

Events Calendar



December / January / February 2011-12

FAMILY FUN

Merry Making, A Winter Craft Event

*Sunday, December 4 | 11:00 am - 4:00 pm | Free**

It's a day of sustainable holiday shopping, craft workshops and treats. Local crafters using eco-friendly materials offer handmade gifts for sale and host kid-friendly workshops on making gifts and decorations. Seasonal beverages and snacks.

*The event is FREE with a suggested donation to the Schuylkill Center; workshops may have a materials fee.

Winterfest

Thursday, December 22 | 7:00 - 9:30 pm | Members free / \$5 non-members

WXPN's Kid's Corner joins us for a solstice celebration. Stargaze with the Franklin Institute's Derrick Pitts, walk with Mike Weilbacher, the show's "All-Natural Science Guy," join librarian Joe Hilton for story time, or play Dr. Lisa Chirlian's "science fact and fiction." Host Kathy O'Connell presides over the festivities. Refreshments served around the bonfire.

SCEE Trip: Lakota Wolf Preserve

Saturday, January 21 | 12:30 - 7:00 pm | \$25 members; \$35 non-members

The controversial reintroduction of wolves in the American West makes us wonder what our own forests looked like when wolves roamed free. At the Lakota Wolf Preserve in the Delaware Water Gap, meet wolves up close, and learn about their packs, eating habits and history in the region. Pre-registration is required.

Owl Prowl

Saturday, January 28 | 4:00 - 6:00 pm | Members free; \$8 non-members

Winter is a busy time for owls; it's when they court mates and build nests. We'll search for owls, their signs, and maybe see one. Meet Jackson the great-horned owl and Loki the eastern screech owl.

Winter Wildlife Tracking

Saturday, February 18 | 1:00 - 3:00 pm | Members free; \$8 non-members

Our woodlands are full of animals, even in the winter. Join the wildlife clinic's Rick Schubert for an introductory course

in wildlife tracking. Children can make tracks of their own on a separate kids' hike in search of animal prints left in the mud or snow.

The Great Backyard Bird Count

Monday, February 20 (President's Day) | 1:00 - 3:00 pm | Free

Each year we participate in a nationwide count of bird populations, sponsored by Audubon and the Cornell Ornithology Lab. Learn to identify common feeder birds, to differentiate between bird songs and calls, and how to attract birds to your yard.

SATURDAYS @ SCEE

New! Take a break from the cartoons on Saturday mornings and get your kids into nature. Every Saturday morning from 10:30 - 11:30 am, FREE.

Story Hour

2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month

Gather in the bookstore for a story, games and hands-on exploration - all with a nature theme for the young ones.

Nature Exploration

1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month

Join us in the Discovery Center for a naturalist-led exploration of artifacts, followed by an outdoor walk. We'll explore different nature themes each time.

DAY OFF PROGRAMS

What to do when the kids are off, but you're not!

Primitive Skills & Ancient Living - Winter Break Camp

Monday, December 19 - Friday, December 23 | \$200 members; \$225 non-members

How did indigenous people survive cold winters? What did they eat? Explore our woodland in search of answers, while building shelters and a fire! We'll cook outside, and search for winter animals to see how they adapt to the cold.

Wild about Winter

Monday, January 16 - Martin Luther King Day | \$45 members; \$55 non-members

We'll follow animal tracks, climb rocks, see what's happening in our winter ponds, and more. Plan on being outside for most of the day, especially if there's snow!

Info & Registration: Email: scee@schuylkillcenter.org Tel. 215.482.7300 x110

For more detailed event descriptions, visit www.schuylkillcenter.org

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DAY OFF PROGRAMS, CONTINUED

Kitchen Science

Monday, February 20th - President's Day | \$45 members; \$55 non-members

Molecules are everywhere, interacting in and around us all the time. Use everyday kitchen ingredients to create silly slimes, goo and gasses, exploring the power of molecules.

All Day Off programs (including Winter Break Camp) are designed for kids ages 5-12. They run from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm, with an extended day option available until 6:00 pm. The extended day fee is \$15 per day. Pre-registration is required.

SEEDLINGS – NATURE FOR THE YOUNG

The Seedlings program encourages children ages 3-5 and their parents/caregivers to explore the natural world together. We'll share stories, songs, crafts, activities, outdoor experiences, and lots of fun. Programs are offered every other Monday, with your choice of a morning or afternoon session. Adult participation and pre-registration required.

Times: 10:30-11:30 am; 2:00-3:00 pm

Cost for each program: \$6 members/\$8 non-members

Ready for Winter - Monday, December 12

Winter Sensory Ramble – Monday, January 9

Whose Tracks Are These? – Monday, January 23

Groundhog Day & Signs of Spring – Thursday, February 2

Animal Valentines – Monday, February 6

Backyard Birds – Monday, February 20th

EVENTS FOR ADULTS

Sustainability & Your Local Coffee Shop

Thursday, December 8 | 7:00 pm | \$5 per person

At Mugshots Coffeehouse in Fairmount, explore the environmental impact of coffee and tea. Hear how this local chain embraces a triple bottom line and sources sustainably.

The Toad Detour Movie

Saturday, December 10 | 4:00 - 5:30 pm | Free

It's *The Toad Detour Movie*, a documentary about Roxborough's famed toads and the volunteers that protect them. Burgess Coffield, the movie's writer-director, and its stars, local volunteers, introduce the movie.

Winter Bird Census

Saturday, January 7 | 7:30 – 11:00 am | Free

Help collect important data about SCEE's winter birds. No prior expertise required. We'll provide coffee, tea and light breakfast foods.

Giants of the Forest

Saturday, January 14 | 1:00 – 3:00 pm | Free

Meet the very largest trees in our forest, some over 10 feet wide. Learn why these trees grew so big, and how they managed to escape the saw blade! Learn simple ways to identify these species by their winter characteristics.

Book Discussion: The Great Disruption

Thursday, February 2 | 7:00 pm | Free

Co-sponsored by Grid magazine.

It's the maiden voyage of a new series of conversations introducing you to regional leaders in discussions of important issues. Executive Director Mike Weilbacher and Grid's magazine's Alex Mulcahy team up to wade into *The Great Disruption: Why the Climate Crisis Will Bring On the End of Shopping and the Birth of a New World*. Written by Paul Gilding, it proposes an impending planetary collapse will kick-start a transformation to sustainability. Buy the book in our gift shop or at Big Blue Marble bookstore in Mt. Airy, and come prepared for a lively interactive evening.

Worm Composting Collective: Urban Composting Made Easy

Saturday, February 4 | 12:30 - 2:30 pm | Members: \$20/person, \$30/couple; Non-members: \$30/person, \$40/couple; \$5 discount for donating finished compost to the Center

Worm composting is easy, fun, takes little space, and helps the environment. Build a worm bin while learning about decomposition, worm biology, and how to care for your worms. When ready, use your compost in your garden OR bring it here to enrich our farm's soil. Pre-registration is required; spaces are limited.

WINTER BIRDSEED SALE

Saturday, December 10 | 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Pre-order and save! Members save 20%, non-members save 10% off regular prices.

Stock up to keep your feathered friends fed throughout the winter. For details and an order form, check out the ad in this season's Quill or visit our website.

Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education

8480 Hagys Mill Rd.
Philadelphia, PA 19128

For more detailed event descriptions, visit www.schuylkillcenter.org