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Naturepalooza Featured Plenty of Fun, Learning and Sunshine Hundreds Turn Out for Schuylkill Center/Science Festival Event



PHILADELPHIA (April 30, 2013) It seemed as if Mother Nature herself joined in the celebration at last Saturday's Naturepalooza festival at the Schuylkill Center, gifting the 700 plus attendees with spectacular weather and a setting awash in spring green. As part of the Philadelphia Science Festival, the event offered plenty of nature-based fun for all ages, and set attendance records for the Schuylkill Center.

"This is only our second year presenting Naturepalooza, but our first time partnering with the Philadelphia Science Festival, and we couldn't be happier about how the event came together," said Schuylkill Center Executive Director Mike Weilbacher. "We had an exciting lineup of activities and enjoyed introducing many new people to the Schuylkill Center."

Taking advantage of beautiful weather, most of the activities were outside, including live music on the Center's amphitheater stage, guided nature walks, an art project to build a giant bird's nest, a native plant sale, and educational exhibits from the Philadelphia Zoo, the Franklin Institute, and more. Citizen science was one of the themes of the event, as some participants learned how to collect data for wildlife censuses like FrogWatch USA or eBird.

Animal lovers of all ages filled the Center's auditorium for live animal shows, getting an up close look at some of the Center's educational animals, including a turkey vulture, a king snake and an Eastern screech owl. A wild animal of a different sort surprised festival-goers with hugs, high-fives and some serious dance moves, when the Philly Phanatic showed up to join in the fun.

The Schuylkill Center thanks the following organizations for their support of Naturepalooza: Philadelphia Zoo, The Franklin Institute, SciStarter, John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, Clean Air Council and East River Bank.

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Photos at top of page:

Figure 1: The Philly Phanatic entertained the crowd

Figure 2: Learning about invertebrates at the Franklin Institute table

Figure 3: Children helped weave a giant's bird nest

More photos



Figure 4: Families check out an exhibit on wind power



Figure 5: Gardeners enjoyed the native plant sale

About the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education

The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE) was founded in 1965 as the nation's first urban environmental education organization. Its 365-acre sanctuary serves as a living laboratory to foster appreciation, deepen understanding, and encourage stewardship of the environment. SCEE reaches over 15,000 Philadelphia-area residents each year with an array of educational programs, including standards-based programs for schoolchildren, continuing education for teachers, and a full calendar of events for the public. SCEE is also home to a wildlife rehabilitation clinic, an innovative environmental art program and a native plant nursery. In 2010 SCEE signed conservation easements with Natural Lands Trust, protecting in perpetuity the largest privately-owned piece of land within the Philadelphia city limits. To learn more, visit schuylkillcenter.org.