

### This Spring, we:

- Planted **3,000 trees** for Arbor Day
- Built **2,500 square feet** of native wet-land **rain gardens**
- Removed **75 tires** from the Schuylkill River Trail
- Seeded **3,000 square feet** of land with **native grasses**
- Hosted an **Americorps volunteer team** for **11 days** of service work

## Schuylkill Headwaters Association Hosts Americorps NCCC Team

From April 7 through April 18, 2013 the Schuylkill Headwaters Association had the privilege to work with and host a team of seven highly skilled volunteers who are part of Americorps' National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) program. The young men and women—Mayo Campos, Tyrell Moore, Adriana Bayona, Stephen Silber, Liz Griffin, Denasia Avery, and team leader Ryan Abdelnour were between the ages of 18 and 24. The members of Moose 4 (their team name) committed to 10 months traveling together in a van throughout the Appalachian region doing service work at nonprofit organizations to revitalize the community and land.

The NCCC Team arrived at Tuscarora State Park on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. They were greeted with a Welcome Dinner hosted by the Schuylkill Headwaters Association and Tuscarora State Park Environmental Education Specialist Robin Tracey. Boyer's Food Markets and GIANT Food Stores donated ingredients for the team's meals throughout the week. Hosted in two of the Tuscarora State Park's yurts, the team worked to clear and maintain over 10 miles of recreational trails during their first three days in Schuylkill County.

The team also completed service work for the Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation, which hosted the group for the remaining seven days of their visit. This work included building a split rail fence and maintaining several miles of access trail to the Appalachian Trail. Everyone who worked with the team agreed they were a fantastic and hard-working crew and a pleasure to have with us!



**NCCC Team  
posing after  
clearing 10  
miles of trail  
at Tuscarora  
State Park**

**The NCCC  
Team  
planted over  
2,500-square-  
feet with  
2,664 native  
wetland  
plants of 17  
different  
species.**

## Rain Gardens at Silver Creek

On Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, the NCCC Team worked for the Schuylkill Headwaters Association at the Silver Creek AMD Trail and Recreation Park in New Philadelphia, Blythe Township. Team members installed eight educational signs designed by previous Americorps VISTA Cataia Ives that explain the treatment system to visitors and describe an on-site project of the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) to employ water boxes as a method to increase tree seedling survival rate.

To combat runoff along the trails that encircle the ponds at Silver Creek, the NCCC team and local volunteers spread 45 tons of topsoil and 16 tons of mulch. This was in preparation for planting over 2,500-square-feet with 2,664 native wetland plants of 17 different species. The plants were arranged into three zones based on elevation within the rain garden's swale according to how much water they could tolerate. Americorps Intern Sierra Gladfelter developed the gardens' design with consultation from Susan Hyland, Consumer Horticulture/Master Gardener in the Penn State Extension Office and Tim Hill at Season's Art Landscape Design in Orwigsburg, PA. Aquascapes Unlimited Inc. donated several trays of plants to the cause. Additionally, volunteers seeded over 3,000 square feet of ground with wetland and riparian buffer seed mixes to prevent erosion and improve wildlife habitat.



Photographs by Sierra Gladfelter unless otherwise noted



## Arbor Day Tree Planting

On Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 the Schuylkill Headwaters Association and 50 volunteers from across Schuylkill County planted over 3,000 trees on three acres of land near the Schuylkill County Joe Zerbey Airport. This event was part of the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative and added to the 8,000 other seedlings previously planted along the ridgeline to reclaim county land mined by Mountaintop Coal Mining Inc. The 3,000 trees were donated by the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Howard Nursery located in State College, PA and represented a diversity of species including maple, oak, ash, pine, and spruce. Thank you to everyone who came out to plant on Arbor Day and made this year a record turnout!

## Schuylkill Headwaters Association Receives ARRI Excellence in Reforestation Award

On Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Schuylkill Headwaters Association was presented with the 2013 ARRI Excellence in Reforestation Award for its proactive and innovative conservation work in active and abandoned coal lands of Schuylkill County. The award pays tribute to the Headwaters' dedicated members and volunteers, who planted more than 28 acres of trees at the Silver Creek AMD Treatment System in New Philadelphia and the Michael Coal Co. Tremont surface mine operation. In the past three years, 265 volunteers have planted 31,750 trees. The Schuylkill Headwaters Association would like to extend our gratitude to all of the volunteers who made this possible and to RETTEW Associates Inc. and The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds who purchased many of the trees that now stand across the county.



## Collaborative Clean Up on the Schuylkill River Trail

On Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Schuylkill Headwaters Association joined the Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area to clean up a section of the Schuylkill River Trail in Landingville, PA. Black Rock Motorsports, a longstanding Schuylkill Headwaters partner, brought their off road vehicles and their manpower to the event and winched 75 tires out of a creek below the trail. CJ Tires agreed to recycle the tires at no cost and Penn State Schuylkill's Community Service Club also offered their assistance in cleaning garbage from the bank. A crew of five individuals from RETTEW Associates Inc. picked up garbage and trimmed brush from the trail.

**Black Rock Motorsports winched 75 tires off the river trail**



## Earth Day at Penn State Schuylkill

Americorps Intern and SHA Outreach Coordinator Sierra Gladfelter attended the Penn State Schuylkill Eco Fair on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. Sierra educated students, faculty and visitors about the work that the Schuylkill Headwaters Association is doing in the watershed and how students and local community members can get involved in projects.

**240 attendees  
at the 2013  
Schuylkill  
Watershed  
Congress**

## The Wider Watershed Meets

On March 9, 2013, SHA Board Member Paul Lohen and Americorps Intern Sierra Gladfelter attended the 2013 Schuylkill Watershed Congress hosted by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network in Pottstown, PA. With over 240 attendees representing grassroots watershed organizations, scientific researchers, local government officials, and concerned citizens, the discussion and workshops were dynamic and progressive. For those of you who missed it this year, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network is providing video of select talks from the conference at their YouTube channel. Additionally, over 20 PDFs of highlighted sessions can be downloaded for free at:

<http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/resources/resources.aspx?Type=Reports>.



Photograph by Dennis DiOrio

## Where is Cataia Now?

Many of you worked with and grew to adore Americorps VISTA volunteer Cataia Ives who was with the Schuylkill Headwaters Association last year. Since moving home to Florida, Cataia has been busy preparing for her new position in Rocky Mountain Youth Corps based in the mountain town of Steamboat Springs, CO. As a trail crew member for 9 weeks, Cataia will be living in a tent working with a team of 6-8 other members on trail construction and maintenance, habitat rehabilitation, and other conservation projects throughout Colorado. Cataia is hoping to attend graduate school next year for Geology focusing on hydrology and water resources, to prepare for a job in environmental consulting.

When asked how her time at the Schuylkill Headwaters Association impacted her, Cataia responded: “It was really fulfilling working with other community

members and volunteers. I had not ever really been involved in community organizing before, and found others in Schuylkill County shared the same goal of bringing positivity into the community by building, creating, improving, or growing things and helping others do the same.” The Schuylkill Headwaters Association misses Cataia, but we are proud of the work she is doing everywhere she goes!

## Upcoming Events!

### **Sunday, May 19, 2013—Bear Creek Festival**

Learn about conservation and watersheds; bring your kids or grandchildren for educational crafts and activities! Be sure to stop by the Schuylkill Headwaters Association’s table to make a ‘Watershed Address Postcard!’

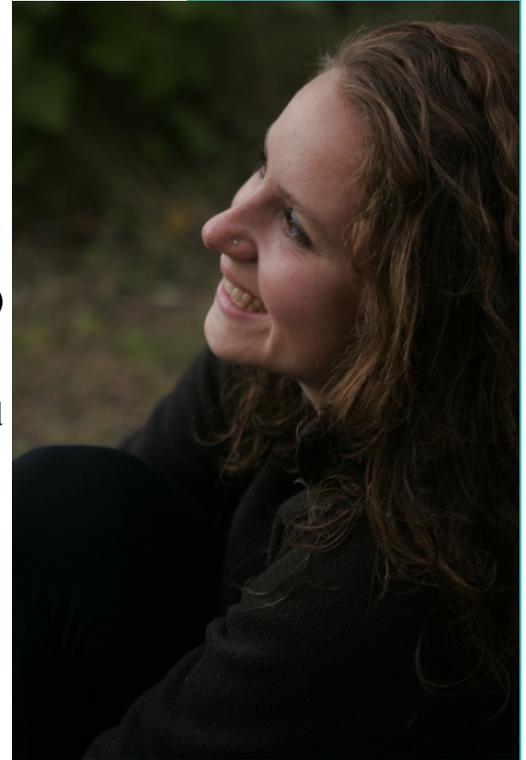
**Schuylkill County Fairgrounds, Schuylkill Haven, PA, 12:00-4:00 PM**

## Schuylkill Headwaters Association Receives New Americorps Intern

Sierra Gladfelter, a native of New Ringgold, Schuylkill County, joined the Schuylkill Headwaters Association in March to take over the work of Americorps VISTA volunteer Cataia Ives. Sierra has been active in conservation work since high school, participating in the 2005 Schuylkill River Outreach Team (SROT)—a summer program which educated youth on impacts to the watershed. After the program, Sierra was so moved by the challenges facing the headwaters and its communities that she and her cohort of SROT team members founded a Schuylkill County Student Conservation Club. Sierra coordinated the club for four years, organizing 25 projects each year throughout the watershed.

Sierra graduated from Temple University in May 2012 with a BA in Anthropology and a minor in Geography. The four years that she studied in Philadelphia, Sierra stayed involved with work on the Schuylkill River. As a freshman she founded the Temple Outdoor Club and introduced hundreds of urban students to the outdoors on paddling, biking, and hiking trips along the Schuylkill River. Sierra also designed a community-based learning course at Temple University about the Schuylkill River using paddle trips as a means to teach students about watershed impacts.

After graduating in May, Sierra embarked on a series of adventures: first, circumnavigating the United States on a 14,000-mile road trip. Four days later, she moved to China to teach English at a primary school for six months in Sichuan Province. Happy to be back in America, Sierra is thrilled to find herself at the Schuylkill Headwaters Association doing conservation and community outreach work closer to home, along the river that has had her heart for decades.



**Sierra will be  
serving as  
Outreach  
Coordinator  
until August  
2013.**

---

## Upcoming Events Continued...

**Saturday, June 1—Friday, June 7, 2013**

### **Schuylkill River Sojourn**

Join the 15th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn on part or all of their 112-mile guided canoe/kayak trip down the length of the river from Schuylkill Haven to Philadelphia. Register by May 10 to avoid late fees.

More information available at: [www.schuylkillriver.org/sojourn.aspx](http://www.schuylkillriver.org/sojourn.aspx) or contact the Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area at **484.945.0200**.



**CONTACT US:**

**P.O. Box 1385  
Pottsville, PA**

**570.622.3742x118**

**outreach@  
schuylkillheadwaters.org**

**Monday, June 10, 2013**

**Schuylkill Action Network Abandoned Mine Drainage Tour**

**10:00 AM—3:00 PM, Bus will depart from Walmart in St. Clair, PA**

Join the Schuylkill Action Network for a tour of AMD sites in the Schuylkill Watershed. Highlights will include a visit to the rain gardens and recreational trails at Silver Creek, discharges in the Pine Knot Watershed and discussions on the most detrimental impacts to the Schuylkill River. Contact SAN Coordinator Tom Davidock at **800.445.4935x109** or [tdavidock@DelawareEstuary.org](mailto:tdavidock@DelawareEstuary.org).

**Thursday, June 27, 2013**

**Mary D Borehole & Silver Creek Treatment System Public Tour**

Come see the newly completed Mary D Borehole Treatment System which filters and removes dissolved metals from polluted water flowing at a rate of 1,000 gallons per minute. At Silver Creek, guests will visit the rain gardens planted this April by volunteers and Americorps team members and tour the educational path around Silver Creek's passive filtration ponds.

**5:30 PM, Meet at Mary D Borehole Treatment Site**

Located at the intersection of Valley Street and Walnut Street between Brockton and Mary D off of Rt. 209. Just look for signs! For more information contact Bill Reichert at **570.622.3742x118** or [wreichert@schuylkillheadwaters.org](mailto:wreichert@schuylkillheadwaters.org).

**Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Inc.**

P. O. Box 1385

Pottsville, PA 17901

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS  
POSTAGE  
REQUIRED