. The fruit can be canned whole or the juice extracted for jelly making as well as a healthful fruit drink. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 5-10."
- **BUTTONBUSH:** Buttonbush is an easy-to-recognize bush that grows in water or moist soil. It is easy to identify because of its beautiful flowers and fruits. A good plant for slopes and accent your butterfly garden. It can also be seen in marshes, and bordering streams, ponds, and lakes. They also grow in wet woods, thickets, and ditches. It can grow up to 15 feet tall, but is usually much shorter (few feet). Its leaves are usually between three and six inches long, and are shiny, dark green and pointed. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 5-10."

49th Annual Seedling Sale Order Form—2024

All proceeds benefit Sweet Arrow Lake County Park



- **ORDER DEADLINE:** Order must be received by **Saturday, March 23, 2024** and will be filled while supplies last! No order cancellations or refunds after the deadline.
- **PICK UP:** Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for a drive-thru pick up at the small pavilion in the Waterfall Road parking area. You will pass the large pavilion that will be occupied by another group. See signs. Address is: 48 Waterfall Road, Pine Grove.
- **NOTE:** Seedlings are bare root and will be healthy at pick up. No guarantees after this date.
- **INFO:** "Porcupine Pat" at 570.391.3326 or porcupinepat@yahoo.com or Kathy Stefanick at 570.345.4963

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (night) _____

Save postage and the environment by providing your email address below:



ITEM	# PER BUNDLE	# DESIRED	COST/BUNDLE	TOTAL
WHITE PINE	10/bundle		X 16.00 =	
NORWAY SPRUCE	10/bundle		X 16.00 =	
EASTERN RED CEDAR	10/bundle		X 16.00 =	
RIVER BIRCH	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
CATALPA	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
SUGAR MAPLE	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
WASHINGTON HAWTHORN	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
SWAMP WHITE OAK	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
RED BUD	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
PIN OAK	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
BLACKCHOKE-BERRY SHRUB	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
BUTTONBUSH	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
			Total Sale =	
			Please be sure to add 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. (SALCA stands for Sweet Arrow Lake Conservation Association.)
- For more information about Sweet Arrow Lake County Park: www.sweetarrowlakepark.com

Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County

schuylkillmg@psu.edu

570.622.4225 ext. 23

“From the Greenhouse Column” by Master Gardener Tom Reed

It is wintertime and thoughts of seedlings and planting seem far away, especially with sunrise at 7:24 am and sunset around 4:30 pm. Temperatures are a bit frosty, too.

For those who follow the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone in determining last and first frost dates, there has been a change. Most of Schuylkill County has been in 6B and 6A. That has changed too, most of our area is now 7A and northern Schuylkill County is 6B. Always remember, soil temperature and night air temperatures are important when planting (direct seeding or transplants) no matter what the calendar says.

Check the catalog or seed packets for germination or planting temperatures!

The other item at this time of the year is the arrival of all the seed catalogs with photos of the most perfect veggies, fruits, and flowers. Once you go through a catalog, it removes any doubt about whether you are gardening again in 2024! Your order for seeds and plants are in before the end of January!



Also, there are new gardening tools that you must have to make the garden perfect.

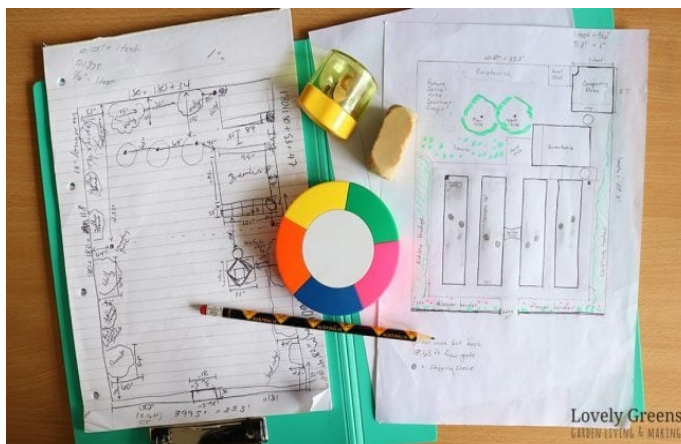


In many years of gardening, I have found out the new tool this year is next year's yard sale item, and it is back to the old reliable ones.

The Master Gardeners will be doing the Spring Series event on Saturday, March 2 this year. That day (9:00AM – 3:00 PM) there will be presentations on five different gardening topics (Crop rotation and new vegetable cultivars, seed starting for the home gardener, propagation, Monarchs and milkweed, and the growing and care of houseplants). Registration will begin in January through Penn State's CVENT program. Hope to see you there!

Plan your garden over winter:

What you'd like to grow, where you'd like to put it, and when you need to sow seeds. Browse seed catalogs and [Instagram](#) for ideas. Use a garden journal or online planner if you'd like, but organizing now will keep you on track in the summer. It's arm-chair gardening at its best and the perfect winter gardening task for days when it's just too cold, windy, or snowy to want to venture outdoors. This is one of those winter gardening ideas that you'll truly enjoy!



SCHUYLKILL CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRESENTS:



REWILD SCHUYLKILL COUNTY: USING INATURALIST

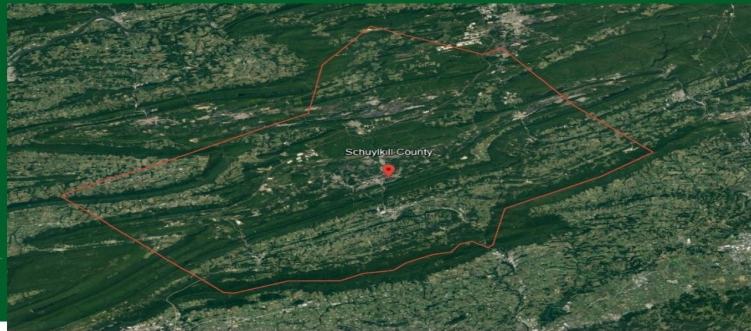
Do you enjoy exploring Schuylkill County? Join our project to aid the Schuylkill Conservation District in our efforts to identify, document, and manage conservation practices and the biodiversity of species throughout this region. Your observations will help us to keep Schuylkill's natural landscape protected and identify fun and new species while engaging participants in learning about the wildlife around them.



Download the App!



iNaturalist



Visit the project at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/rewild-schuylkill-county>

What better way to get outside and have fun learning about nature while playing on your phone or tablet! Please join our project to help engage, support, and educate our community on the biodiversity that surrounds us.



These observations will also help us maintain conservation projects and tracking species, such as the Spotted Lantern Fly.



Stay tuned for future events and competitions for observations!

Schuylkill Conservation District Board and Staff

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Your purchase of tree seedlings is much appreciated! Please check out the seedling sale order form and make your purchase happen! Support our county park!

STAFF PHONE EXTENSIONS FOR 570.622.3742

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- Martie Hetherington, Ag Project Coordinator, 3328
- "Porcupine Pat" McKinney, Education Coordinator, 3326
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- Ryan Michlovsky, Conservation Program Coordinator, 3330
- Drew Kline, Parks & Rec. Supervisor, 570.527.2505
- Alexa Smith, Natural Resources Conservationist, 3336
- Kyle Schutt, Insect Management Technician, Cell: 484.331.4499
- "Egret Emily" Cantor, Environmental Education and Outreach Coordinator, 3316



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