



SAN CONNECTIONS



Volume 2011

Issue 3

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PARTNERSHIP IS THE KEY TO PROJECT SUCCESS....

...says Larry Lloyd, the Senior Ecologist of the Berks Conservancy! Larry and the Conservancy have been important members of SAN's Agricultural Workgroup, heading up many of the improvement projects that install Best Management Practices on farms in the Schuylkill River Watershed.



One of Larry's many projects is working on the Nickle Farm in Robeson Township, Berks County. This is an important project zone because of the Exceptional Value designation of the adjacent Hay Creek . This farm houses a dog-training facility, as well as some cattle, 100 sheep, and over 400 ducks. With the grazing and watering needs of the animals, the streambank running through the property requires stabilization to prevent animal

waste and soil from entering Hay Creek. Larry is happy to share an update on progress of this project.

Why is this project special?

We have several partners that made this project possible. Funding is in such short supply, and we were able to get the help we need to help reduce the impacts to the Hay

Creek. The *Schuylkill River Restoration Fund* has provided enough funding to stabilize streambanks, erect streambank fencing , and construct an animal manure storage shed . We also want to thank our new partner **AquaPA**, who provided an outright donation to help source water protection in Berks County. One of their

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Register Now: 2011 SAN Annual Meeting



The SAN Annual Meeting will be held at Reading Area Community College on **Friday, November 4th 2011** from **10:00am to 3:30pm**.

In addition to the annual updates from the SAN workgroups, We have a great agenda planned, including presentations and a panel discussion with our drinking water supplier in the Schuylkill Watershed.

REGISTRATION

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

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=v6qlnbcab&oeidk=a07e4vkvbuo05b83fc0>

Please register by Friday, October 28th 2011. Lunch will be provided, so please be sure to register.

Now Available - A Primer on Using Biological Assessment to Support Water Quality Management



A Primer on Using Biological Assessments to Support Water Quality Management

October 2011



The EPA has published A Primer on Using Biological Assessment to Support Water Quality Management. This technical document serves as a primer on the role of biological assessments in a variety of water quality management program applications including reporting on the condition of aquatic biota, developing biological criteria, and assessing environmental results of management actions. The Primer provides information on new technical tools and approaches for developing strong biological assessment programs and on examples of application of biological assessment information by states and tribes.

Biological assessment data and information play a key role in water quality programs. One of the most meaningful ways to answer basic questions about the quality of the nation's waters is to observe directly the communities of plants and animals that live in them. Because aquatic plants and animals are constantly exposed to the effects of various stressors, these communities reflect not only current conditions, but also stresses and changes in conditions over time and their cumulative impacts. Biological assessment data and information can be used to assess water quality, identify stressors to a waterbody, set protection and restoration goals, and evaluate the effectiveness of management actions. For more information see:

http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/standards/criteria/aqlife/biocriteria/uses_index.cfm

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day



DEA has scheduled another **National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 29, 2011, from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.** to provide a venue for persons who want to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. More than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs, according to the 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Each day,

approximately, 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet.

DEA in conjunction with state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the United States conducted National Prescription Drug Take Back Days on Saturday, September 25, 2010 and April 25, 2011. Nearly, 4,000 state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the nation participated in these events, collecting more than 309 tons of pills.

Four days after last fall's Take-Back Day, Congress passed legislation amending the Controlled Substances Act to allow the DEA to develop a process for people to safely dispose of their prescription drugs. DEA immediately began developing this process after President Obama signed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010 on October 12. Until that process is complete, however, DEA will continue to hold Take Back Days every six months.

To find a location, visit:

[National Take Back Initiative Drop Off Search Site](#)

Partnerships...continued from page 1



drinking water intakes is in Berks County, and they realize the importance of preventing pollution from entering the streams. In addition to help from SRRF and AquaPA, we wrote several grants, and also received substantial funding from a *private foundation* and the *Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape Initiative* for the project.

How do Best Management Practices help source water protection?

Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) help reduce non-point source pollution from reaching water. Generally, pollution on farms can come from barnyards, erosion from cropland, and animals standing in streams and crushing vegetation on the streambanks. BMPs installed on farms minimize these contaminants.

What are you working on for this project?

The project has several parts. One of the first tasks is the build larger sheds to house the animals. The

streambank on the property is extremely degraded, so the owners have agreed to exclude all the animals from the stream, which will allow vegetation to grow and prevent erosion. The animals will be prevented from going into the stream by fencing. This area also receives stormwater slugs from upstream, so the vegetation will help further erosion from the additional water. Once all the structural BMPs are in place, we will plant trees to buffer the streambank area.

Stay tuned for updates from this project!

Schuylkill Headwater's Association Hosting Environmental Film Festival

On **Thursday, November 10th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm**, the Schuylkill Headwaters Association will present the second annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. Students and senior citizens are eligible for a discounted ticket price of \$8.00 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at www.Schuylkillheadwaters.org.



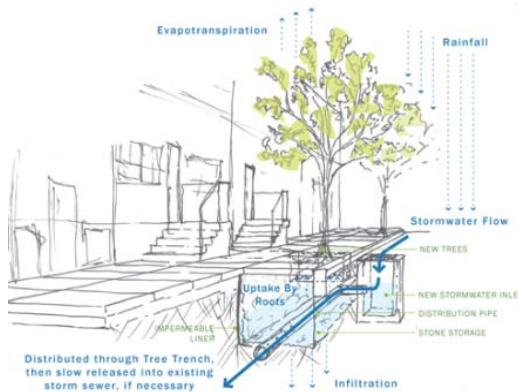
The Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival is the largest environmental film festival in the United States. It brings together award-winning environmental and outdoor adventure films designed to inspire and motivate citizens to go out and make a difference in their communities and around the world. By hosting the festival SHA will be working towards its mission "to promote the environmental integrity of the Schuylkill River, its tributaries, and the watershed that lies within the boundaries of Schuylkill County." The chosen films will highlight environmental concerns and provide solutions, reaching people through beautiful imagery of the sweeping landscapes of the world, and ultimately inspiring local individuals to get involved in conserving the wild and scenic places close to home.

Films that will be shown at the film festival will include: *Meet Your Farmer*, a series of four short profiles of farms in Maine; *Slow The Flow*, which explores several projects aimed at disposing of storm water in a clean and environmentally friendly manner; and *Bag It*, where we follow "everyman" Jeb as he embarks on a global tour to unravel the complexities of our plastic world.

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival is part of a national tour managed by the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL, pronounced 'circle'), a watershed advocacy group based in the Sierra foothills of Northern California.

For more information or to reserve tickets by phone or email, please contact Adele Holzman at (570) 622-3742 x 119 or at aholzman@schuylkillheadwaters.org.

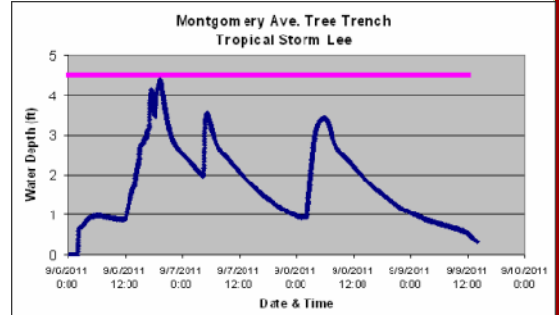
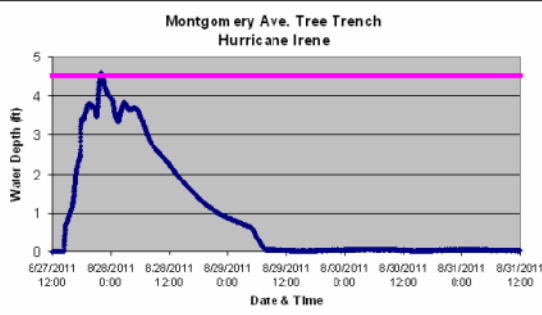
Storage Wars: Philadelphia's Green Infrastructure Takes On Lee and Irene



The Philadelphia Water Department's green infrastructure projects—[tree trenches](#), [rain gardens](#), [porous paving](#) and [planters](#), just to name a few—are designed to **store and infiltrate stormwater runoff** into the ground. By keeping this water out of our sewers, we can prevent sewer overflows that damage the health of our rivers and streams. In the last month, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee put our green stormwater projects to the test with periods of intense rainfall.

PWD's stormwater team monitored the performance of stormwater tree trenches, rain gardens, porous pavement, basins and stormwater planters at 10 different sites around the city during one or both of these storms. Some preliminary results are in, and it seems the green infrastructure has performed admirably. At the tree trenches located at Montgomery Avenue between Frankford and Blair streets in Kensington, sensors were placed underground to measure the water depth beneath the system.

The graphs below chart the depth during each storm, which is a rough indication of how much water is entering the system. As the water flows out and infiltrates the soil, you can see the blue line dip down; in the case of Lee, the multiple peaks in the graph indicate intermittent rainfall over the three days. The pink line represents the depth of the tree trench's storage system (i.e., the maximum depth before the system safely overflows into the sewer), which is 4.5 feet.



SAN Ag Biological Monitoring

A multi-disciplinary team conducted stream sampling on behalf of the Schuylkill Action Network's agriculture workgroup in July 2011. Macroinvertebrate sampling observations noted progress in the health of tributaries to Maiden and Saucony Creeks near Virginville and Kutztown, Pennsylvania. The presence of mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, and crayfish indicate that the work completed by the SAN along these tributaries is successfully contributing to the restoration of these important waterways.

To Read the full report, visit:

http://schuylkillwaters.org/doc_files/SAN%20Macro%20Sampling%20July2011.pdf

Schuylkill Action Network
2011 Macroinvertebrate Survey

Paony Tansik and Suzanne Rough, Berks County, Pennsylvania

A multi-disciplinary team conducted stream sampling on behalf of the Schuylkill Action Network's agriculture workgroup in July 2011. The sampling team included representatives from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Berks County, Conowingay, Spahr, Stover and MCo, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Macroinvertebrate sampling observations noted progress in the health of tributaries to Maiden and Saucony Creeks near Virginville and Kutztown, Pennsylvania. The presence of mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, and crayfish indicate that the work completed by the SAN along these tributaries is successfully contributing to the restoration of these important waterways. The presence of mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, and crayfish indicate that the work completed by the SAN along these tributaries is successfully contributing to the restoration of these important waterways.

The Schuylkill Action Network was formed in March 2010 to improve the water resources of the Schuylkill River Watershed. Members of this collaborative network include the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the City of Philadelphia Water Department, the Delaware River Basin Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Macroinvertebrate sampling observations noted progress in the health of tributaries to Maiden and Saucony Creeks near Virginville and Kutztown, Pennsylvania. The presence of mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, and crayfish indicate that the work completed by the SAN along these tributaries is successfully contributing to the restoration of these important waterways.

SAN Dates to Remember

- Nov. 4th, 10:00 am
SAN Annual Meeting
- Nov. 10th 10:00 am
SAN Planning Mtg
- Nov. 14th 10:00am
E&O Workgroup Mtg
- Nov. 16th 10:00am
Ag Workgroup Mtg
- Dec.8th 10:00am
SAN Planning Mtg

Ideas for the next edition of SAN Connections?

Contact Tom Davidock,
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