



ISSUE

The Schuylkill Center for ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

WINTER 2007

THE Quill

SUSTAINABILITY, NOT JUST A BUZZ WORD, BUT A WAY OF LIFE *By Dennis Burton*



An internet search of any phrase with sustainability will give you 50 – 80 million results. Yet, whatever you call it, sustainability has come to define the end of technological gluttony and the revision of our relationship to the earth. Although that may sound ambitious, it nonetheless signals a progressive and necessary shift towards renewable, alternative resources, and design applications that work with the elements of nature: sun, wind, water, and the earth itself. It is, in a way, using technology to return to a pretechnological standard of living, before cheap, abundant petroleum pervaded and helped to create the industrial world and the less than efficient development policies it practices. Sustainable development will help to protect the natural environment for use in the future, a notion that suggests there may not be much of a future if we ignore it. To paraphrase Ian McHarg, author of *Design with Nature*, and one of Philadelphia's preeminent sustainable designers in the 20th Century: Disdain of natural processes comes at a cost to the community.

So what does sustainability mean to those who practice it? For architects it means designing buildings that use Earth's constants (sun, wind, water, temperature) to heat, cool, and energize them: solar power, grey water, green roofs, and geothermal pumps, are some of the proven and available tools for building sustainably. Standards such as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), established by the U.S. Green

Building Council, challenge architects to construct high-performance buildings using primarily non-petroleum based, non-toxic, recycled materials that create healthy work and living spaces and also have low impact on the environment.

For urban planners, it means responsible management of storm water; creating accessible, convenient, and safe public transportation; giving tax credits for developers of high-performance buildings; and a recycling program that turns trash into sustainable treasure. In Philadelphia the dialogue towards these initiatives has begun with "Special Campaigns" initiated through the Urban Sustainability Forum (www.sustainablephiladelphia.com), Green Plan Philadelphia (www.greenplanphiladelphia.com), and The Next Great City Initiative (www.pennfuture.org).

For homeowners, a number of internet resources exist that make living sustainably easier than ever. These resources include stylish interior decorative products (www.environmentalhomestore.com), sources of alternative energy (www.mesasolar.com), and how to create healthy homes (www.healthyspaces.com) to name a few.

For The Schuylkill Center, sustainability means a commitment to all of the above and a dedication to the community to make it happen. To that end, we have begun several initiatives and programs to promote the Urban Sustainability Forum's goal of making Philadelphia "the greenest, most livable city in America." You've read about The Center's solar panels, green roof, and native plant nursery in *The Quill*. Now we're building on those initiatives: Beginning this winter and spring, The Center will offer an evening seminar series for homeowners on: Improving the Health of Your Home, EcoFriendly Home Materials, Green Architecture, Renewable Energy, and Backyard Habitats. In addition, a monthly film night will be held, *Green on Screen*, featuring great films and knowledgeable speakers that will provide insight into a variety of topics regarding the environment and sustainability. Join us as we work with the region and Philadelphia to make it the greenest, most livable city in the nation!

WINTER EVENTS

- JANUARY**
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 11 Ecological Restoration Conference
 19 Green on Screen: *Pale Male*
 20 Restoration Volunteer Workday
 27 Owl Prowl

- FEBRUARY**
 3 Rain Barrel Workshop
 7 Lecture: Wissahickon Watershed
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 17 Restoration Volunteer Workday
 20 Seminar: Creating a Healthier Home
 24 Summer Camp Open House
 24 Bluebird Trail Maintenance

- MARCH**
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 20 Seminar: Green Architecture
 24 Frogwatch USA Training
 28 Frogwatch USA Training



at a glance

GREEN ON SCREEN FILM NIGHTS

Starting in January,
 3rd Friday of every month,
 7:30 – 10:00 pm

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



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WHY LOCAL SEED SOURCES PROVIDE BETTER NATIVE PLANTS...



Round-leaved Eupatorium (Eupatorium rotundifolium), collected for local seed sources, will be available at this year's Native Plant Sale.

We are hearing more and more about how buying local goods can be better for us in terms of health and sustainability. Buying local can also be applied to plants. Let's explore why using native plants from local sources might be a better choice than purchasing plants grown from a distant, foreign seed source.

The Schuylkill Center's goal is to create a healthy landscape that supports diversity of life and is part of the ecological fabric of our larger community. So when trying to achieve a natural landscape or planting in a restored site, it seems only logical to select seeds and plants from local sources that were cultivated in similar environmental conditions as the planting site. Seeds and plant material of this nature are characterized as the "local ecotype". Following the principle of utilizing local ecotypes can be accomplished by any home owner when making landscaping decisions.

Research has found that plants of the same species growing at different locations can be quite different in their appearance, growth, and behavior. These variations have evolved over long periods of time and reflect adaptation to local conditions, such as climate, soil chemistry, and water. A plant with a local ecotype will be better suited genetically to regional growing conditions. At the very smallest scale, the establishment of native plant species in gardens is becoming increasingly popular. Even a small plot of native wildflowers will quickly attract a variety of insects and wildlife. Properly managed, wildflowers in gardens are not only as attractive as the usual cultivated ones, but are usually of much greater value for wildlife.

Plants that are established in a well thought out planting will provide the essential building blocks upon which new areas of biological diversity can evolve - from microbes and fungi networks that are associated with plant roots and soil, to leaf and nectar feeding insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.

Using plants of local ecotype in the landscape helps to preserve the genetic diversity of native species. Plants which are bred perpetually for larger flowers, stronger fall color, or specific growth habits (known as cultivated varieties or cultivars) lose the genetic variability that occurs naturally in plants grown from local seed. This variability is a key component of plant biodiversity, already threatened by the loss and fragmentation of habitats. The natural variations (ecotypes) found in a particular species serve as adaptations to better handle local environmental growing conditions and differ as growing conditions change across varying microclimates.

When plants of local ecotype are used, the landscape comes alive with varying shades of color, distinctive growth habits, and unique foliar patterns. In short, you have a landscape with character!

It is important to remember that the best place to buy native plants is from reputable native plant nurseries. When purchasing plants:

- Ask your plant provider whether or not the plant is from a local source.
- Avoid plant material collected from the wild or plants which are "nursery grown" in pots after being collected from the wild. Instead, plants should be "nursery propagated" from seed or cuttings, not collected from the wild.
- Try to incorporate plants grown from seed; you will be preserving the genetic diversity, all the while adding an aesthetic variation to your garden.

This year The Center will be offering a variety of plants grown from local seed sources in our native plant nursery. Mark your calendar now for our Native Plant Sale, which will be held Friday, April 27th - Sunday, April 29th! Need more help with your native plant landscaping? Visit www.schuylkillcenter.org/departments/land/consulting.html or call Fran Lawn at (215) 482-7300, ext. 143 for more information about our Sustainable Landscape Consulting services.

NEW EXHIBIT: *IMPLEMENTS IMPLICATIONS*



If you love to garden, then the Environmental Art Program's newest exhibit is for you! The winter/spring exhibit *Implement Implications* is an opportunity to reflect on our agrarian cultural heritage with

works that incorporate used garden tools. The pieces included in this exhibit provide a direct link to our history that few of us think about when we reach for our favorite shovel, pruner, or rake.

In colonial America, garden tools were extremely valuable when planting and cultivating the beds and fields that fed whole families. In fact, peoples' livelihoods directly depended on their garden tools. During that time, most of



these instruments were custom made, hard to come by, and were central items of commerce throughout the Colonies.

The design and structure of garden tools has not changed during the last few centuries. What has changed, though, is the value placed on those instruments. The tools of the modern gardener are mass-produced, readily available, relatively inexpensive and, for the most part, disposable after several seasons.

The artists in this exhibit have rescued some of these well worn tools and created new art objects that encompass both functionality and fun!



grants and donations

July 1 - September 30, 2006

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

Ardmore Animal Hospital
Cheryl Beth Silverman Memorial Fund
Four Counties Garden Club
Genuardi's #1003
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
Pennsylvania Envirothon
Prudential Financial
Redner's Markets
REI
The Outdoor Gardeners
TreeVitalize
Yellow Book

MATCHING EMPLOYEE GIFTS

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Ms. Marlene Petrino
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Pisano
Ms. Joan Russell
Lee & Chris van de Velde

In Memory of Viola Wambold

Mr. Emerson D. Bealer, Sr.
Ms. Christine S. Bennett
Yellow Book



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!

January

Sat | 6th Winter Bird Count
7:00 - 11:00 am
FREE

Join our Bird Club for an important annual census of the winter bird population at The Schuylkill Center. The census data we collect is a valuable resource for our land restoration team and university researchers. New birders always welcome! Hot coffee, bagels and lots of humor help keep us warm through the morning! The count begins promptly at 7:00 am.

Thu | 11th Ecological Restoration Conference: Challenges, Controversy and Conflicts

Event will be held at Philadelphia University

Attend the Annual Restoration Conference held by the Society for Ecological Restoration's Mid-Atlantic Chapter and discuss pressing industry issues. For more details about event time, location, and registration visit <http://www.ser.org/midatl/default.asp>.

Fri | 19th Green on Screen Film Night: Pale Male

7:30 - 10:00 pm
\$5/members; \$9/non-members;
pre-registration required.

This famous red-tailed hawk has nested on a Manhattan apartment building for years and captivated audiences in his own award winning documentary. Following the film, attendees will have the opportunity to meet our Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic's very own non-releasable red-tailed hawk, Freya, accompanied by one of our rehab technicians who will answer questions and elaborate on the film.

Sat | 20th Restoration Volunteer Workday
12:30- 2:30 pm; pre-registration required.

Help us get a head start on the season with invasive vine clearing! We will spend a few hours removing invasive plants in a special project area called Penn's Native Acres. Dress appropriately. Work gloves and tools provided. For more information, contact Joanne Malfatti at (215) 482-7300, ext. 144. *This date is weather dependent. Please call ahead if weather is questionable.

Sat | 27th Owl Prowl
3:30 - 5:30 pm

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

Join us in the height of owl mating season for a chance to see or hear these elusive and fascinating birds. Learn about the natural history of owls in the Philadelphia area, and dissect an owl's pellet to find out what it's been eating. Take a guided hike on our trails in search of owls.

February

NEW! Seminar Series "Greening Your Home, Inside and Out"
Starting 2/20 (see listing below) and

continuing through spring.

We would like to invite you to participate in an educational seminar series on Greening Your Home. Each seminar is facilitated by an expert in the field, who will help you learn how to incorporate "green" materials and practices into your home or apartment. Participants will receive a packet of information and community resources related to the seminar topic. Meet other interested community members who are joining the movement to green our neighborhoods and homes, from the inside out!

SEMINAR TOPICS-

- 2/20 *Creating a Healthier Home*
- 3/6 *Environmentally Friendly Home*
- 3/20 *Green Architecture*
- 4/3 **NO SEMINAR SCHEDULED**
- 4/17 *Backyard Ecology/Habitat*
- 4/24 *Renewable/Solar Energy*

Visit www.schuylkillcenter.org to confirm seminar speakers.

Sat | 3rd Rain Barrel Workshop
2:00 - 4:00 pm

FREE; pre-registration required.

The Philadelphia Water Department, in partnerships with The Schuylkill Center and the Friends of the Wissahickon, is offering a free rain barrel to residents of the Wissahickon watershed who attend this workshop on how to install and use rain barrels. Pre-register by contacting Joanne Dahme (PWD) at joanne_dahme@phila.gov or (215) 685-4944. This workshop will be held at the Chestnut Hill Library, 8711 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA.

Wed | 7th Wissahickon Watershed Lecture
7:30 - 8:30 pm

FREE

Dr. Jeffrey Featherstone of Temple University-Ambler's Center for Sustainable Development will be the speaker at this lecture sponsored by the Friends of the Wissahickon (FOW). This lecture will be held at the Chestnut Hill Library, 8711 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA. For more information, visit www.fow.org.

Fri | 16th Green on Screen Film Night: Ancient Futures-Learning from Ladakh

7:30 - 10:00 pm
\$5/members; \$9/non-members;
pre-registration required.

Ladakh or "Little Tibet" is a wildly beautiful desert land high in the western Himalayas. It is a place of few resources and an extreme climate. Yet, for more than a thousand years, it has been home to a thriving culture. Then came development. See how the culture re-examines what we really mean by progress. Following the film, attendees will hear from a guest speaker (TBA) as they learn about how current "greening" organizations are working regionally to bring our communities back in touch with the natural systems upon which we depend.

Sat | 17th Restoration Volunteer Workday
10:00 am - 12:00 pm and 12:30 - 2:30 pm;
pre-registration required.

Please see description under Saturday, January 20th for more information. If staying for the afternoon session, pack a light lunch.

Tue | 20th Creating a Healthier Home Seminar

6:30-8:30 pm
Individual Seminar (1) \$20;
Seminar Series (5) \$85; See Seminar Series for details; pre-registration required.

Join Jim Quigley from Healthy Spaces as he discusses how to improve your living environment and the health of your home and family. He will address issues like air quality, allergens, and water quality. For more information about Healthy Spaces, visit www.healthyspaces.com.

Sat | 24th Summer Camp Open House
12:00 - 3:00 pm

FREE

Come and learn about our Nature Rambler's Summer Camp for ages 4-15. Meet the Camp Director, tour our facilities, and watch our slide presentation that highlights the fun activities and trips that campers will experience. Afterward, bundle up and enjoy a winter's hike with us along our trails!

Sat | 24th McCabe Bluebird Trail Maintenance

12:00 - 3:00 pm

FREE

Join us to clean out nest boxes, right posts undermined by winter weather, and install new boxes along our Chris McCabe Bluebird Trail- all to improve habitat for the eastern bluebirds that migrate north to nest in PA meadows. All materials provided, you bring the muscle power! Snacks provided for fuel.

March

Sat | 3rd / Sun | 4th Spring Bird Seed Sale

Sat: 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Sun: 1:00 - 4:30 pm

A variety of bird seed will be available, including Sunflower Chips and a Conservation Mix. Order early and save money; members receive an extra discount! To sign up for our Bird Seed Sale mailing list, contact Jared Lucas at (215) 482-7300, ext.127 or jlucas@schuylkillcenter.org.

Fri | 16th Green on Screen Film Night: Bilby Brothers-The Men Who Killed the Easter Bunny

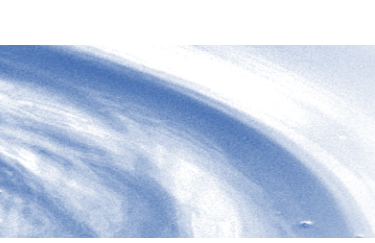
7:30 - 10:00 pm
\$5/members; \$9/non-members;
pre-registration required.

Travel to Australia and learn about the extraordinary fight of the Bilby Brothers to protect the bilby, a small big eared, long nosed creature of the Australian outback that has been marginalized by rabbits, feral predators and humans. Following the film, attendees will hear from a guest speaker (TBA) as they learn about how exotic and nonnative species can threaten the balance of entire ecosystems through an exploration of local examples.

Sat | 17th Bird Club Trip to Middle Creek WMA

7:30 am - 4:00 pm
\$15 for van transport;
pre-registration required.





Travel with our Bird Club to Middle Creek WMA near Kleinfeltersville, Lancaster Co. The sight of thousands of migrating snow geese and tundra swans (and an enormous bald eagle nest) is the perfect antidote to late winter! We especially invite new birders to join us on this visit. The PA Game Commission maintains an excellent museum at this site. Please bring a bag lunch – we will stop for coffee!

Sat | 17th Restoration Volunteer Workday
10:00 am – 12:00 pm and 12:30 - 2:30 pm;
pre-registration required.
Please see description under Saturday, January 20th for more information. If staying for the afternoon session, pack a light lunch.

Sat | 24th Frogwatch Training
2:00 – 4:00 pm
FREE; pre-registration required.
This training session is for anyone who wants to participate in Frogwatch USA, the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) nationwide survey of frog and toad diversity. Amphibians are particularly sensitive to human impact, so they are an important bioindicator of environmental stress. Learn about the different species that live in Southeastern PA and receive training

ing on the protocol developed by the NWF.

Wed | 28th Frogwatch Training
4:30 – 6:30 pm
FREE; pre-registration required.
Please see description under Saturday, March 24th for more information.

PLAN AHEAD...

April

27th | 28th | 29th Native Plant Sale
Fri: 6:30 – 8:00 pm *Members only
Sat: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Sun: 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

*Join us on Friday, April 27th for a plant sale preview party, complete with wine and hors-d'oeuvres. Take this opportunity to get a head start on your spring gardening by being the first to purchase your native plants!

Stay tuned for details about our other Native Plant Sale activities scheduled for this weekend!



Notes

GEAR UP FOR SUMMER CAMP!

It's never too early to plan for your children's summer vacation. The Schuylkill Center's Nature Ramblers Summer Camp is the perfect option for children ages 4-15 who are looking for a fun, interactive experience. Full of environmentally-themed, week-long sessions, our Nature Ramblers Summer Camp offers hands-on experiences and in-depth studies of science and nature. Older campers will take overnight camping trips to destinations like Belle Plain State Forest, Bushkill Falls, Assateague Island, and Allegheny National Forest.

To request a copy of our 2007 Nature Ramblers Summer Camp Guide, contact Beatrice McLaughlin at (215) 482-7300, ext. 110 or bmclaughlin@schuylkillcenter.org. Summer Camp information and registration forms are also available on our website at www.schuylkillcenter.org/programs/summercamp.

SURVEY HELPS IMPROVE CUSTOMER RELATIONS!

Thank you to all of our members and friends who took the time to complete our recent online survey! The survey results will help The Schuylkill Center to improve membership services, program offerings, and most importantly, customer relations. The lucky winner of the French Creek Ridge Vineyard tour will be contacted shortly after the New Year in order to claim their prize. If you have any additional suggestions or feedback regarding The Center that you'd like to share with us, please contact Ashleigh Poff at (215) 482-7300, ext. 139 or apoff@schuylkillcenter.org.

DISCOVERY CENTER RECEIVES A FACELIFT!

Sunoco Logistics Partners L.P., a leader in transportation and storage of crude oil and refined products, contributed a \$5,000 grant to The Schuylkill Center in support of our interactive children's Discovery Center museum. The Discovery Center, created in 2003, provides a place where children can test their knowledge of nature while having fun. In addition, children experience multiple hands-on activities like themed Activity Boxes and an indoor Bird Blind that offers a view to The Center's courtyard bird feeders. This gift from Sunoco Logistics has been utilized throughout the past year to revitalize some of the museum's well-used exhibits, including creating new Activity Boxes and repairing the forest canopy station.

"Like The Schuylkill Center, Sunoco Logistics is committed to providing environmental education opportunities for people of all ages," said Deborah M. Fretz, president and chief executive officer of



Debbie Fretz, president and chief executive officer of Sunoco Logistics presented Dennis Burton, The Schuylkill Center's Executive Director, with a \$5,000 grant check in support of improvements to our Discovery Center. This contribution has helped The Center revitalize the Discovery Center's many interactive children's exhibits.

Sunoco Logistics Partners L.P. "Within our own company, we award employees based on their contributions to protecting environments where we do business. Through this partnership, we hope to extend that commitment to people, especially children, in the Philadelphia region."

"The Discovery Center is at the heart of how we help children interpret and understand their outdoor experiences at The Center," said Dennis Burton, Executive

Director of The Schuylkill Center. "Sunoco Logistics' gift helped us develop an array of activities that let kids dig deeper into the natural world by having fun and learning about the great diversity of life in our ponds, streams, meadows, and forests. Environmental education synthesizes concepts from a variety of academic disciplines such as ecology, biology, and earth science and also helps children learn that they can and do make a difference for the environment."

Visit The Center soon and make a stop in our newly exhilarated Discovery Center!

MAKE YOUR YEAR END GIFTS NOW!

A year-end gift, above and beyond your membership contribution, can make a big difference for The Schuylkill Center! If you prefer, you can designate your gift for the program of your choice, supporting Environmental Education, Wildlife Rehabilitation, Land Restoration, or Environmental Art. We will be glad to help you make a gift of stock, or you can make a payment by check or credit card. We also accept corporate matching gifts. Please make your gift today!

DONATE ONLINE @

www.schuylkillcenter.org/joinorgive/donate.html or contact Sarah James at (215) 482-7300, ext. 117 or sjames@schuylkillcenter.org.



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July 1 - September 30, 2006

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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 (215) 482-7300, ext. 117. Membership contributions received after September 30th will be acknowledged in our next issue of *The Quill*.



fur and feathers

HELPING WILDLIFE IN WINTER *By Brenda Malinics*

Brenda Malinics has been a Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic volunteer for 19 years, and is a sub-permitee of Rick Schubert, the Director of Wildlife Rehabilitation.

I love and hate winter not because I am a Libra but because I spend much of it worrying about the cold, thirsty, hungry animals that do not have adequate food. Habitat destruction through human impact has disrupted the food cycle for many different species, making it difficult for them to sustain themselves, especially during winter months.

A few animals like bears, bats, turtles, skunks, and groundhogs hibernate or migrate to warmer climates, but for many birds and mammals it is survival as usual, except with formidable winter challenges. Although food is scarce, many animals can live with reduced rations; however they cannot live without water. When everything is frozen solid, animals will eat snow to stay hydrated, but when there is no snow, animals face a dire situation. Dehydration will claim a life sooner than starvation.

Provide a little water...

I encourage people to provide water, which must be heated, for these needy animals. It's as simple as purchasing water heaters, with specially designed coils for submersion in water, or a heated water bowl to place outside when temperatures hit freezing. I put the heat coils into my bird baths and use outdoor electrical extensions to reach an electrical outlet near my house. Then I wrap plastic around any connection and tightly bind duct tape at both ends to prevent moisture from reaching the connection. In addition to quenching thirst, birds continue to bathe throughout the coldest days. Every morning my water bowls are almost empty, confirming that an assortment of nocturnal wildlife comes to quench their thirst during the night as well as by day.

And a little food...

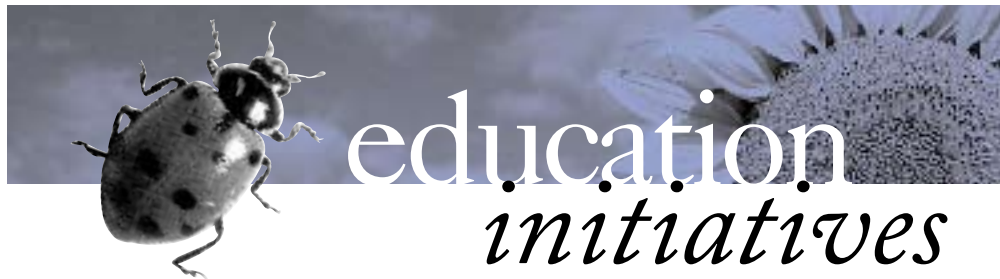
Birds are the most obvious critters active



The Northern Flicker is common to Pennsylvania and active during the winter months. This adult male was treated at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic and then released back into the wild.

during winter daylight hours. Without the availability of bugs and seeds, birds have come to rely on the generosity of humans providing seed and suet (fat trimmed from the kidney area of a cow). Please note that most natural berries from hollies, poison ivy, dogwood, cypress have all been eaten by early January, making bird feeding all the more essential. The most nutritious seed to feed birds in the winter is black-oil seed. I save on cost by buying my seed in bulk which makes availability also a convenience.

As the human population continues to increase and open space diminishes, wildlife habitat will subsequently decrease. The least we can do is work towards creating a harmonious balance between humans and the environment. For all of your bird feeding needs, including a variety of bird seed, suet cakes, and feeders, visit The Schuylkill Center's Bookstore. See our Calendar of Events pages for updates on the next bird seed sale!



education initiatives

NEW ADULT PROGRAM OFFERINGS!

The Schuylkill Center is excited to announce the advent of several new areas of adult education, all with a focus on building sustainable communities which nurture and protect the environment:

RETREATS

In recognition of the powerful connection that humans have with nature, The Center invites community groups to utilize our revitalized meeting room along with our other multi-use spaces for half-day and full day retreats. Easily accessible from major routes, our sylvan landscape, with several miles of hiking trails meandering through meadows and woodlands, by ponds and streams, is an ideal setting for reflection, contemplation, teaching, and learning.

GREEN LIVING WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS

Along with The Center's annual rain barrel and composting workshops, we are offering a variety of new topics this year, featuring regional experts and professionals in emerging fields related to all aspects of 'green living.' These sessions introduce adults to information, techniques, skills, and products that will help to actively sustain the environment. Topics include indoor air quality, green building and home products, solar energy, and organic gardening.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Connect with each other and share your interest in a high quality of life while enjoying fascinating speakers, cultural events, and films through our monthly event "Green on Screen". Enjoy the fun of an evening hike or campfire, and meet new people from the community. All of our social programs are connected to themes concerning the natural world, and your role as an environmental steward.

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Under the guidance of our experienced facilitators, The Center's Team Building and Low Ropes Challenge Courses enhance cooperation and communication among members of your professional team. The Courses are held under the protective high shade of our deciduous woodland, providing a wonderful stress-free setting that is a perfect antidote to indoor work life. Add a hike, restoration component, or campfire to further the team experience.

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

As always, fall is a busy time for plants. It provides an excellent time for growth in addition to installation of new species. This past fall, The Schuylkill Center received extra support from two local organizations that not only included generous funding for our Land Restoration Department's initiatives, but manpower as well! Both Merck & Co., Inc. and PECO, An Exelon Company, assisted The Center with enhancing our ecological restoration showcase, Penn's Native Acres, through the donation of plant material and volunteer time.

Penn's Native Acres, located along our hiking

trails, features a complete collection of multiple habitats and plant species indigenous to southeastern Pennsylvania. It is an example of what a native Pennsylvania forest might have looked like in the time of William Penn. With the planting of native species, the corporate volunteers helped to create wildlife habitat and to promote biodiversity at the site.

Volunteer support is integral to The Center and we thank both Merck & Co., Inc. and PECO for assisting us with environmental stewardship and for their ongoing support of our mission.

As part of Merck Company Foundation's Champions for the Environment program, The Center received a grant to enhance a portion of Penn's Native Acres. On 9/29, 21 volunteers from Merck's Blue Bell office spent the day at The Center, learning about ecological restoration and installing native plants within the project site. Over 2400 plugs of over 25 types of indigenous plant species were installed.



On 10/25, The Center, Green Woods Charter School, and PECO, An Exelon Company, collaborated to enhance a portion of Penn's Native Acres. Ten PECO volunteers and 180 students of the school assisted The Center's staff by installing a variety of native plant species at the project site. Pictured from left to right are Domenick De Angelis (GWCS student), Rich Horan (PECO employee), Maevae Buchanan (GWCS student), and Emma Schwingel-Sauer (GWCS student).



book store

Don't miss our Blue Dot Sale!

Sale lasts through Spring. Receive 20-30% off selected items.

Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder *By Richard Louv*

This book recognizes the threat of nature-deficit disorder and talks with various sources including children and adults to offer solutions. Louv shows us an alternative future, one in which parents help their kids experience the natural world more deeply—and find the joy of family connectedness in the process.



Portraits of The Schuylkill Center

These unique notecards are perfect for any friend of The Schuylkill Center or someone who simply enjoys nature photography. Each notecard features a scene of The Center, including photos like Springhouse Pond, our landscape at night, butterflies, and many more. Blank on the inside, these notecards come ready to be personalized!



Children's Puzzles

From wooden puzzles to jig-saw puzzles, The Schuylkill Center has it all! Engage your children in learning about topics like endangered species, the alphabet, and the United States. These puzzles are fun for all ages!



Hours of operation are:

Mon-Sat 8:30 am-4:30 pm



8480 Hagy's Mill Road
Philadelphia, PA 19128

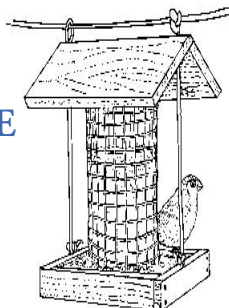
Phone: 215-482-7300
Fax: 215-482-8158
E-mail: scee@schuylkillcenter.org
Web: www.schuylkillcenter.org

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

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SPRING BIRD SEED SALE

Weekend of March 3rd and 4th
See Calendar of Events for details.



BECOME A MEMBER

Why not join The Schuylkill Center's elite group of supporters! Year round activities for children and adults engage members in fun and interactive approaches to learning about the environment. Some membership benefits include discounts on programs and at the bookstore, special invitations to member-only events, and organic garden plot rentals. Join today or find out more by calling (215) 482-7300, ext. 117 or visit www.schuylkillcenter.org/joinorgive.

Individual: \$40

Family: \$60

Wildlife: \$75

Contributing: \$100

Carson Fellow: \$250

Leopold Fellow: \$350

Seton Fellow: \$500

Thoreau Fellow: \$1,000



Friday, April 27th, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm * (members only)
Saturday, April 28th, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Sunday, April 29th, 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

**Join us on Friday, 27th for a plant sale preview party, complete with wine and hors d'oeuvres. Take this opportunity to get a head start on your spring gardening by being the first to purchase your native plants!*



Printed on paper with a minimum of 50% total recycled fiber including a minimum of 30% post-consumer content.