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Schuylkill Center Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Philadelphia, PA – January 7, 2005 -This year, The Schuylkill Center celebrates its 40th year as a leader in urban environmental education. In 1965, when the Center began, it was the only organization of its kind in the Philadelphia area. Now dozens of other local nature centers have sprung up in the intervening years, proving that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery!

While proud of the accomplishments of the past four decades, the Center is most excited about the future of the organization and the continued work of its educational mission. Some of the most exciting projects have been completed since 2001, including the pavilion and amphitheater near Towhee Trail; Springhouse Pond at the intersection of the Ravine Loop and Wind Dance Pond Trail; and Penn's Native Acres within the Ravine Loop. All of these efforts are designed to create more effective educational tools that the environmental educators can use in the many contexts in which the Center provides environmental education.

2005 will also bring new developments that will benefit the Center's members and the Philadelphia-area public. With a lead grant from GlaxoSmithKline, the Center is currently raising funds for Phase I of the Schuylkill River Trail Wayside Stop. This will give the Center a new presence along the Schuylkill River Trail, which borders its property for almost a mile.

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40th Anniversary

Another project that is nearly complete is a brand new Trail Map, designed through the joint efforts of three Center volunteers. The new trail maps are colorful, easier to read and offer more information regarding things to see and do on the trails.

To kickoff its yearlong calendar of 40th Anniversary festivities, the Center will hold its “Opening Night” Reception at Drexel University’s Westphal Gallery on February 25, 2005 from 5:30 – 8:30 pm. Tickets are \$40 in advance /\$50 at the door. Please call 215-482-7300, ext. 110 for more information. With excitement building, everyone at the Center is enthusiastic about celebrating its 40th year in operation. It is a time to reflect on past accomplishments and anticipate the future!

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