

San Connections



Volume 2013, Issue 3

2013



SAN Dates to Remember

- **November 15th:** SAN Annual Meeting
- **November 20th:** Stormwater Meeting
- **December 5th:** Planning Meeting
- **December 10th:** WLC Meeting
- **December 11th:** Pathogen Meeting

Two fun project tours

This past summer, the SAN held two project bus tours of completed Ag and AMD projects in Berks and Schuylkill Counties. Over 75 individuals were given a chance to see some of the work implemented by many of our SAN partners to help protect and improve Schuylkill waters. A big thanks to the Berks County Conservancy and Schuylkill Headwaters Association for leading these tours and for the Philadelphia water Department for providing the lunch and transportation. On a very wet and rainy June 15, the AMD tour kicked off with a visit the newly constructed Mary D treatment system, where we were given the chance to see min drainage run through the system for the very first time. Later that day, we took a walk around the Silver Creek AMD Treatment system, one of the Schuylkill Headwaters Association's most successful projects completed in 2009. The Silver Creek project

removes up to 400 pounds of dissolved iron from the river each day. In the afternoon, the group visited projects in the Pine Knot Watershed, including the Pine Knot discharge, which is the largest contributor to metal loading on the Schuylkill River. The tour also included a visit to the 50-foot deep Rohrersville stripping pit, Mackeysburg and at the confluence of Dyer Run and the Schuylkill's West Branch to line streambeds with geotextile material to keep water from dropping into underground mine chambers and becoming polluted. During the Ag tour, we visited farms in the Saucony and Maiden Creek Watersheds to view Agriculture best management practices completed over the past 10 years. Participants of the tour were given the op-



Participant taking interest during SAN AMD 2013 Tour

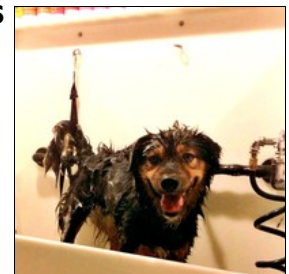
portunity to meet see working farms helping to protect our streams. At the farms, we learned about the importance of farm improvement projects such as streambank fencing, manure storage, riparian buffers, and animal controls. The group also learned about the importance of managing stormwater on the farm, keeping clean water clean and preventing manure from washing off of the farm into the stream. All of this work is helping to protect the drinking water supply for over 2 Million people downstream.

Check out Tour Photos Here: [AMD Tour](#), [Ag Tour](#)

Vote now for your favorite Schuylkill Shots

Voting is now open for the [Schuylkill Shots Photo Contest](#). The top 10 finalist for each of the three categories, Fun on the Schuylkill, Wild and Scenic, and Tip Top Tap have been selected by a panel of judges. The public will help to choose the winning shots through an online voting process that runs between Novem-

ber 15th and December 15th. Everyone can vote for as many photos as they like, once per day. The contest provides all of us who live, work, and play in the watershed to demonstrate just how beautiful and amazing of a resource we have in our backyard. Vote now, vote often, and help us find your favorite Schuylkill Shots!



"Abby" by Flemington Top shot in running so far.

Schuylkill River Heritage Area Distributes Over \$350,000 in Grants to Improve the Watershed



Storm Drain Polluted After Rainfall



Lankenau Highschool Students Planting A Rain Garden

POTTSTOWN — The Schuylkill River Heritage Area distributed a total of \$358,821 in grants Thursday to ten projects that will improve water quality in the Schuylkill River and its tributaries. Money was distributed to seven projects that will mitigate stormwater runoff, abandoned mine drainage and agricultural pollution. There were also three land transaction grants that will assist with costs associated with permanent protection of priority watershed parcels. (Please see 2013 Project Summaries for recipients and project descriptions).

The Schuylkill River Restoration Fund grants were funded by Exelon Generation's Limerick Generating Station, the Philadelphia Water Department and Aqua PA, and administered by the Schuylkill River Heritage Area (SRHA). The grant announcement took place at the East Norriton Middle School Campus, the site of a recently completed stormwater improvement project funded through a Schuylkill River Restoration Fund grant.

Speakers included Schuylkill River Heritage Executive Director Kurt Zwinkl; Kelly Anderson of the Philadelphia Water Department; Chris Gerdes, Manager of Environmental and Chemistry for Limerick Generating Station; and PA State Rep. Matthew Bradford (D-70). About 50 people attended the announcement, including a group of East Norriton Middle School students.

"Over the past eight years, the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund has contributed over \$2 million to more than 30 projects that have all effectively reduced the amount of pollutants entering the river and its tributaries," said Zwinkl. "We are grateful to the unique partnerships that have formed to support this fund, which is helping us improve water quality throughout the watershed." Following the grant announcement, Montgomery County Conservation District Watershed Specialist Susan Harris led a tour of the Middle School project. That project, funded by a 2011 Schuylkill River Restoration Fund grant, included stormwater improvements and stream bank stabilization along a section of Stony Creek that runs through the campus. It consisted of, among other things, planting over 200 trees, a rain garden and native grasses to establish a riparian buffer along the creek. It also provided educational opportunities for middle school students.

"Stormwater run-off affects everyone, but it's hard for students to understand how," said eacher Victoria Strickland who brought a class of gifted students to the announcement. "Seeing this makes it more reality based. They can see how stormwater can be a problem and how it can be fixed." All grant recipients were carefully selected by an advisory committee consisting of: Exelon Generation, Delaware River Basin Commission, Philadelphia Water Department, Environmental Protection Agency, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Schuylkill River Heritage Area; and the Schuylkill Action Network.

All the projects will benefit the entire watershed because they reduce the amount of pollution that enters creeks, and ultimately, the river, which is a source of drinking water for 1.5 million people. This year, Exelon Generation contributed \$220,422 to the fund, the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) donated \$100,000, and Aqua PA provided \$4,015. All funds not distributed for 2013 projects will be rolled over into the 2014 grant round. The Land Transaction Assistance Grants program, introduced two years ago, provide matching grants of up to \$4,000 per project to pay for costs associated with property purchases and conservation easements on high priority lands for water quality and habitat protection.

Exelon has provided over \$1 million to the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund since it was founded in 2005. The annual fund began as part of a demonstration project for what is known as the water supply program at Exelon's Limerick Generating Station. That program is under the purview of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC).

For the past several years, the Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) has been seeking additional funders. This is the fourth year the Philadelphia Water Department has contributed, and the second year Aqua PA has donated. SAN continues to seek additional contributors in an effort to further expand the fund.

"Stormwater run-off affects everyone, but it's hard for students to understand how,"

Ideas for the next edition of SAN Connections?

Contact Tom Davidock,
SAN Coordinator:
(800) 445-4935 x109
or email:
tdavidock@DelawareEstuary.org

Come visit SAN online at the following sites:

www.SchuylkillWaters.org

www.facebook.com/SchuylkillWaters

www.vimeo.com/schuylkill

www.youtube.com/user/SchuylkillWaters

facebook YouTube flickr vimeo