



2009 Annual Report



Letter from the Executive Director

Environmental education has grown. Forty-five years ago The Schuylkill Center taught about birds, bees and trees, and a handful of known environmental issues: clean air, clean water, rain forests and endangered species. A generation later, our educators still teach birds, bees and trees, but the issues have broadened to include energy consumption (not an issue in 1965 when fuel was 20¢/gallon), sustainable lifestyles through sustainable choices, local agriculture production for healthier food choices, and the cultural impacts of environmentalism such as architecture and interactive land use. Join us at The Schuylkill Center to help us explore all these issues and create positive responses for a new generation of environmental awareness.

Dennis Burton
Executive Director



Environmental Education

As one of the oldest urban environmental centers in the nation, The Schuylkill Center offers a wide variety of educational programs for children and adults, and continues its exemplary partnership with The Green Woods Charter School.

Outdoor Classroom

In 2008-09, The Schuylkill Center welcomed 4,200 students from the Philadelphia School District and surrounding communities to participate in hands-on science at our site.

Community Outreach

Schuylkill Center educators worked with over 1,000 students in classrooms throughout the region, bringing the wonders of the natural world into classrooms through hands-on activities and materials.

Model Partnership with The Green Woods Charter School

Schuylkill Center educators and Green Woods’ teachers work side by side in the classroom to deliver engaging, inquiry-based lessons. This unique partnership has served as a model for educators throughout the country. All classes meet The Pennsylvania State Board of Education approved state academic standards for Environment and Ecology.

Nature Ramblers

Our Nature Ramblers Summer Camp was named by *Philadelphia Magazine* and several online publications as a ‘Philadelphia favorite’. In the summer of 2008, 270 day-campers learned about the environment through play, arts activities, wildlife presentations, and woodland exploration.





Environmental Education

The Philadelphia Envirothon

In 2008-09, The Schuylkill Center continued to act as host for The Philadelphia Envirothon, an academically oriented program of environmental study and competition for high school students (The Schuylkill Center is the only approved site in Philadelphia for this national competition). *The Philadelphia Envirothon is funded solely by Dow (RohmHaas).*

Monkey Tail Gang

Our Monkey Tail Gang after school club provided additional opportunities for after-school play and outdoor exploration to forty-two children from The Green Woods Charter School and other elementary schools.

Professional Development

The Schuylkill Center hosted a series of professional development workshops for teachers. Industry professionals led seminars on green roofs, biodiesel, and solar energy. Participating teachers received new information and project ideas to take back to the classroom, and earned Act 48 continuing education credits.

Citizen Science Series

The Citizen Science lecture series provided adults with the opportunity to learn about pressing regional environmental issues ranging from energy choices for the home to greening transportation choices.

The aforementioned projects were made possible by generous funding from the Drumcliff Foundation, Eastern Mountain Sports, PECO, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, The Pennsylvania Game Commission, The Chestnut Hill Garden Club, The Ludwick Foundation, REI, and Secret Garden.



Bird/Seed Shelter, Julia Molloy & Taka Sarui



Land Restoration

Since 1999, the Center has worked to create a preserve that supports the highest level of plant and animal diversity native to southeastern Pennsylvania, and maintains three first-order streams.

Comprehensive Property Management

In 2008-09, The Schuylkill Center began the process of evaluating data collected over the past 30 years to determine the effectiveness of our management practices. This data will be used to develop a comprehensive management plan for the entire property that addresses land use, stormwater issues, and the preservation of our vital habitats.

Native Plant Nursery

The Schuylkill Center expanded its Native Plant Nursery with the addition of a 1400 square foot greenhouse. The greenhouse will provide more growing space for seeding and propagation of native species.

Native Plant Sale

The Schuylkill Center’s annual Native Plant Sale provided over 700 patrons with more than 2000 native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. Revenue from the Native Plant Sale supported our on-the-ground work to keep our forests, fields, and streams healthy.



Partnership with Merck

Volunteers from Merck's West Point Campus worked with Schuylkill Center Staff to build a boardwalk along the wetland area of Ravine Loop. The trails adjacent to the wetland area tend to be saturated, impeding passage. The boardwalk allows for safe and easy access while keeping compaction and disturbance of the soil to a minimum.

Firepond

Renovations to our existing Fire Pond increased the volume of water the pond holds for firefighting purposes. Equally important was the restoration of the habitat qualities of the pond. Invasive species were removed, and native trees, shrubs, and aquatic plants were installed around the pond’s edge to provide food and cover for wildlife. Visitors to the Fire Pond can now discover painted turtles, water snakes, songbirds, and countless insects all season long.

New Road

The Schuylkill Center completed our driveway renovation project. The new driveway is designed to reduce the impact of sediment pollution to our streams, and enhances our visitors’ overall experience.

The aforementioned projects were made possible by generous funding from ArcelorMittal Plate LLC, Merck Champions for the Environment (West Point Campus), The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, The McLean Contributionship, The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Environmental Art

The Schuylkill Center's Environmental Art program continued to offer an alternative both to traditional art venues, and to formal methods of presenting environmental education to the public. Our Environmental Art exhibitions attracted new and diverse audiences to The Schuylkill Center, gaining widespread recognition, and making a valuable contribution to the international conversation on sustainable design.

Ephemerality (*Winter 2009*)

An experimental gallery exhibition, Ephemerality featured the works of seven artists who were invited to create and document temporary installations made from primarily natural materials. Though the outdoor installations were designed to last only 24 hours, permanent documentation of the artists' works were exhibited in our gallery.

Gimme Shelter (*Spring, 2009*)

Gimme Shelter was a sustainable design/build competition that demonstrated new and inspiring approaches to sustainable design and building. Twelve semi-finalist designs were chosen from eighty designs submitted by national and international teams. Semi-finalist designs were exhibited at The Philadelphia Center for Architecture in Center City. Six semi-permanent, functional woodland shelters were built at The Schuylkill Center by six teams of artists and architects. The shelters have been camped in by adults and children, and visited by hundreds of school children and art and design fans.



Shadowlandscape, Jenn Figg and Tatiana Ginsberg



Rainshelter, Gabriela Sanz Rodríguez and Carlos Martínez Mediero



Firefly, Rashida Ng & Nami Yamamoto



A Rake's Progress, Gary Miller

Environmental Art

Native Plant Illustrations by Arcadia University Students (2009)

Ten Arcadia University students were invited to display their illustrations of native plants. This annual exhibition was shown in conjunction with The Schuylkill Center's Native Plant Sale.

Artist in Residence (2008-09)

Artist in Residence Gary Miller worked with students of The Green Woods Charter School to create an installation of solar-powered illuminated flower sculptures entitled *A Meadow by The Green Woods*. Gary also created a series of 8 large-scale sculptures entitled *A Rake's Progress*, which were on view through December of 2009 at our second site, Brolo Hill Farm.

The aforementioned programs were made possible by generous funding from The William Penn Foundation.

Additional funding was received from The Connolly Foundation and The Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation. Sponsorship for Gimme Shelter was provided by SMP Architects and Viridian Landscape Studio Building Council.



A Meadow by The Green Woods, Gary Miller and The Green Woods Charter School

Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic

The staff and 70 volunteers of The Schuylkill Center's Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic (WRC) continued to serve the Southeastern Pennsylvania region by caring for injured or displaced animals. The WRC is a valuable community resource; though it receives no public funding for its work, the WRC treats animals brought to the Clinic by the general public, and by local authorities.

Conservation through Rehabilitation

In 2008-09, the WRC answered roughly 8000 phone calls, and provided care to over 3000 injured or displaced animals.

Respect for Wildlife

The WRC expanded its Live-animal Educational Programs, averaging at least one school program per week. The live-animal programs engage children of all ages, and foster a life-long respect for wildlife and wildlife habitat. All educational programs adhere to the Pennsylvania Environment and Ecology Standards.





Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic

Public Recognition for the Wildlife Clinic

In February of 2009, The Honorable Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, assisted WRC Director Rick Schubert in the release of a Red-tailed hawk. Governor Rendell called The Schuylkill Center “a jewel in the heart of Philadelphia”.

The Franklin Institute called upon the WRC to provide emergency support to the family of Red-tailed hawks that nested on the museum’s window ledge. The progress of the baby hawks, as well as the rescue of one of the juvenile hawks by Rick Schubert, was viewed by thousands of people across the nation through the Franklin Institute’s Hawk Cam.

The work of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic is made possible, in part, by generous funding from The Burket-Plack Foundation and the Paul Family Foundation.



Agriculture

The Schuylkill Center Farm

In the Spring of 2009, The Schuylkill Center dedicated two acres of its land for food production. The Schuylkill Center Farm (the largest in Philadelphia) is managed by Urban Girls Produce, a profit-sharing farming collective. Urban Girls Produce grows a variety of fruits and vegetables in an organic, sustainable, and earth-friendly manner. Their fresh produce is available spring through fall at our Farmstand; a CSA will be introduced in the Spring of 2010. The Farm will also be used as an educational tool; in 2010, our Nature Ramblers summer camp will introduce a new *Down on the Farm* program.

Organic Community Gardens

The Schuylkill Center's Organic Community Gardens continued to provide local residents with a place to grow organic produce and enjoy the company of fellow gardeners. The organic gardens feature a demonstration plot where gardeners can learn sustainable gardening techniques; in 2010, a series of three demonstration sessions on rainwater collection is planned, offering gardeners a sustainable and cost effective method of irrigation. *Support for the demonstration plot was provided by The Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America.*



Henry Meigs Awards

Established in 2006, The Henry Meigs Environmental Leadership Award recognizes leaders whose commanding presence and guidance toward our world’s sustainable future reflects the spirit, integrity, and vision of The Center’s founder, Henry Meigs.

In 2009, The Schuylkill Center honored Project T.R.E.N.D. with the Henry Meigs Award for Environmental Leadership. From 1969-1984, 150 Project T.R.E.N.D. volunteers brought the wonder of the outdoors and the idea of environmental stewardship to 59 schools in the Greater Philadelphia area, reaching over 40,000 children. The award was given to Project T.R.E.N.D. in recognition of its contribution to environmental sustainability, and for instilling environmental awareness in a generation of children.

The Schuylkill Center was also pleased to present The 2009 Henry Meigs Scholarship Award to Pamela M. Seretny, Teacher, Philadelphia Mennonite High School. The Scholarship is awarded to teachers and students who have demonstrated exceptional interest, curiosity, or accomplishments in environmental studies.



Events

Live at the Pavilion

Since its inception in 2007, the Schuylkill Center's *Live at the Pavilion* Summer Performance Series has offered local residents the opportunity to see music, dance, and theatre performances under the trees at The Schuylkill Center's stone pavilion.

Backyard Campout

The National Wildlife Federation designated The Schuylkill Center as Philadelphia's host site for The Great American Backyard Campout.

Halloween Hikes

Halloween Hikes attracted children of all ages for two evenings of hayrides, night hikes, pumpkin painting, and s'mores by the campfire.

Volunteers

Our volunteer staff is vital to the operation of The Schuylkill Center. Whether teaching, restoring trails, or working "behind the scenes," volunteers make a valuable contribution to furthering the goals of our organization.

Volunteer Honors

In July of 2009, Schuylkill Center volunteer Henry Geyer and Crefeld High School students Nick Crandall, Nathan Gould, Logan Howe, Tom O’Hanlon, and Jory Labhart were honored at our annual Members’ Picnic for their service to The Schuylkill Center.

Stephanie Afshar	Breanna Caltagarone	Kevin Dodson	Lisa Guerriero
Jane Alavi	Kelly Caputo	Ushma Domadia	Becky Hamilton
Marianne Albany	Lisa Carpenter	Pat Doran	Shatira Harrison
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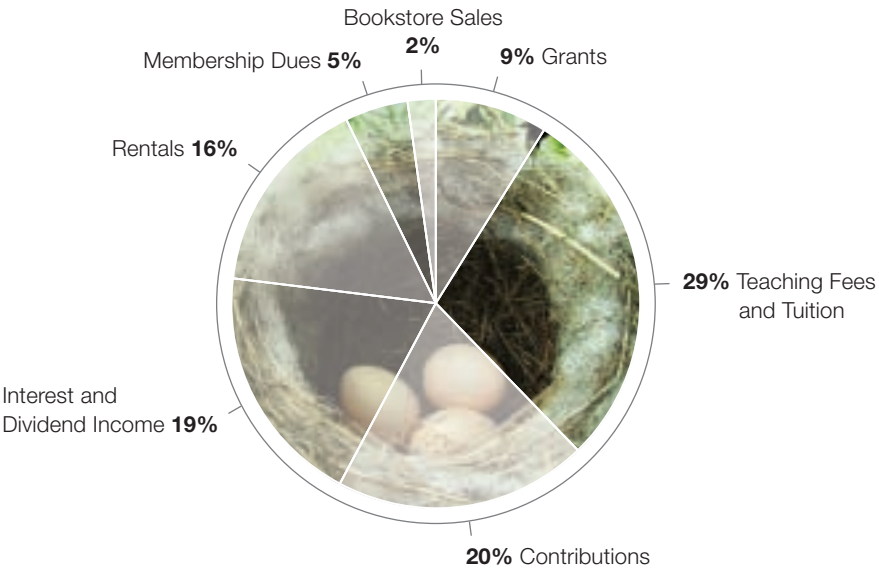


2009 Financial Report

2009 Operating Revenues and Support

Grants	\$100,419
Teaching Fees and Tuition	\$346,848
Contributions	\$229,567
Interest and Dividend Income	\$235,955
Rentals	\$195,896
Membership Dues	\$63,005
Bookstore Sales	\$22,836

Total **\$1,194,526**



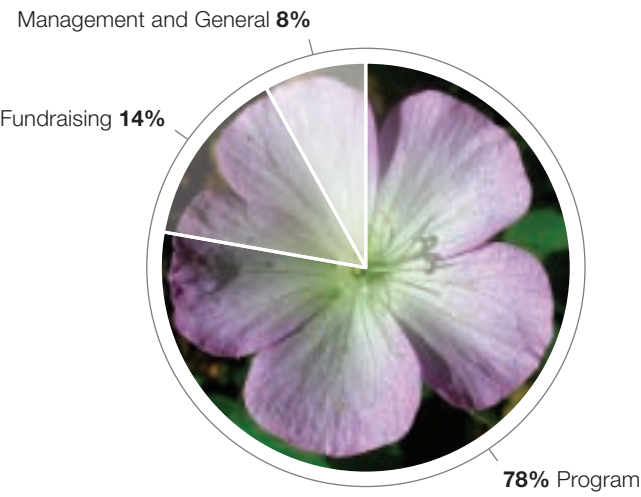
2009 Operating Expenditures

Program	\$1,403,721
Fundraising	\$254,059
Management and General	\$149,524

Total **\$1,807,304**

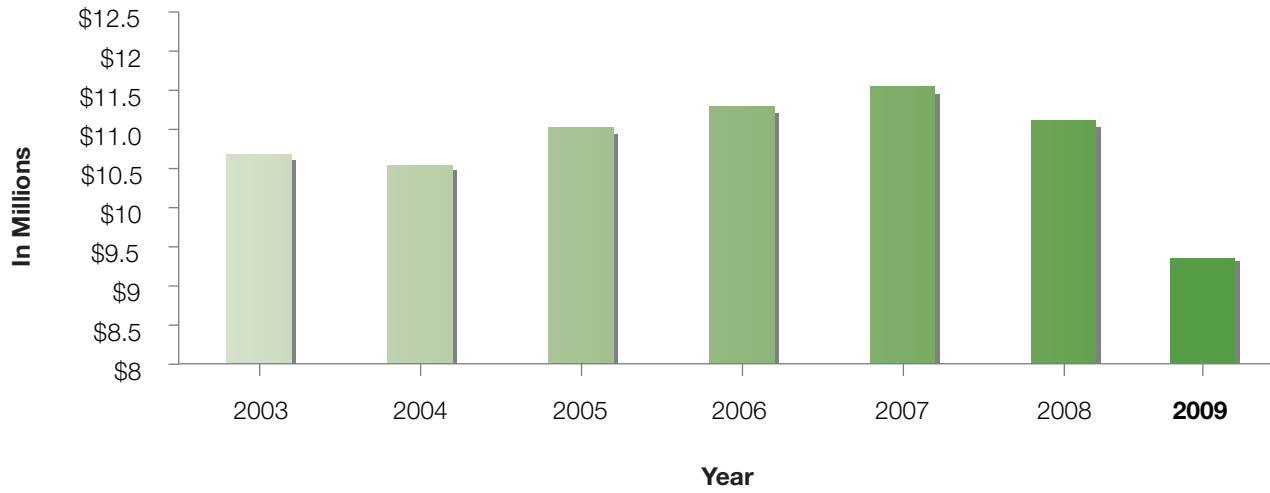
2009 Decrease in Net Assets

from Operations **\$612,778**



Year End Total Net Assets

2003	\$10,677,456
2004	\$10,543,911
2005	\$11,025,105
2006	\$11,293,616
2007	\$11,543,895
2008	\$11,107,599
2009	\$9,357,388



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