

ISSUE

The Schuylkill Center for ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

SPRING 2007

# THE Quill

## QUILL REFORMATION

By Dennis Burton, Executive Director

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

— Mahatma Gandhi



"American Chestnut"

Little dispute remains over the issue of excessive greenhouse gas emissions collecting in the atmosphere: Science has finally overwhelmed politics; statistics have trumped speculation; Polar Bears are on the endangered species list; and the responsibility to ameliorate the situation lies with all of us. This is by no means a death knell, but a call to action. Environmental issues, though seemingly gloomy and foreboding, can be resolved. We have seen that addressing the issues can improve these conditions. Some of the successes have come from The Clean Air Act, Wetlands Protection measures, many new State conservation codes, and local calls to action such as Philadelphia's "Next Great City" initiative that encourages the future mayors to become involved in neighborhood transformation. Just as we can change the political landscape with our vote, we can improve the environmental landscape with our actions.

To that end, The Schuylkill Center has made the decision to go electronic and discontinue the printing and mailing of this quarterly newsletter. This will benefit The Center, Philadelphia, the Commonwealth and the earth overall in several ways, mostly in the reduction of our carbon footprint, which is a measure of the impact human activities have on the envi-

ronment in terms of the amount of green house gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide.

The paper industry emits the fourth highest level of CO2 among manufacturers after large scale manufacturing, electric power production, and motor vehicles. For each ton of paper that is not used and is allowed to remain in the form of trees, carbon dioxide is reduced by over three metric tons. The New York Times Sunday edition requires the pulping of 20,000 trees! Conversely, one mature tree utilizes up to one ton of CO2.

In addition to reducing our carbon footprint, there will be a monetary and labor saving gain by publishing The Quill on our website. Printing and mailing one edition of The Quill costs approximately \$1500. These savings can be reinvested in a number of ways, not the least of which is the programming and promotion of Philadelphia's environmental initiatives such as "The Next Great City" and "The Urban Sustainability Forums," and the Schuylkill Center's new 'Greening Your Home' seminar series and 'Green on Screen,' Environmental Film Nights.

So please continue to read all about us, check out the calendar and programs on our website, and join us in taking another step toward a sustainable future.



at a glance

### Native Plant Sale

April 27th, 28th, & 29th

See Calendar of Events for details.

#### Trails Open:

Mon-Sun, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Main Building/Bookstore

Mon-Sat, 8:30 AM-5:00 PM

Bookstore closes at 4:30 PM daily

CLOSED SUNDAYS

## SPRING EVENTS

### APRIL

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- 19 Nature Tots
- 20 Green on Screen: Resouled Backpacking Clinic
- 20 EarthFest 2007
- 21 Restoration Volunteer Day
- 23 Greening Your Home Seminar: Renewable Energy
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- 27 Native Plant Sale, Members Only Gathering
- 28 Native Plant Sale and Workshops
- 29 Native Plant Sale and Workshops

### MAY

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- 2 Boy Scouts: Merit Badge Program
- 5 Mount Airy Day
- 6 Chestnut Hill Home and Garden Festival
- 11 Night Hike for Adults
- 12 Bird Walk Along Manayunk Canal
- 16 Boy Scouts: Merit Badge Program
- 17 Nature Tots
- 18 Green on Screen: The Crabs, The Birds, The Bay
- 19 Restoration Volunteer Day
- 19 Project Pennsylvania Training Workshop
- 19 Project WET Educator Workshop

### JUNE

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- 2 Wonders of Wetlands Educator Workshop
- 6 Annual Gala
- 9 Fishing Fanatics
- 15 Green on Screen: El Caballo
- 16 Restoration Volunteer Day
- 18 Summer Camp Counselors In Training
- 19 Summer Camp Counselors In Training
- 20 Summer Camp Counselors In Training
- 21 Nature Tots
- 21 Summer Solstice Family Picnic



# THE SCHUYLKILL CENTER for ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

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## 2007 Native Plant Sale: BIGGER! BETTER! DON'T MISS IT!

Another planting season is upon us and that means SCEE's 3rd Annual Native Plant Sale will soon be here! When the Restoration Department sat down to plan for this year, we thought "How can we make this native plant sale the best there is?" We wanted to keep our focus on the reason we host the sale: *to promote native flora that sustains the diversity of the natural world around us.* We wanted to support our mission of providing the public with environmental education that fosters a deeper appreciation and understanding of our natural resources. We wanted our patrons to recognize that using native plants supports sustainability and is just one piece of the puzzle of living an ecologically minded lifestyle. Here's what we came up with:



- **LOCALLY GROWN** This year, we are offering a brand new line of native plants, grown from seed responsibly harvested from our own property. Some are rare, some are common, and some are just fun to grow. By making these plants available to you, we are helping to preserve the local genotypes. We hope this special line will continue to expand for future sales!
- **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE** Last year, we asked you to recycle your pots and what a great response we got! Over 500 pots and trays were returned and reused for this year's plant sale. Recycling of pots not only keeps plastics out of the trash stream and our costs down (costs of pots have skyrocketed with the rising costs of petroleum), but it also allows us to pass our savings on to you. Again this year, we are asking for our patrons to recycle their pots and trays from our sale.
- **FREE STUFF** Who doesn't like the chance to win something for free? This year we are raffling off TWO prizes!
  - A flowering understory tree, delivered to your home, planted, mulched, and organically fertilized. We do all the work!
  - Members Only: A free one-hour session of our Sustainable Landscape Consulting service. We can advise on how to enhance habitat quality in your yard or how to make your landscape less dependent on unnatural inputs, like synthetic fertilizers and excessive irrigation. See our web site for more information: <http://www.schuylkillcenter.org/departments/land/consulting.html>

**MEMBERS GET STAR TREATMENT** Members are treated to an exclusive members-only preview night on Friday, April 27th. Come choose from the best selection, enjoy wine, live music and hors d'oeuvres, and take home a free native plant, grown from local seed. New and lapsed members are also welcome.

- See back page for additional benefits for members year round.

**DISCOUNTS** Come spend \$50 at the sale and save \$5. Spend \$100 or more and save \$15.

Look for the coupon on the Native Plant Sale postcard, in your mailbox soon!

**ACTIVITIES, VENDORS, REFRESHMENTS** This year, we are offering educational classes, children's activities, and hands-on family workshops to engage people of all ages. In addition, we will have a number of vendors on hand selling their garden-related and environmentally-focused wares. Enjoy coffee, donuts, and others snacks while you shop!

**BIGGER SELECTION & BETTER DISPLAYS** Over 90 species of native trees, shrubs, vines, and wild flowers to choose from. 25 new species! Plants will be displayed on tiered benches, made from 100% recycled plastics.

**We offer a big THANK YOU to all those who contributed  
to our efforts to make this year's plant sale the best!**

Cathedral Village Residents, *under the direction of Peg Schofield, Director of Horticulture*  
Tyrell Smith, *Spring 2006 Intern, W.B. Saul High School*  
Warren Petrillo, *Summer 2006 Intern, Philadelphia University*  
Lund Bros. Nursery, *used nursery pot donation*

Mark your calendars now for April 27th (members only), April 28th, and April 29th. Bring your family and friends to SCEE's 2007 Native Plant Sale and contribute to a good cause! Your support helps us fund our restoration efforts and programs. See our "Calendar of Events" for specific times.

Go to [www.schuylkillcenter.org](http://www.schuylkillcenter.org) for more details and a list of plants available at the sale.

# art program update

By Mary Salvante, Director of Art Programs

## NEW EXHIBIT: ART IN THE ENVIRONMENT

The Schuylkill Center's outdoor **Art in the Environment** program returns this Spring with *Green Machine*, May 6th – September 2007, presented in partnership with InLiquid.com. The *Art in the Environment* program is the presentation of site specific installation produced and curated in partnership with arts organizations and groups. This year The Center has invited InLiquid.com to curate this exhibition. InLiquid.com is a Philadelphia based nonprofit organization that shows an extensive online collection of work by local, national, and international artists while serving as a comprehensive hub for visual arts information and resources.

*Green Machine* will feature installations along Woodcock trail by three InLiquid artists: Chris Vecchio, Kate Murken and Keiko Miyamori. Each installation will integrate technology and traditional materials that contrasts the concrete characteristics of the built environment with the ephemeral charac-

teristics found in the natural environment such as: noise versus sound; rigid versus rugged; occurrence versus time. Chris Vecchio will incorporate sound devices activated by motion sensors; Kate Murken will install built environments that can be interacted with using the visitors' cell phone or iPod; and Keiko Miyamori presents a collaborative piece with sound performance. The opening reception will include a live improvisational performance at The Center simultaneously with a similar performance taking place in Japan using internet technology.

In addition to the outdoor installations, a "Media Lab" interactive exhibit will be presented in the Art Gallery that allows visitors to examine aspects of the outdoor art more closely. InLiquid will create an interactive, online component. A documentary on the making of *Green Machine* will be produced by Vincent Rominello



"Artist Keiko Miyamori installing tree rubbings to be included in *Green Machine*"

## grants and donations

American Association of Zoo Keepers  
The Barra Foundation, Inc.  
Andrew C. Beck Landscaping  
Boardman Hamilton Company  
Brown Brothers Harriman Trust Company, LLC  
Bywood Animal Hospital  
Cohen-Fruchtman-Krieger Family, Inc.  
W. S. Cumby & Son  
The Lee F. & Phoebe A. Driscoll Foundation  
Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation  
Kent-Lucas Foundation, Inc.

### October 1- December 31, 2006

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

The Lily Foundation  
MAB Paints  
Norristown Garden Club  
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts  
The Philadelphia Phillies  
The Seligsohn Foundation  
Shop Rite  
Cheryl Beth Silverman Memorial Fund  
Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation  
Swiss Pines  
The Harriette S. & Charles L. Tabas

Foundation  
Wagner Free Institute of Science  
Wright-Cook Foundation

### MATCHING EMPLOYEE GIFTS

GlaxoSmithKline  
The Glenmede Trust Company, N. A.  
Starbucks Matching Gift Program  
United Way of Kitsap County  
United Way of SEPA  
Vanguard Group Foundation Fund

### GIFTS IN HONOR / MEMORY

In Honor of Anne and David  
Bower's Wedding  
Swerdlow Family  
Ms. Eleanor T. Watson

In Memory of John Callison  
Mr. & Mrs. William Burke  
Mr. & Mrs. Boyce Caffee  
Mr. & Mrs. R.R.M. Carpenter III  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey S. Crompton  
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Mr. Lawrence G. Shenk  
Mr. Frank Smith

Ms. Doris V. Storey  
Mr. Lawrence Wentz

In Memory of Regina Carson  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Gaffney  
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Keenan Jr.  
Ms. Catherine Trignani

In Honor of Monica Debiase  
Ms. Alison Abrams

In Memory of Elly Escher  
Ms. Kristine McGuigan

In Memory of Yrmininda Fortes  
Ms. Louise Slama

In Memory of Elda Isett  
Ms. & Mr. Ann LaBorie

In Honor of Mary Kay and  
Randall Pearl  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Solis-Cohen

In Memory of Ellen Mary Meigs  
Mr. & Mrs. John Drayton  
Ms. Elizabeth Einsig Wise &  
Mr. Ed Wise  
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Mr. & Mrs. Harry Toland  
Mr. & Mrs. Elkins Wetherill

In Memory of Murty Munn  
The Carpenter Lane neighbors

In Memory of Cheryl Beth  
Silverman  
Cheryl Beth Silverman Memorial  
Fund

In Honor of Carol Silverman's  
Birthday  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce E. Silverman

In Memory of Irv Weiss  
J. H. Behr

In Memory of James Wong  
Ms. Janet M. Wong

In Memory of Emily Wood  
John M. Hanson & Chris Hanson



# calendar of events

## April 2007

**Tue | 17 "Greening Your Home" Seminar:  
Backyard Ecology**

**6:30-8:30 pm  
Individual Seminar (1) \$20  
Seminar Series (5) \$85**

Join Fran Lawn, Director of Land Restoration at The Center and Joanne Donohue, Restoration Technician for a seminar on creating habitat and enhancing backyard ecology. Native plants, best management practices, and the financial benefits of supporting backyard ecology will be discussed.

**Thu | 19 Nature Tots  
1:30-3:00 pm**

**For children ages two to four years old  
(must be accompanied by an adult)  
\$5 members/\$7 nonmembers  
Pre-registration required**

For curious naturalists-to-be and their parents, guardians or grandparents. Every Third Thursday from 1:30-3:00 we'll focus on a different aspect of nature with stories, songs, crafts, activities, outdoor experiences, and lots of fun! We encourage children and parents to explore the natural world together. Adult participation is required. Please call today to register.

**Fri | 20 Green on Screen: Resouled on the  
Pacific Crest Trail  
and Backpacking Clinic**

**Backpacking clinic, 6-7:00 pm  
Film, 7:30-9:30 pm  
\$5/members; \$9/non-members  
Pre-registration required.**

A sister trail to the famous Appalachian Trail ("AT"), the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail ("PCT") traverses 2,650 miles from Mexico to Canada through some of the most beautiful, remote, and diverse landscapes in California, Oregon and Washington. Learn about this adventure through a documentary filmed on a 2002 thru-hike. Eastern Mountain Sports will provide the Backpacking Clinic, along with informational resources and gear. Regional backpacking organizations will also be present. 2002 PCT thru-hiker Erin Johnson will introduce the film and answer questions about the thru-hiking experience.

**Fri | 20 EarthFest 2007 at Temple University,  
Ambler campus**

**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 2007 can be found at <http://www.temple.edu/ambler>.

**Sat | 21 Restoration Volunteer Workday  
10am-12 noon and 12:30-2:30pm-**

Come help us restore our grounds! Join the Land Restoration Department in returning our forests, meadows, and streams to a healthy, diverse state. Projects range from invasive vine clearing and native species planting to trail maintenance. Dress in layers, wear sturdy boots, and bring bottled water. Light refreshments provided. If staying for the afternoon session, please pack a light lunch. To volunteer, contact Joanne Donohue at (215) 482-7300 x144.

**Mon | 23 "Greening Your Home" Seminar:  
Renewable and Solar Energy**

**6:30-8:30 pm  
Individual Seminar (1) \$20  
Seminar Series (5) \$85**

Sarah Hetznecker, President of MESA Environmental Sciences Inc. ([www.mesasolar.com](http://www.mesasolar.com)) will lead a seminar on residential renewable and solar energy solutions. Sustainable alternative energy resources, cost effectiveness of renewables, their impact on the regional economy, and long term benefits will be discussed.

**Fri | 27 Native Plant Sale: Members Only  
Gathering with Wine, Live Music and  
Hors D'Oeuvres**

**6:30-8:00 pm FREE admission, Plant Prices vary**  
Members are invited to a night of wine and light hors d'oeuvres and the best selection our 3rd Annual Native Plant Sale has to offer. Take home a complimentary native wildflower grown from locally harvested seed! New and lapsed members also welcome with new/renewed membership.

**Sat | 28 Native Plant Sale**

**8:30-4:00 pm FREE admission, Plant prices vary**  
Attend our 3rd Annual Native Plant Sale and experience all it has to offer: workshops, vendors, refreshments, raffles, children's activities, a tour of our restoration showcase, Penn's Native Acres, and of course, PLANTS! Bring the whole family! For more information on available plants, see our website [www.schuylkillcenter.org](http://www.schuylkillcenter.org). See sidebar on pg # for more details.

**Sat | 28 Native Plant Sale Workshop,  
Composting**

**11:00 am FREE; pre-registration required**  
Receive a FREE compost bin for your backyard and learn to turn your kitchen scraps and yard trimmings into valuable mulch and fertilizer. You don't have to have a large yard to begin composting at home. Penn State Cooperative Extension personnel will lead this popular program. To register, please call the Penn State Philadelphia Outreach Center at (215) 471-2200.

**Sat | 28 Native Plant Sale Workshop,  
Nest Boxes for Birds**

**9:30 am & 2 pm  
\$12/box**

So you have a wonderful garden of native plants to attract local wildlife to your yard! But where will they live? Several bird species, including bluebirds, chickadees, wrens and swallows prefer to nest in the cavities provided by decaying trees and fenceposts. Don't have such features in your yard? No worries! Come learn about cavity nesters and build a nest box to take home to your yard. Learn the best location to sight your box, how to protect the baby birds from predators and how to maintain the nest box for years to come.

**Sat | 28 Native Plant Sale Workshop, The  
Native Bird Connection**

**1:00 pm**

You already know that native plants in your garden will require less maintenance, less water, and no pesticides. Now get a bird's eye view of your yard and learn what native plants have to offer the birds and how a holistic approach to native landscaping benefits surrounding ecosystems, including the designated Important Bird Areas of Philadelphia. Learn what birds are looking for

and how to support resident populations and migratory species with key native plants. We'll also discuss the important role of pollinators and additional ways to create a healthy and sustainable environment in your yard. Presented by Steve Saffier of Audubon Pennsylvania.

**Sun | 29 Native Plant Sale**

**8:30-2:00 pm FREE admission, Plant prices vary**  
Please see description under Saturday, April 28th for more information

**Sun | 29 Native Plant Sale Workshop, Using  
Native Plants in a Home Landscape**

**11 am FREE**

Join Flavia Rutkosky, wildlife biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, for a presentation on utilizing native plants around your home and in your garden. Learn how native plants can make an attractive yard while improving the health of our environment.

## May 2007

**Sat | 5 Tree Identification Hike**

**2:00-4:00 p.m.**

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

Join us for an afternoon walk on the forested trails of the Schuylkill Center and learn to identify native trees prior to spring leafing. We will also identify some spring ephemerals and other signs that indicate the approach of spring.

**Wed | 2 & 16 Environmental Science Merit Badge  
program for Boy Scouts**

**6-9 pm**

**\$30 for 2 programs**

An opportunity for boy scouts to earn the environmental science merit badge during fun programs with other scouts. Complete the experiments and learn the concepts required for the badge over the course of these two programs. A merit badge counselor will conduct the sessions.

**Sat | 5 Mt. Airy Day 2007**

**11 am - 5 pm FREE**

Stop in to see SCEE staff and learn about The Center's projects, in collaboration with CW Henry School, underway in the Wissahickon Watershed. Test your knowledge of local watershed issues while you're at it! Mt. Airy Day is held at 6401 Germantown Avenue on the grounds of Cliveden and Upsala mansions.

**Sun | 6 Chestnut Hill Home and Garden  
Festival**

**11 am - 5 pm**

Visit our spot on Germantown Avenue for the day to learn more about The Center activities and about our Junior Environment Corps Pilot Project in the Wissahickon watershed. Engage in conversation about the many opportunities to care for and improve environmental health. The festival will be held on Germantown Avenue between Willow Grove and Rex Avenues.

**Fri | 11 Night Hike for Adults**

**8:00-10:00 pm**

**\$12/members; 15/nonmembers;  
Pre-registration required.**

Enjoy an evening stroll under the stars through the trails of the Schuylkill Center. Listen to nocturnal sounds and other animal clues as we



unlock the secrets held by nature in the night. Our evening nature stroll will end at our beautiful pavilion area where participants will enjoy wine and s'mores around the campfire.

**Sat | 12 *Bird Walk Along The Manayunk Canal***

**8:00-10:00 am FREE**  
Join the SCEE bird club for a series of small group explorations of the bird habitat along the Manayunk canal and bike path. Each small group will be led by an experienced birder. This is a great activity for the entire family! Contact Jenny Hoffman, Director of Education, ext. 124 for details.

**Thu | 17 *Nature Tots***  
**1:30-3:00 pm (Please see description under Thursday, April 19th for more info.)**

**Fri | 18 *Green On Screen: The Crabs, The Birds, The Bay, The Story of Delaware Bay's Great Annual Gathering***

**7:30-9:30 pm**  
**\$5/members; \$9/non-members**  
**Pre-registration required.**  
Learn about the Delaware Bay and the unique relationship that exists between nesting crabs and the nearly one million shorebirds that have just completed an incredible nonstop flight from their wintering grounds in South America.

Dominic Manderacchi, from The Wetlands Institute, will speak following the film, and provide an up close and personal introduction to live horseshoe crabs, and artifacts collected on the New Jersey shore.

**Sat | 19 *Project WET Educator Workshop***  
**9 am – 3:30 pm**

**\$15 per person; pre-registration required**  
"Water for all water users" is the tenet of the popular curriculum supplement Project WET. Join our Watershed Programs Coordinator for a day-long introduction to the many activities highlighting water in our environment. Learn strategies for teaching about water resources in the classroom and beyond as you participate in activities and thought-provoking discussions. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes and get WET The Schuylkill Center's way. Act 48 credit-approved. Bring a bag lunch. Please pre-register by May 14.

**Sat | 19 *Restoration Volunteer Workday***  
**10am-12 noon and 12:30-2:30pm-**  
**Please see description under Saturday, April 21st for more information.**

**Sat | 19 *Project Pennsylvania Training Workshop***

**12:30-1:30pm FREE Pre-registration required.**  
Would you like to be a part of our trained Restoration Volunteer Team? The goal of Project Pennsylvania is to restore the natural woodlands at SCEE to a self-sustaining state. Join this special team and learn how to identify invasive species, how they influence our ecosystems, and how to remove them by various physical methods. Project PS focuses on Penn's Native Acres, a 15 acre restoration site. For more information, contact Joanne Donohue at (215) 482-7300, x144.

# June 2007

**Sat | 2 *SCEE Summer Bird Census***  
**7:30 – 11:00 am FREE**

Join SCEE's Bird Club for the annual census of our summer bird species! Experienced and beginning birders are invited to help us conduct this all important count. The information collected supports all departments at the Center. Coffee and snacks provided.

**Sat | 2 *Wonders of Wetlands Educator Workshop***

**9 am – 3:30 pm**  
**\$15 per person; pre-registration required**  
Wetlands ecosystems serve many functions and play an important role in our environment. The curriculum supplement WOW: The Wonder of Wetlands explores many characteristics of wetlands and provides tools and strategies for incorporating these topics into the classroom. Earn Act 48 credits as our Watershed Programs Coordinator introduces you to many of these activities and to the wonders of SCEE's wetlands. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Bring a bag lunch. Please pre-register by May 29.

**Wed | 6 *Henry Meigs Awards***  
**(see side bar for details)**

**Sat | 9 *Fishing Fanatics***  
**12 – 3 pm**  
**\$5 members; \$10 non-members**

Bring the entire family! Learn how to bait a fish hook, cast a rod, and safely place a fish back in the water. Hike to The Center's Wind Dance Pond and catch and release a few fish of your own. A great way to introduce kids to fishing! Space is limited and spots go early. Pre-register by June 4.

**Fri | 15 *Green on Screen: El Caballo***  
**7:30-9:30 pm**

**\$5/members; \$9/non-members**  
**Pre-registration required.**  
Each year thousands of wild horses are removed from public lands to reduce competition between livestock, horses, and wildlife. El Caballo explores the historic conflict between domesticated and wild animals and humans. The film will be accompanied by information about Pony Penning Day and the wild horses of the Assateague Island National Seashore.

**Sat | 16 *Restoration Volunteer Workday***  
**10am-12 noon and 12:30-2:30pm-**

Please see description under Saturday, April 21st for more information.

**Thu | 21 *Nature Tots***  
**1:30-3:00 pm (Please see description under Thursday, April 19th for more info.)**

**Thu | 21 *Summer Solstice Family Picnic***  
**6 – 8 pm**  
**\$10 / member family; \$15 / nonmember family**  
Join us in celebration of the summer solstice and longest day of the year! Bring a picnic for your family and gather with us near the beautiful backdrop of the woods and enjoy family-friendly live music. A guided hike to see the frogs and toads—that will also be celebrating summer!—will leave at 7 pm.

## VOLUNTEER AT SCEE!

### Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic

The Clinic welcomes volunteers to support several aspects of our operations and schedules periodic orientation sessions for new and interested volunteers.

The Clinic is available for live-animal educational programs for your schools and community groups. We have recently added live animal birthday parties to our programming as well.

Please call us at (215) 482.8217 for more information on volunteering and programming through the The Clinic.

### **ONLINE GIVING: AT NO COST TO YOU**

#### Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic

Make your online purchases at hundreds of popular vendors through iGive.com and contribute to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic at the same time. Select vendors contribute percentages of their profits per consumer purchase to The Clinic. Contact Steve Aldrich at (215) 482.8217 or write [swrc@schuylkillcenter.org](mailto:swrc@schuylkillcenter.org) for information about how to sign up.

### **TEACHERS! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

#### Education Department

SCEE will hold two DEP EE funded Act 48 workshops this summer! **July 10: Solar Energy:** A Smart Choice for PA for PA and **July 24: Green Roofs for Watershed Protection.** The first 25 teachers for each workshop will receive a \$50 stipend! Call 215-482-7300 x110 to register.

### **DONATIONS**

#### Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic

As the spring season arrives, we will need your support with in-kind donations of the following items: 32 and/or 13 gal. trash bags, latex gloves, insulin syringes, and Eukanuba Kitten Chow. Any help with these items is very much appreciated!

### **THE HENRY MEIGS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS**

Join us for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres as we honor Governor Edward G. Rendell and middle school students from the Junior Environment Corps with our Henry Meigs Awards. This year's event will be held Wednesday, June 6th from 6-9 pm at the Top of the Tower, Bell Atlantic Building, in Center City which offers beautiful views of the city! Tickets start at \$150, sponsorships are available for this exciting event!

Contact Sarah James at 215 – 482 – 7300, ext 117 for more information.



# fur and feathers

## THE FIRST CASE OF THE NEW YEAR

By Rick Schubert, Director of Wildlife Rehabilitation

New Year's Day is always an eventful day at The Schuylkill Center's Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic...I'm not sure why, but history shows that something strange always seems to happen. January 1st 2007 was no exception. While the spring and summer months are definitely the "busy season" as far as taking care of overwhelming numbers of displaced wildlife, the winter months are full of their own challenges. The critters we treat, though fewer in number during the winter months, tend to be more "high-maintenance", with injuries resulting from car impacts, poisoning, habitat destruction, or in this case...getting trapped in a chimney.



could do. In the fireplace we saw...a beautiful, if sooty, Barred Owl!

How did the owl get there? We had no idea: Barred Owls, a cousin of the endangered Northern Spotted Owl, are very rare in Pennsylvania, let alone in Philadelphia. We were amazed that such a creature could live and thrive within the city! A young girl in the house, being a Harry Potter fan, was delighted to see him, and was half expecting a letter from Hogwarts. We gave her a letter from the Wildlife Clinic instead...hopefully inspirational to the next generation of



Barred Owl Photos by Lori Strange

On the morning of January 1st we received a call from a family in Mount Airy that had just returned home from vacation to find some strange creature trapped in their chimney...they thought maybe it was some kind of raptor. Deciding that it would be better to extract the animal ourselves rather than risking injury to either the animal or the family, Clinic Administrator Steve Aldrich and I drove out to the house to see what we

wildlife protectors. After getting the owl out of the chimney, we took him back to The Clinic for some treatment. He was in fair condition, just a little dirty, banged-up, and dehydrated...nothing we couldn't easily fix. A week later, we released him in Fairmount Park very near where he was found, hoping he learned his lesson to stay out of chimneys, and wishing him a long and healthy life in the City of Brotherly Love.

## IN MEMORY OF ELLEN MARY MEIGS



The Schuylkill Center Board of Trustees and staff honor the memory of Ellen Mary Meigs who passed away December 16th, 2006. She was the devoted wife of Schuylkill Center founder Henry Meigs and mother of current Board member Binney Meigs. Ellen Mary's long history with The Center includes her involvement in Project TREND, a group of dedicated women that, through the 1970's went to local schools to teach students about the natural world on a volunteer basis. Ellen Mary contributed her time, along with

hand-painted diorama-like props for the TREND lessons. Ellen Mary also carried on hers and Henry's commitment to The Center by encouraging family, friends, and neighbors to respect the natural world and to support land conservation whenever and however possible. Working closely with Natural Lands Trust, she was able to secure conservation easements on many acres of land that was previously open to development. Her quiet passion and soft spoken earnestness will be missed by us all.

## NEW MEMBERS

OCTOBER 1- DECEMBER 31, 2006

MS. CRISTINA ADAMS  
MS. LISA CIDECIYAN  
MS. NANCY EPSTEIN  
MR. & MRS. BRIAN D. GREENE  
JOHN M. HANSON & CHRIS HANSON  
MR. & MRS. JOHN W. HORNSEY  
MR. JOSEPH KISSIL  
MR. FRANK E. KRAFCHIK  
MS. SUE LANDERS

MS. HEIDI LUCAS  
MR. & MRS. ROBERT E. MCQUISTON  
MR. CHRISTOPHER MYERS  
R. MATHEW PETIGREW  
JAMIE PRESTON  
SACHIYO SEARLES  
MS. MELISSA STEGENS  
MS. MARIANNE SUTERA  
MS. FRANCES A. VELAY  
MS. SUSAN M. WILKS  
MR. ALLEN WU

A special welcome 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 form at by calling (215) 482-7300 x 117. Membership contributions received after December 31st will be acknowledged in our next issue of the Quill.





# kids stuff

## NATURE RAMBLERS SUMMER CAMP

The Schuylkill Center's Nature Ramblers Summer Camp is proud to unveil new programming for teens! New this summer will be an Adventure Travel Camp for ages 13-15 and a Counselors-In-Training (CIT) and Environmental Leadership program for ages 16-18. Please see our Camp Brochure at [www.schuylkillcenter.org](http://www.schuylkillcenter.org) for more information.

Our **Adventure Travel Camps** will introduce your child to a host of outdoor experiences! Campers are with our experienced counselors for one entire week of tent camping, hiking, swimming, and much more while building friendships and a deeper connection to the natural world. Destinations include Allegheny National Forest and Presque Isle, the Catskills, Ohiopyle State Park, and The Outer Banks. Our trips highlight sustainable interaction with the natural world, teaching children the essentials of low impact camping, environmental stewardship and respect for wildlife.

Our **Counselors In Training (CIT) Program** is perfect for teens who enjoy working with younger children, meeting new people and for those who love to be outdoors. CITs will gain valuable experience mentoring children while experiencing the best of environmental education as they work closely with our education specialists to organize and co-lead camp activities. During the four week program, CITs will learn how to plan activities, keep a journal of their experiences, and participate in discussions about their personal discoveries and environmental learning. The final week of the program will include an extended teambuilding experience that culminates in a camping trip to the Delaware Water Gap. Participants will receive a certificate of completion that can become a valuable addition to their resume. The CIT program runs from **June 18 to July 20**. Don't let your teen miss this opportunity -- get them out and get them involved at the Schuylkill Center's Nature Ramblers Summer Camp!

## Save The Date

**THE 2007 METAMORPHOSIS AWARDS:  
TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE  
June 6th, 2007** at the Top of the Tower in Philadelphia.

SCEE will present Governor Edward G. Rendell and middle school students from the Junior Environment Corps with the Henry Meigs Awards for Environmental Leadership. We will celebrate with a cocktail reception featuring a great menu of hors d'oeuvres and beautiful sweeping views of the city.

Ticket prices start at \$150; for more information on tickets or sponsorship please visit our website at [www.schuylkillcenter.org](http://www.schuylkillcenter.org). **We hope we can count on your support for this important and fun event!**

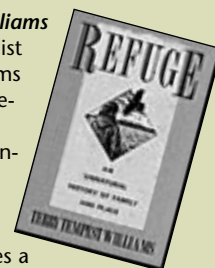
# book store

Come visit the Center's Bookstore, and browse our impressive selection of books on topics from bird watching to composing, shop for birdseed, buy locally harvested honey, or purchase wholesome and fun gifts for the children in your life.

*Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*

by **Terry Tempest Williams**

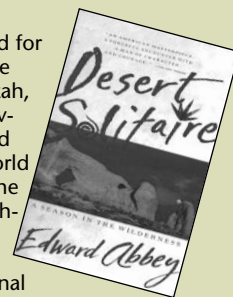
As Utah-born naturalist Terry Tempest Williams records the simultaneous tragedies of her mother's death of cancer and the flooding of the Bear River Migratory Bird Sanctuary, she creates a document of renewal and spiritual grace destined to become a classic in the literature of nature, women, and grieving.



*Desert Solitaire*

by **Edward Abbey**

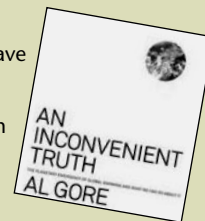
Edward Abbey lived for three seasons in the desert at Moab, Utah, and what he discovered about the land before him, the world around him, and the heart that beat within, is a fascinating, sometimes raucous, always personal account of a place that has already disappeared, but is worth remembering and living through again and again.



*An Inconvenient Truth*

by **Al Gore**

Many people in the Philadelphia region have now seen Al Gore's incredible and important documentary film on Global Warming. View the stunning images and facts again in this beautiful book available at The Center's bookstore. Let's do our part and come up with creative solutions and strive to work together to make Philadelphia the "Next Great City" and the greenest, most livable city in America.





The Schuylkill  
Center

for ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION

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Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic  
Phone: 215-482-8217  
Fax: 215-482-4981

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## Gift Membership

Have you considered giving the gift of a Schuylkill Center membership? The Schuylkill Center provides recreational and educational programming for every age group, is on the forefront of city-wide greening efforts, and is involved in many local conservation efforts to help preserve water and air quality, wildlife habitat, and the integrity of our local ecology. Make an investment in environmental protection and a high quality of life for your family, friends and for your community through a gift membership at the Schuylkill Center.

Individual: \$40

Teacher: \$40

Family: \$60

Wildlife: \$75

Contributing: \$100

Carson Fellow: \$250

Leopold Fellow: \$350

Seton Fellow: \$500

Thoreau Fellow: \$1,000

There are other ways to give to the Center as well—through planned giving, stock, and matching gifts you can support our efforts in environmental education and advocacy. Call us for details 215-482-7300 ext. 117.

## Announcing...

*Vicki Dawson of Philadelphia was the lucky winner of the French Creek Ridge Vineyard tour for completing our on-line survey. Thanks to all of you who took the time to fill out the survey and special thanks to French Creek Ridge Vineyard for donating our prize!*

## Plan Ahead...

**June... Educational Gardening Programs**

## Coming soon...

Educational organic gardening and container gardening programs!

Whether you have a yard, an existing garden, or have little to no yard space, you can contribute to the health of the local ecology and wildlife habitat through your gardening practices. Through the guidance of our instructors, you can find creative design and gardening solutions for your personal gardening goals, space and style.