



Volume 2012

Issue 3

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Schuylkill River Restoration Fund provides Over \$200,000 in Grants to Improve the Watershed



Planner with the Delaware River Basin Commission; Chris Gerdes, representative of Exelon's Limerick Generating Station; and State Rep. David Maloney (130th Legislative District). Maloney presented certificates of recognition to property owner Russell Guntz and Berks County Conservancy Senior Ecologist Larry Lloyd for their work in significantly reducing the agricultural run-off from the Guntz dairy farm, located along Manatawny Creek.

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area distributed over \$200,000 in grants in August to nine projects that will improve water quality in the Schuylkill River and its tributaries.

The Schuylkill River Restoration Fund grants were funded by Exelon's Limerick Generating Station, the Philadelphia Water Dept. and Aqua PA, and administered by the Schuylkill River

Heritage Area (SRHA). The grant announcement took place at the Russell Guntz Farm, in Oley, a Restoration Fund recipient for a recently completed agricultural remediation project. Speakers included Christopher Crockett, Deputy Commissioner of the Philadelphia Water Dept.; Kurt Zwikl Executive Director of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area; Jessica Sanchez, River Basin

Following the grant announcements, Guntz and Lloyd led a tour of the farm, highlighting the agricultural remediation projects. Among the projects completed as a result of the grant were: construction of a manure storage tank, a new roof over the barnyard, rain gutters, stream bank fencing and a stoned animal walkway. All the projects help prevent manure and other

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2012 SAN Annual Meeting



The SAN Annual Meeting will be held at Reading Area Community College on **Friday, November 16th 2012** from **10:00am to 3:30pm**.

We have a great line-up of speakers who will be presenting on some really innovative municipal programs, including outreach, stormwater, inter-municipal coordination, and watershed restoration. If you or your

organization would like to learn more about working with municipalities, this meeting will be a great opportunity to see how others are doing it. To see a full list of presentations and other details about the meeting, you can download the agenda below.

REGISTRATION

To register, please fill out the online registration form at:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=v6qlnbcab&oeidk=a07e6f9rd7s56c9c842>

Rain Garden installed in Wissahickon



On October 10th, students and volunteers worked with the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association to plant a rain garden on their school campus. The garden will collect runoff from paved walkways and some drainage from the football field and allow it to soak into the ground, keeping sediment out of the Wissahickon Creek and helping to recharge the groundwater. This project was part of the Schuylkill Action Students initiative and was funded by a grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Two more rain gardens will be installed in the parking lot island areas later this year.

List of Recently Completed SAS Projects

- ◆ *Upper Perkiomen School District:* A rain garden, meadow, and tree planting projects were completed in the Fall of 2011.
- ◆ *Limerick Elementary School:* Completed a riparian buffer planting in October, 2011
- ◆ *Sandy Run Middle School:* Completed a riparian buffer planting in the Fall of 2011
- ◆ *East Norriton Middle School:* Completed a meadow project and started working on their stream stabilization and riparian planting project (partially completed in 2012)
- ◆ *Lingelbach Elementary School:* Installed a rain garden in April, 2012
- ◆ *Lankenau High School:* Installed a rain garden in May, 2012
- ◆ *Germantown Academy:* Rain garden, October 2012

Schuylkill River Restoration Fund has a new webpage

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area recently added a new page to their website for the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund. On this page, you can learn more about the program including the awarded projects, program accomplishments, and funders. You can also download project information sheets on many of the completed projects.

The Schuylkill River Restoration Fund provides grants to government agencies and non-profit organizations for projects that improve the quality of water in the watershed. The grants focus on three major sources of pollution: stormwater run-off, agricultural pollution and abandoned mine drainage. Since being established

in 2006, the fund has collected more than \$1.9 million and funded 30 projects.

To see the page, please visit

http://www.schuylkillriver.org/restoration_fund

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Schuylkill River Restoration Fund

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Grant Awards

Russell Guntz Farm, Oley, 2012	Albert M Greenfield School, Philadelphia 2011	Aldenn Lair Park, Upper Dublin Twp 2010	Berks County Agricultural Ctr 2009
2012 Award PR	2011 Award PR	2010 Award PR	2009 Award PR
2012 Grant Recipients	2011 Grant Recipients	2010 Grant Recipients	(Grants listed in PR)
Russell Guntz Farm project summary	Greenfield School project summary	Aldenn Lair Park project summary	Schroeder Farm project summary

SRRF Statistics

- 30 projects funded, 15 completed
- 5 Stormwater basins retrofitted
- 5 Abandoned mine drainage projects completed
- Over 6,000 feet of protected streams
- Over 10,000 feet of streambank fencing installed
- Over 1,200 native trees and shrubs planted
- Agricultural improvements to 12 Berks Co. farms

Partnerships...continued from page 1

pollutants from washing into the Manatawny Creek, which is a tributary of the Schuylkill River. This is the seventh year the grant program has been available. This year, money was distributed to five projects that will mitigate stormwater runoff and agricultural pollution.

There are also four land transaction grants, totaling \$4,000 each, to assist with costs associated with permanent protection of priority watershed parcels. (Please see 2012 Grant Awards list for recipients and project descriptions).

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.

"Over the past seven years, the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund has helped fund 30 projects,

effectively reducing the amount of pollutants entering the river and its tributaries," said Zwikl. "We are grateful to the unique partnerships that have formed to support this fund, which is helping us improve water quality throughout the watershed."

This year, Exelon Generation contributed a total of \$211,092 to the fund, while the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) donated \$100,000. Aqua PA, a first time contributor, provided \$2,500. All funds not distributed for 2012 projects will be rolled over into the 2013 grant round.

The Land Transaction Assistance Grants program, introduced last year, provides for matching grants of up to \$4,000 per project. It will pay for costs associated with property purchases and conservation easements, in order to facilitate preservation of high priority lands for water quality and

habitat protection. A total of \$16,000 in land protection transaction grants were distributed to assist with protection of four properties.

Exelon has provided \$1.6 million to the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund since it was established 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. For the past several years, the Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) has been working to grow the program by seeking additional funders. This is the third year the Philadelphia Water Dept. has contributed, and the first year Aqua PA has donated, so that more projects can be undertaken. SAN continues to seek additional contributors in an effort to further expand the fund.

Schuylkill Headwaters Association Complete Fall Cleanup



The Schuylkill Headwaters Association (SHA), armed with a team of 32 volunteers, spend a Saturday in November cleaning up an illegal dump site in Blythe Township, Schuylkill County. The volunteers worked hard to remove a total of 2.3 TONS of trash, including sofas, toilets, construction materials, and bottles.

The event was hosted by Schuylkill Headwaters and Blackrock Motorsports, and was part of Schuylkill County Make a Difference Day and the International Coastal Cleanup. The SHA is currently working to remove the remaining tires from the site, and hope to have another clean-up event in the future.



SAN Dates to Remember

- Nov. 1st, 10:00 am
SAN Planning Meeting
- Nov. 16th 10:00 am
SAN Annual Meeting
- Dec. 5th 10:00am
SAN Pathogen Meeting
- Dec. 6th 10:00am
SAN Planning Mtg

Voting to begin November 15th for Schuylkill Shots Photo Contest



\$100 gift cards for second place and \$50 gift cards for honorable mention. Winning images will also appear in a traveling exhibit next year in celebration of the SAN's 10-year anniversary. One of the locations planned is the new [River of Revolutions Interpretive Center](#), which opened on Oct. 22 beside the Schuylkill River in Pottstown.

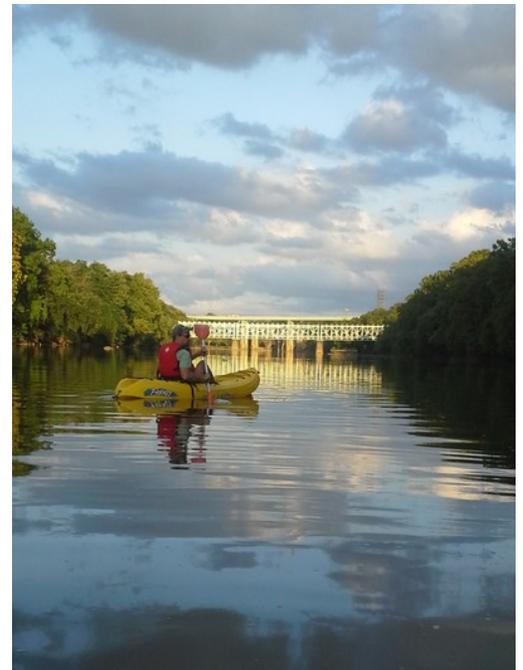
The SAN launched the Schuylkill Shots Competition last July. It did so to draw attention to the river's beauty, drinking water, recreation, wildlife habitat and more.

The On November 15th, The public will be able to vote for their favorite [photos](#) of the Schuylkill River Valley by logging on to the [Schuylkill Shots Competition](#) at [Facebook.com/SchuylkillWaters](#). Visitors can vote once per day until Dec. 15.

A panel of judges affiliated with the [Schuylkill Action Network](#) has selected 30 finalists from almost 150 entries. These are divided into three categories. They are Fun on the Schuylkill, Tip-Top-Tap, and Wild and Scenic.

More than 40 photographers entered our first-ever contest and submitted some really great photos.

Those with the most votes in each category will win a \$300 gift card provided by contest sponsors, which include Calumet Photography, the Philadelphia Water Department, and REI. Other prizes include



Come visit SAN online at the following sites:

www.SchuylkillWaters.org

www.facebook.com/SchuylkillWaters

facebook

www.vimeo.com/schuylkill

vimeo

www.youtube.com/user/SchuylkillWaters

YouTube™

www.flickr.com/photos/76787619@N07/

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Ideas for the next edition of SAN Connections?

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