



The Schuylkill
Center | for ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION

ISSUE

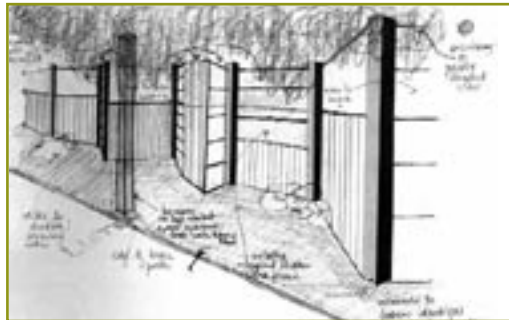
SPRING 2006

THE Quill

SCEE TO HAVE REST STOP ON SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAIL *By Ashleigh Poff*



The entire southern side of SCEE's grounds, to the right of the path, borders approximately 2,800 feet of the Schuylkill River Trail.



This rendering shows the new fencing and seating boulders that will welcome trail users at our wayside bike stop.

On any given day in the warm season months, the Schuylkill River Trail is a blur of activity. The wide, paved path provides the perfect escape for serious cyclists and recreational users, extending along the western bank of the Schuylkill River between Philadelphia and Valley Forge. At the northwestern edge of Philadelphia, the Trail runs right through Roxborough and crosses over Port Royal Avenue. Framing this portion of the Trail on either side are beautiful views of the Schuylkill River and thick forest. What most people don't know is that this forest bordering the Trail is actually The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education. In fact, the entire southern side of The Schuylkill Center's property, approximately 2,800 feet, runs parallel to the Schuylkill River Trail. Despite this, there is no entrance into The Schuylkill Center from the Trail or even a clear view of our grounds. It's about time this changed.

With generous funding from GlaxoSmithKline and The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources through the Schuylkill River Heritage Area, we will begin Phase 1 of our Wayside Bike Stop project. Work initially began on this project in spring 2003 with a feasibility study. Schuylkill Center staff and volunteers surveyed over 240 cyclists to determine what type of amenities would be desired along the Trail. Once the desire for a wayside stop was established, Andropogon Associates, Ltd., a landscape architecture

firm, was hired to create a plan to meet this need. The three phase project eventually transforms the now unwelcoming Schuylkill Center border into a comfortable place to stop, complete with viewing platforms that look over both streams on the property and a path that connects hikers to the established trail system on our grounds.

Phase 1 of the project will include:

- Clearing away vegetation along the existing chain link fence that encloses our property;
- Making the current clearing larger and expanding it further onto our grounds;
- Removing portions of the existing fence to open up the new rest area;
- Installing new fence that allows for better visibility of the grounds and creates a more welcoming feel;
- Installing bicycle racks along the new fencing;
- Placing seating boulders within the new clearing;
- Installing signage identifying The Schuylkill Center.

Work will begin in spring 2006 and is being conducted by Paul W. Steinbeiser, Inc. Phase 1 should be completed in time for the Freedom Valley Bike Ride on June 18th. Please feel free to take a stroll along the Trail and check out our progress as summer approaches! The Schuylkill Center is excited about this project and looking forward to sharing the Trail with its many caretakers and users.

SPRING EVENTS

April

- 5 Clinic Volunteer Orientation
- 8 Clinic Volunteer Orientation
- 12 Salamander Migration Mayhem
- 15 Restoration Volunteer Day
- 22 Bird Club Service Day
- 28 Birding in the Delaware Valley-1
- 28/29 Native Plant Sale
- 29 Teacher Workshop: Wonders of Wetlands
- 29 Our Extraordinary Earth
- 30 Native Plant Sale

May

- 3 Merit Badge Program-Part 1
- 5 Birding in the Delaware Valley-2
- 10 Merit Badge Program-Part 2
- 12 Birding in the Delaware Valley -3
- 13 Plants, Pots, and Pollinators
- 13 Composting Workshop
- 18 Birding in the Delaware Valley -4
- 20 Merit Badge Program-Part 3
- 20 Restoration Volunteer Day
- 20 Teacher Workshop: Project Learning Tree

June

- 3 Annual Breeding Bird Count
- 6 2006 Metamorphosis Awards
- 10 Beekeeping Workshop
- 17 Restoration Volunteer Day
- 24 Fishing Fanatics



at a glance

Native Plant Sale
April 28th, 29th, & 30th

See Calendar of Events for details.

HOURS OF OPERATION:
MON-SAT
8:30 am - 5:00 pm
SUN
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

BOOKSTORE HOURS:
MON-SAT
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
SUN
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm



THE SCHUYLKILL CENTER for ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

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* Deceased



REPAIRING SMITH'S RUN STREAM



This spring, The Schuylkill Center will begin repairing an area of streambank on Smith's Run, a first-order stream that flows southwest through the length of our property and empties into the Schuylkill River. This project is part of a larger initiative to restore use to Wind Dance Pond Trail, which has been closed since the summer of 2004 as a result of streambank erosion and damage to the only bridge that connects the Trail across Smith's Run. The aforementioned erosion has been occurring in the upper section of this stream as a result of excess and mismanaged stormwater runoff from outside our property. During August 2004, a torrent of rainwater swept through the stream causing severe degradation in a 60 foot area just south of Wind Dance Pond. As a result of this streambank erosion, there has been increased siltation in lower portions of the

stream, loss of wildlife habitat, and decreased educational value of this portion of the trail near Smith's Run.

Thanks to funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, we will restore 1,000 linear feet of the eroded streambank. The Center will be working in conjunction with Paul W. Steinbeiser, Inc. and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network to regrade the streambanks, strategically install large boulders, and select various plants and grasses suited to a stream ecosystem. Community volunteers from several organizations will plant these native species to increase the quantity and diversity of riparian vegetation at the site. This project will improve wildlife habitat, water quality, and overall stream ecology of the area, as well as educate community volunteers. We can't wait to get started!



Greetings
From The

NATIVE

PLANT SALE

A WIDE VARIETY OF PLANTS TO SUIT YOUR GARDENING NEEDS

The Native Plant Sale will be held April 28th, 29th, and 30th.
Please see "Calendar of Events" pages for details.

art program update

NEW EXHIBIT: VISUAL MEDITATIONS FROM NATURE

By Mary Salvante

The Schuylkill Center is currently featuring a new and unique Environmental Art gallery exhibit by artist John Phillips, entitled, "Visual Meditations from Nature". This presentation of images of delicate, fragile lichen formations in a large-scale format creates an environment in which the viewer becomes a participant rather than spectator. The surface of the rocks become aerial views of mountain plains and tundra and the fluidness of the colors move us through the space as if floating on the water. The exhibit opened February 11th and runs through May 30th, 2006. A free artist's reception will be held on Sunday, March 26th from 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

John says of this series, "My first island photographs began as a way of saying thank you to my friend Virginia Naude. Ginny was kind enough to invite my wife and me to vacation on her family's island in Canada. Our idea of a vacation is to rest, meditate, and create visual art. The island's pre-cambrian rock formations and ground cover can form, when looked at carefully, abstract landscapes with a sense of aerial perspective. The aerial



Get an up-close view of lichen formations during SCEE's new art exhibit, "Visual Meditations from Nature", by John Phillips.



This abstract photographic exhibit runs from February 11th to May 30th, 2006 in SCEE's art gallery.

aspect of these landscapes has something in common with Richard Diebenkorn's paintings which I happened to be studying at the time."

"The photographs are 'as is' renditions taken on color slide film with a 35 mm camera held about 2 to 4 feet above the ground, looking down. The slides are scanned with the "as is" in mind and ink jet printed. I consider my picture taking sessions to be a form of meditation sometimes guided with visual and/or spiritual themes. What you might call low altitude orbiting," says John.

John N. Phillips has been interested in photography, painting, and sculpture since the mid 1960's. John runs his own sculpture restoration company and is currently a master lecturer in foundry and mold making at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. For more information about The Schuylkill Center's Environmental Art Program, visit www.schuylkillcenter.org and click on "Art Programs".

grants and donations

October 1 – December 31, 2005

We graciously thank the following foundations, corporations and businesses for their generosity:

Albertsons	Great Valley High School	Phillips Mushroom Farms	Universal Hair Studios
Applebees Neighborhood Bar & Grill	Hare, Chase & Heckman	Providence Garden Club of Pennsylvania	Wright-Cook Foundation
The Barnes Foundation	The Thornton D. & Elizabeth S. Hooper Foundation	The Quaker Chemical Foundation	Matching Employee Gifts
The Barra Foundation, Inc.	The Lily Foundation	Radnor Veterinary Hospital	Aetna Giving Campaign
Boardman Hamilton Company	Montgomery County SPCA	Cheryl Beth Silverman Memorial Fund	GlaxoSmithKline
Brown Brothers Harriman Trust Company, LLC	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	Sunoco Logistics	The Glenmede Trust Company, N. A.
Critter Control	Norristown Garden Club	Swiss Pines	Johnson & Johnson Company
The Darling Fund	PA Department of Environmental Protection	T/A Schroeder Roofing	LandAmerica Foundation
Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation	Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission	The Harriette S. & Charles L. Tabas Foundation	United Way of SEPA
First Presbyterian Church in Germantown		The Tangled Web	Vanguard Group Foundation Fund

Gifts in Honor/Memory

In Honor of J.R. Delich Ms. Carol J. McCloskey	In Memory of Jennifer Hillstrom Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Hillstrom	Mrs. Marion G. McCabe Mr. & Mrs. Jon F. Pressman, Ph.D. Ms. Melissa L. Sly	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce E. Silverman Cheryl Beth Silverman Memorial Fund Mr. & Mrs. Rodney R. Bartchy, Jr.
In Honor of Daniel Fadden, In Memory of Barley Ms. Coleen Fadden	In Memory of Nathan Kates Mr. and Mrs. J. Michael Dzuba	In Memory of Henry H. H. Meigs Ms. & Mr. Jean T. MacGregor Mr. & Mrs. Binney Meigs Mrs. Henry Meigs Dr. Ruth Patrick Van Dusen	In Honor of Carol Silverman's birthday Mr. & Mrs. Bruce E. Silverman
In Memory of Yrminda Fortes Ms. Louise Slama	In Memory of Christine Mazurek Mr. & Mrs. Joseph G. Mazurek	In Memory of Cheryl Beth Silverman Ms. Janis L. Hottinger	In Honor of Lee van de Velde Mr. Howard Simon & Ms. Katherine C. Hangley
In Memory of David Furlong Ms. Mary A. Phalan	In Memory of Chris McCabe Ms. Virginia Buchanan & Mrs. Mary Ann Buchanan		

calendar of events

For questions or to register for an event, please call (215) 482-7300, ext. 110 unless noted otherwise. Become a member today and receive a discount on most programs!

April 2006

Wed | 5th *Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic Volunteer Orientation*

6:30 - 7:30 pm

FREE; pre-registration required.

The Clinic is seeking new volunteers to help take care of its wild animal patients. If you love animals and are over 18 years of age, do not miss this chance to learn about the various volunteer opportunities offered by SCEE's Clinic. Call (215) 482-8217 to register. Event will be held at the Clinic, 304 Port Royal Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128.

Sat | 8th *Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic Volunteer Orientation*

10:00 - 11:00 am

FREE; pre-registration required.

See above for information for event.

Sat | 8th *Healthy Kids Day at Roxborough YMCA*

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Visit SCEE Educators at this annual event that is all about healthy kids! Participate in our hands-on activities and see how a pollution-free community is a great place for kids to learn and grow. The Roxborough YMCA is located at 7201 Ridge Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19128.

Wed | 12th *Salamander Migration Mayhem*

6:00 pm

**FREE/members; \$5/non-members;
pre-registration required.**

Spring is the height of salamander migration and mating. Take this opportunity to learn more about salamander lifestyles, and why they are an important indicator of environmental health. Join us as we visit the Center's hotspots of salamander activity. *Pre-register by April 7th.*

Sat | 15th *Restoration Volunteer Day*

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Get outside and volunteer with the Land Restoration staff! See the "Notes" section for details!

Fri | 21st *EarthFest 2006 at Temple University Ambler*

9:30 am - 3:00 pm

FREE

Plan to attend this amazing Earth Day celebration and learn about many ways to care for our environment. Be sure to stop by our booth! Information about EarthFest 2006 can be found at <http://www.temple.edu/ambler>.

Sat | 22nd *Bird Club Service Day*

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

FREE; pre-registration required.

Join the SCEE Bird Club as we build several new bluebird nest boxes and install them along the Chris McCabe Bluebird trail. We will also be

cleaning and repairing existing boxes, all to improve nesting habitat for bluebirds, chickadees, wrens and swallows.

Pre-register by April 17th.

Fri | 28th *Workshop Series: Birding in the Delaware Valley - Session 1*

9:00 - 11:00 am

\$40/members; \$50/non-members;

pre-registration required.

Designed for the novice as well as the experienced birder, this is an excellent opportunity to learn new skills and to experience great birding with renowned local birder, Skip Conant, during the spring migration. Limited to 15 participants. *Pre-register by April 23rd.*

Fri | 28th *Native Plant Sale: Wine and Cheese Party (members only)*

6:30 - 8:00 pm

FREE to attend; plant prices vary

Members are invited to join us for a pre-plant sale "Wine and Cheese Party". Take this opportunity to get a head start on your spring gardening by being the first to purchase your native plants! Staff will be on hand to register new members and renew lapsed memberships.

Sat | 29th *Native Plant Sale*

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Plant prices vary

Attend our annual native plant sale. A variety of perennials, shrubs and trees will be available for purchase. Also during this time we will be offering a tour of Penn's Native Acres, our restoration showcase! The tour will begin at 2:00 pm. Plant species, descriptions, and cultural information is provided on our website. Visit http://www.schuylkillcenter.org/Restoration/land_restoration.htm and click on "Native Plant Sale".

Sat | 29th *Teacher Workshop: Wonder of Wetlands*

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

\$15 per person; pre-registration required.

Earn Act 48 credits as Virginia Ranly, our Watersheds Program Coordinator, introduces you to the wonderful curriculum supplement, WOW: The Wonder of Wetlands. You will experience several activities, and learn strategies for teaching about wetlands in your classroom. Please wear comfortable clothes and waterproof shoes: we will be exploring the Center's wetlands! Bring a bag lunch. *Pre-register by April 24th.*

Sat | 29th *Our Extraordinary Earth*

12:30 - 3:00 pm

\$3/members; \$5/non-members;

pre-registration required.

You're invited to a celebration of our natural world in honor of Earth Day. Wander through our trails and explore our habitats and the creatures that we find within them. Discover ways to help heal and protect the delicate balance of the environment and build a unique master-

piece using recycled materials. *Pre-register by April 27th.*

Sun | 30th *Native Plant Sale*

8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Plant prices vary

Attend our annual native plant sale. A variety of perennials, shrubs and trees will be available for purchase. Plant species, descriptions, and cultural information is provided on our website. Visit http://www.schuylkillcenter.org/Restoration/land_restoration.htm and click on "Native Plant Sale".

May 2006

Wed | 3rd *Environmental Science Merit Badge Program-Part 1*

6:00 - 8:00 pm

For Boy Scouts; \$30 for three programs.

Also see May 10th & 20th listings.

This three-part program guides in the understanding of experiments and concepts required for the environmental science merit badge. A merit badge counselor will lead these programs at SCEE.

Fri | 5th *Workshop Series: Birding in the Delaware Valley - Session 2*

8:00 - 10:00 am;

pre-registration required.

Please see Session 1, April 28th, listing for details. *Pre-register by April 30th.*

Sat | 6th *Mt. Airy Day 2006*

11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Find out more about our new Growing Greener grant that will be raising awareness about water resources and collecting meaningful information about the health of local waterways. This event will be held at 6401 Germantown Avenue on the grounds of Cliveden and Upsala mansions.

Sun | 7th *Chestnut Hill Home and Garden Festival*

11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Visit SCEE Educators at this great local celebration and engage in conversation about the many opportunities available to care for our environment. The festival will be held on Germantown Avenue between Willow Grove and Rex Avenues.

Wed | 10th *Environmental Science Merit Badge Program-Part 2*

6:00 - 8:00 pm

For Boy Scouts; \$30 for three programs. Also see

May 3rd & 20th listings.

This three-part program guides in the understanding of experiments and concepts required for the environmental science merit badge. A merit badge counselor will lead these programs at SCEE.



SCEE HOSTING 2006 ENVIROTHON

On April 28, 2006, The Schuylkill Center will be hosting the 2006 Pennsylvania Envirothon. For the last 7 years, the Center has been hosting the Philadelphia County portion of this nation-wide competition. Thanks to support from Rohm and Haas Company, this event brings together high school students from all over Philadelphia and tests them on five topics related to the environment including aquatics, forestry, wildlife, soil and a special topic, water stewardship in a changing climate.

VOLUNTEER AT SCEE!

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Serve as a volunteer on SCEE's Membership Committee. The Development Office is forming a Membership Committee whose mission will be to perform outreach activities and other tasks on behalf of SCEE with the goal of increasing positive public awareness, memberships, and participation at the Center. Please be ready for brainstorming as well as action! If interested, contact Sarah James, Membership Services Coordinator, at sjames@schuylkillcenter.org or 215-482-7300, ext.

LAND RESTORATION

Work outdoors as a Restoration Volunteer. Join SCEE's Land Restoration Department on the 3rd Saturday of each month between February and November from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Volunteers will participate in various projects to help restore the Center's landscape, from invasive plant removal to streambank stabilization! Make sure to dress in layers, wear sturdy boots, and bring bottled water and a desire to work! Light refreshments will be provided. To volunteer, contact Joanne Malfatti at jmalfatti@schuylkillcenter.org or (215) 482-7300, ext. 144.

DONATE YOUR OLD CELL PHONES TO SCEE!

Do you have an old cell phone you no longer need? Don't throw it in the landfill—donate it to The Schuylkill Center. We participate in a program that refurbishes old cell phones for future use. Cellular phones contain toxic materials such as lead and cadmium, which while harmless during the usable life of a phone, become hazardous to our soil, air and water supply when disposed of improperly. Contact Sarah James at 215-482-7300, ext. 117 for more information or just drop it off at the Center's front desk to her attention.

Restoration staff! See the "Notes" section for details!

June 2006

Sat | 3rd Annual Breeding Bird Count
7:00 – 11:00 am

FREE; pre-registration required.

Join SCEE's Bird Club for its annual breeding bird count. Experienced and beginning birders are invited to help us conduct a census of our summer-time avian residents in this important annual event! The information collected supports all departments at the Center. Coffee and snacks provided. *Pre-register by May 30th.*

Tues | 6th The 2006 Metamorphosis Awards
6:00 – 8:30 pm

Please see the Awards "Save the Date" Announcement on "Page 7" for details.

Sat | 10th Beekeeping Workshop
1:00 – 3:00 pm

\$6/members; \$12/non-members; pre-registration required.

SCEE Beekeeper Joe Duffy will reveal beekeeping tips and tools and demonstrate how honey is harvested from the hive. Visit SCEE's observation hive, and taste test an array of honey samples! *Pre-register by June 5th.*

Sat | 17th Restoration Volunteer Day
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Get outside and volunteer with the Land Restoration staff! See the "Notes" section for details!

Sat | 24th Fishing Fanatics
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

\$5/members; \$10/non-members; pre-registration required.

Bring the entire family! Get hooked on fishing the SMART way! Learn how to bait a fish hook, cast a rod, and safely place a fish back in the water from a PA Fish and Boat Commission certified Fishing Skills Instructor. Hike to the Center's Wind Dance Pond and discover what lies beneath the surface of the water as you spend the morning relaxing at the water's edge. Refreshments provided. *Pre-register by June 19th.*

PLAN AHEAD...

ANNUAL MEMBER & VOLUNTEER PICNIC

The evening of July 13th
Stay tuned for more details!

Fri | 12th Workshop Series: Birding in the Delaware Valley - Session 3

8:00 – 10:00 am;

pre-registration required.

Please see Session 1, April 28th, listing for details. *Pre-register by May 6th.*

Sat | 13th Composting Workshop
10:00 – 11:30 am

FREE; pre-registration required.

A representative of Penn State Cooperative Extension will lead a program on how to reuse kitchen scraps, yard trimmings, and other organic material to create compost. You don't have to have a large yard or even grass to keep these materials out of the landfills! All participants receive a FREE compost bin. To register, call The Penn State Philadelphia Outreach Center at (215) 471-2200.

Sat | 13th Plants, Pots, and Pollinators
1:00 - 3:30 pm

\$5/members; \$7/non-members; pre-registration required.

Come and join us for a relaxing Saturday to learn about plants and the insects that pollinate them. We will take a stroll on the property to look for pollination in progress, dissect a flower to look at its parts, and decorate a pot to take home for Mother's Day. This is the perfect adventure to share with your little one. *Pre-register by May 8th.*

Thu | 18th Workshop Series: Birding in the Delaware Valley-Session 4

8:00 – 10:00 am;

pre-registration required.

Please see Session 1, April 28th, listing for details. *Pre-register by May 13th.*

Sat | 20th Environmental Science Merit Badge Program-Part 3

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

For Boy Scouts; \$30 for three programs. Also see May 3rd & 10th listings.

This three-part program guides in the understanding of experiments and concepts required for the environmental science merit badge. A merit badge counselor will lead these programs at SCEE.

Sat | 20th Teacher Workshop: Project Learning Tree

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

\$15 per person; pre-registration required.

Earn Act 48 credits as SCEE Educators lead K-8 teachers on a tour of the hands-on interdisciplinary activities included in the curriculum supplement "Project Learning Tree." Please wear comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes, as we will be incorporating the outdoors into our workshop. Bring bag lunch. *Pre-register by May 15th.*

Sat | 20th Restoration Volunteer Day
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Get outside and volunteer with the Land

MR. & MRS. JOE CARTER
 MS. & MR. LAUREL COOPER
 MR. & MRS. PATRICK DEAN
 MR. PATRICK DENNIN
 DUFF FAMILY
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 MS. WHITNEY MEHRHOF
 MS. NICOLE NICHOLSON
 JEFF PODRAZA
 MR. JOSHUA ROBERTS
 DR. DAVID B. SCHAFFER &
 MS. SANDRA KURITZKY
 THE SHEPPARD FAMILY
 MR. & MRS. JOEL SLOANE
 MR. KEVIN SMITH

A special thank you to all of our new members - you are most appreciated! Please let us know if you prefer to see your name with a different spelling or format by calling Sarah James at (215) 482-7300, ext. 117. Membership contributions received after December 31st will be acknowledged in our next issue of *The Quill*.



fur and feathers

THE RELEASE OF A RED-TAILED HAWK

By Rick Schubert

Being a wildlife rehabilitator is something like being Sherlock Holmes: When a wild animal is brought to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic, it can't tell us what happened or where it hurts. We have to piece together very subtle clues and formulate a plan to get the animal back into nature where it belongs. Sometimes it's an almost overwhelming task, and we ask ourselves, "Where do we start?" The place to start, as well as the place to finish, is to respect the dignity of the animal in life and in death. Not all of our patients make it, but when they do it affirms the goodness of the person who took time out of his or her busy life to pick up the injured creature and get involved in seeing it brought back to health.

Red-tailed Hawk #357 was found on the side of the road, emaciated and unable to fly, and admitted to the Clinic on 12/28/05. Helping an animal recover from emaciation is a delicate game, involving frequent fluid therapy calculated down to the last kilocalorie. When an animal is starving to the point of near-death, you can't just feed it lots of food. It would take more energy to digest the food than the animal possesses in its body, and would only accelerate the process of starvation and death. To further complicate the process, starvation in an animal is never an isolated problem: There is always some underlying cause that must be treated as well. In this case, we pieced together clues that indicated the animal had a fungal infection in its throat, which we treated with an antifungal medication.



Pictured here with Rick Schubert, Director of Wildlife Rehabilitation, this Red-tailed Hawk is ready for release after being treated at our Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic.

We also gave it lots of care, including subcutaneous fluid injections for the first eight hours and gavage-tube feeding of a calorie-rich liquid. By the end of the first week, the bird had recovered enough strength to eat on her own. The hawk progressed steadily in stages, building her body back up, being moved outside to our large flight cage, and finally showing us that she could fly well enough to be released back into the wild.

Like all animals treated at the Clinic, this Red-tailed Hawk harbored a fierce awareness and desire to be free. No wild animal thanks its caretaker after being healed, and those dedicated to saving wildlife would not have it any other way. That's the way it's supposed to be, and that's why we do what we do, respecting the dignity of every animal in life and in death. Luckily, this one was returned to her life. She flew away beautifully when she was released at The Schuylkill Center on 1/16/06.



A DEDICATED BOARD MEMBER...

The Schuylkill Center fondly said farewell to I. Tatnall Starr, II, who passed away on January 21, 2006 at the age of 66. Tat served on the Board of Trustees of the Center in various leadership positions during his tenure during the 1980's and 1990's, including Chairman of the Finance and Investment Committees, Vice-Chair and Chair. He also led "Campaign for the 90's" as co-chair, and was one of the first former trustees to be asked to serve on the Advisory Board, where he continued active participation until the time of his death. He had recently retired, and expressed a keen interest in renewing and deepening his involvement at the Center again.

Tat's vision and leadership contributed greatly to the history and legacy of the Center, and his firm belief in our work is best expressed in his own words—a fitting tribute. "With the quality of our future lives at stake because of the environmental problems we face, the Center's clear focus and tradition of excellence and innovation in program design are precious assets to this community and this country today," Tat Starr, Challenge for the 90's.

The Center is accepting memorial contributions for Tat and will notify his family. Please direct donations to Sarah James. For questions, contact Sarah at (215) 482-7300, ext. 117 or sjames@schuylkillcenter.org.



education initiatives

SUMMER ADVENTURES

By Camila Rivera-Tinsley

In this age of PSPs, DVDs, iPods, and other electronic gadgets, it is getting harder to engage our youth in the natural world. The subtle beauty and complexity of nature seems to pale in the bright lights and contrived scenes of video games and television. What better way to develop an appreciation for the natural environment than to be immersed in it, sharing adventures such as kayaking, caving, hiking, rock climbing, and roasting marshmallows around a camp fire with new friends. The Schuylkill Center's Adventure Camps for children ages 10-15 offer a unique and affordable opportunity to provide your child

with an outlet for exploration and fun. The Adventure Camps help children foster a deeper connection with the outdoors. Our experienced counselors will help your child learn a variety of outdoor living skills and explore diverse habitats. New this year is a travel camp for children ages 13-15. One trip will explore the natural areas of western Pennsylvania with a visit to Allegheny National Forest and Presque Isle, while the second trip will bring children to the Catskill Mountains of New York state and the Delaware Water Gap region of Pennsylvania. To request a camp brochure, please call 215-482-7300, ext .110 or visit www.schuylkillcenter.org and click on "Publications" to download a copy.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PART TIME NATURALIST

By Camila Rivera-Tinsley

It is a beautiful morning as I pull into The Schuylkill Center. Driving down the driveway always gives me the feeling of entering an enchanted woodland island protected and nestled in this vast urban expanse. I can't wait to share these wonders with the group of children that will be visiting the Center today from a local school. As I pack my trail bag, I carefully choose a bright blue contour feather, a smooth clean deer antler, and the small remnant of a turtle shell to share with the students. I hope that these items will pique their interest and get them excited about exploring the trails with me. Walking

the trail with the children, I find signs of a deer that I point out to everyone. The children are so excited that we take off on a hunt to see if we can figure out from what direction the deer came. The excitement that children experience with their new found knowledge makes my job even more enjoyable. As the children swap tales of tadpoles and frogs down at the pond, I am comforted because I know that I have done my job. I know that I have engaged these children in an unforgettable experience and I hope that this visit to The Schuylkill Center will inspire them to appreciate nature. To learn more about becoming a part-time naturalist at the Center, please contact Virginia Ranly at 215-482-7300, ext. 129 or vrarly@schuylkillcenter.org.

SAVE THE DATE

The 2006 Metamorphosis Awards

Tuesday, June 6, 2006, 6:00-8:30 pm

The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education presents The 2006 Metamorphosis Awards: Transforming our World for a Sustainable Future on Tuesday, June 6, 2006, 6:00 – 8:30 pm at the Academy of Natural Sciences. This event will take the place of our annual Gala.

We will celebrate with a cocktail reception featuring a great menu of hors d'oeuvres. SCEE will recognize PECO Energy, an Exelon Corporation, and also present one or more scholarships through the Henry Meigs Scholarship Fund.

Please save the date—we hope we can count on your support for this important and fun event! Ticket prices start at \$150; for more information or sponsorship, please contact Sarah James at (215) 482-7300, ext 117 or sjames@schuylkillcenter.org.

book store

Don't miss our Blue Dot Sale!
Sale lasts through summer. Receive 20–30% off selected items.

The Biology of Streams and Rivers
By Paul S. Giller and Björn Malmqvist

This book gives an up-to-date and comprehensive introduction to the study of stream and river biology world-wide. Providing research in these biological areas, the text aims to encourage students and professionals alike to couple studying and work in the field. It is an interesting and in-depth read for anyone looking to learn the specifics about these habitats.



If I Had a Tail
By Karen Clemens Warrick

Teach your children about animals with tails! This enjoyable book features vibrant illustrations of animals ranging from amphibians to mammals, whose tails are essential for survival. Learn why these tails are important and how many varieties of animals are born with them!



Night Watch
By Terence Dickinson

This book serves as a practical guide to viewing the universe. This 180 page book offers a one stop shop regarding all aspects of astronomy from details about the planets and galaxy to what type of stargazing equipment will best suit your needs. Detailed photographs and illustrations help readers to maximize their learning.



HOURS OF OPERATION ARE:
Mon-Sat 8:30 am-4:30 pm
Sun 1:00 pm-4:30 pm

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Don't miss the Seventh Annual
"Metamorphosis" event

Tuesday, June 6th

See page 7 for details!

Gift Membership

Have you thought about the perfect gift? Why not give the gift of a Schuylkill Center membership. There are year round activities for "kids" of all ages. Why not ease your yearly giving hassle and call 215-482-7300, ext. 117 to order your gift membership today. Some of the benefits of membership include: unlimited admission, discounts at the bookstore, special invitations to member-only events and much, much more!

Individual: \$40

Family: \$60

Wildlife: \$75

Contributing: \$100

Carson Fellow: \$250

Leopold Fellow: \$350

Seton Fellow: \$500

Thoreau Fellow: \$1,000



2006 Nature Ramblers Summer Camp

Don't miss out on our environmentally-focused camp sessions! For a 2006 Summer Camp Brochure, call (215) 482-7300, ext. 110 or visit www.schuylkillcenter.org and click on "Publications" to download a copy.



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