



New pavilion at Mary D.

This Fall we:

- Constructed a new outdoor education pavilion at Mary D
- Cleaned up 35 large bags of trash
- Set the date for Schuykill Acts & Impacts 2016!

Outflow and weir at the Mary D AMD treatment system.

Pavilion Installed at Mary D AMD Treatment System

In December, SHA had a pavilion built at the Mary D abandoned mine drainage treatment system in Schuykill Township. The pavilion was partially funded by a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Environmental Education grant. Over the span of two days, Pioneer Pole Buildings constructed the pavilion which will be used to enhance environmental education programs and tours that take place at Mary D. SHA hopes to get a lot of use out of the pavilion come spring and summer!

Eagle Scout Project Opportunity

There are several improvements that remain to be completed at the Mary D pavilion site that would be a great opportunity for an Eagle Scout project. SHA would like some stone spread under the pavilion to help prevent people from getting muddy when using the facility. We also need two picnic tables that can be used by students during field activities at the pavilion. If you are interested in helping with these projects, please contact Outreach and Education Coordinator Alexa Kramer at outreach@schuykillheadwaters.org or 570-622-3742.



Call for Tours and Programming

Are you an educator looking to get your students out for some hands-on experience? SHA's abandoned mine drainage treatment systems offer a great tour and programming location. Learn about the history of coal mining in the area, how the legacy effects of mining have an impact on our waterways, how the treatment systems are engineered and built, and have your students do some real water quality tests on site to see how the treatment systems work. Treat-

ment systems are located in New Philadelphia, Mary D, and other locations in Schuykill County. Contact Outreach and Education Coordinator Alexa Kramer at outreach@schuykillheadwaters.org or 570-622-3742 to schedule a tour.

Port Clinton Fall Cleanup

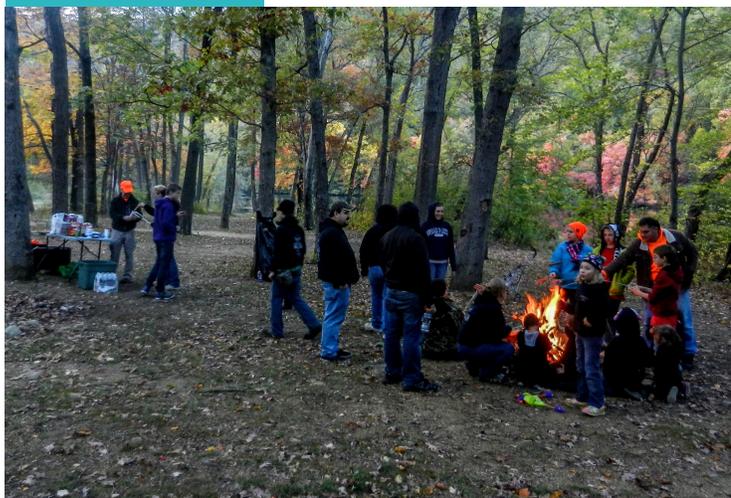
On Saturday, October 17, volunteers from Blue Mountain Wildlife, the Hamburg Boy Scouts, and Schuylkill Headwaters Association joined forces for a trash cleanup held along the Kernsville Dam near Port Clinton and Hamburg. The location of the cleanup, known as “Peace Rock”, and the beach area on the other side of the river get heavy use over the summer from swimmers and people picnicking. Trash seems to accumulate the heaviest along the trail to “the rock” and the beach area. The beach area also is a flood-plain that catches trash that washes down the river from upstream. There were around 25 volunteers in attendance and over a span of two hours, roughly 35 large bags of trash were collected at the cleanup along with two discarded charcoal grills and other miscellaneous large items. Trash bags and gloves were provided through Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful’s International Coastal Cleanup program. Following the cleanup, volunteers were invited to stay for hotdogs and s’mores around a campfire. The cleanup was a great success and is something all three organizations plan to keep holding every fall season.

Volunteers pose before, during and after the fall cleanup.



Spring Cleanup in Planning Stages

This spring Schuylkill Headwaters Association plans to partner with Penn State Schuylkill to hold a cleanup event along the Burma Road near St. Clair. Several sites along the road have been previously assessed, so another assessment will be done in order to focus the cleanup effort in an area that needs it most. The cleanup will be in April and more details will be announced closer to the date. If you or your organization are interested in volunteering at the cleanup, please contact Alexa Kramer at outreach@schuylkillheadwaters.org or 570-622-3742.





Port Carbon Tiger Scouts after they cleaned out nest boxes and collected garbage.



Two tiger scouts clean out a bluebird nest box.

This fall SHA and the Port Carbon Tiger Scouts partnered to hold an event at the Silver Creek Environmental Education Trail and Recreation Park (SCEETR). On October 19, the Tiger Scouts and their parents and siblings came out to Silver Creek to learn about why the bluebird boxes on site are important and then to clean them out for the winter season. According to the North American Bluebird Society, “After any nesting effort has ended, either due to nest failure or successful fledging of the young, remove the used nest from the box. When a bluebird nest is successful, re-nesting in the same box may be encouraged if the first nest is removed. This can be done as soon as all chicks have left the nest. Females usually build a new nest”. The next boxes never have been cleaned out since they were installed at SCEETR over the past two summers. The scouts split into two groups with one group opening all the boxes and doing any maintenance that was required and the other group following with garbage bags to clean out the boxes and collecting any trash around the site. Almost all of the boxes on site had nests in them which was a great sign. Further monitoring will be needed to see if the boxes are, in fact, being used by bluebirds, or if other species of birds, such as house wrens, inhabit them. SHA plans to continue this event each year in partnership with the Port Carbon Tiger Scouts.

Photographs
by Alexa
Kramer

Website Updated with Newsletters

If you’ve missed any of our previous newsletters or are new to our mailing list, you can now find past newsletters on our website at www.schuylkillheadwaters.org. They can be found under the “Organization” and then “Newsletters” tab. We hope you enjoy reading about what we have been up to during the past quarters!

Graduating Senior Awards Offered by SHA Through Schuylkill Area Community Foundation

Graduating high school seniors from Pottsville and Minersville should check out these award opportunities from the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation. **Applications and more information can be found** on the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation's website at www.sacfoundation.com under the "Students" tab and then "High School Awards".

David Derbes Schuylkill River Watershed Conservation Award Fund

This fund provides an award to a graduating senior of Pottsville Area High School who has demonstrated a commitment to the community by participating in environmental and conservation projects or programs outside the classroom and maintained a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 or greater for five consecutive marking periods over the last three years.

Paul Lohin Schuylkill River Watershed Conservation Award Fund

This fund provides an award to a graduating senior of Minersville Area High School who has demonstrated a commitment to the community by participating in environmental and conservation projects or programs outside the classroom and maintained a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 or greater for five consecutive marking periods over the last three years.

Schuylkill Acts & Impacts 2016 – Save the Date!

This year's *Schuylkill Acts & Impacts* expedition will be held from **June 18-25, 2016**. As we prepare the 2016 schedule we will be contacting speakers and presenters to be involved in the 3rd year of the expedition.

Planning is in full swing and applications will be available to students within the next few weeks. As a reminder, *Schuylkill Acts & Impacts* is for students in the Schuylkill River watershed in grades 9-12 including 2016 high school graduates. If you are an educator, parent, or mentor of a student who you think would be interested in the trip, please share this opportunity! Check our website, www.schuylkillheadwaters.org, or Fairmount Water Works' website, www.fairmountwaterworks.org for updates to the 2016 program.

Schuylkill Acts & Impacts 2015 participants.

Updates for the 2016
program will be coming
soon!

Photograph by David Dannenberg



*Schuylkill
Acts &
Impacts*
2016:
June 18-25

Call for Applicants – VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) Position Opening around April 2016

Schuylkill Headwaters Association

AmeriCorps OSMRE/VISTA
Outreach and Education
Coordinator
Pottsville, PA

Job Description

The OSMRE/VISTA will work to build the capacity of Schuylkill Headwaters Association (SHA), enabling their long-term stability and success. The OSMRE/VISTA will assist in the preparation and submission of grant proposals to secure future funding to support projects at the Silver Creek Environmental Education Trails and Recreation Park (SCEETR) and expand applied environmental curriculum offered to local students. The OSMRE/VISTA will assist SHA with environmental stewardship by increasing student awareness of local environmental impacts caused by abandoned mine drainage (AMD) and the legacy of anthracite coal extraction in Schuylkill County, PA. The OSMRE/VISTA will lead both teacher and student tours of the passive AMD treatment system at Silver Creek and other water quality and conservation sites constructed and maintained by SHA to address the legacy of anthracite coal extraction. The OSMRE/VISTA will design, develop, and execute environmental and watershed-based curriculum in collaboration with local school teachers and educators at the SCEETR to develop more local conservation stewards. The OSMRE/VISTA will offer in-class presentations about SHA's mission, conservation work, and opportunities for students to become more involved in local conservation through volunteer activities or service projects. The OSMRE/VISTA will also assist with planning annual activities such as the Bear Creek Festival, tree plantings, trash cleanups, and Schuylkill Acts & Impacts.

Qualifications

Candidates must possess a Bachelor's degree, good communication skills, and the ability to work in a changing environment. Qualities like initiative, flexibility, and organizational skills are preferred. Candidates must be able to work independently. Candidates must be available to serve full-time for at least one year.

Other Information

VISTA members receive a modest, monthly living allowance to help cover the basic necessities. VISTA members who successfully complete a term of service are also eligible to receive either a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of \$5,550 to pay for college or to pay off student loans, or an end-of-service cash stipend of \$1,500. Additional benefits include training, limited health care benefits, relocation expenses, student-loan forbearance or deferment and non-competitive eligibility for a federal government position. You may also be eligible for childcare assistance should you need it.

How to Apply

For more information or directions on how to apply, please contact Alexa Kramer at outreach@schuylkillheadwaters.org or 570-640-8896. Also, you may visit these two websites for more information about AmeriCorps VISTA and the Appalachian Coal Country Team:

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps/ameriCorps-vista>

<http://www.osmrevista.org/>



Photograph by Bill Reichert.



CONTACT US:

P. O. Box 1385
Pottsville, PA 17901
570-622-3742, ex. 118

outreach@
schuylkillheadwaters.org

Upcoming Events

February 26-27, 2016: Keystone Coldwater Conference

Ramada Inn Conference Center, State College, PA

The conference is an opportunity for grassroots conservation organizations, environmental professionals, college staff and students to share ideas, concepts, and network in order to protect, conserve, and restore Pennsylvania's coldwater resources. Register online.

Saturday, March 14, 2016, 7:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m.:

Schuylkill Watershed Congress

Held at Montgomery County Community College-West Campus, Pottstown PA
The watershed congress melds science, policy and practical applications into one program and is a highly anticipated event for people interested in understanding, protecting, and restoring their local streams. Register online.

Sunday, May 15, 2016, 12:00 noon-4:00 p.m.: Bear Creek Festival

Schuylkill County Fairgrounds, 2270 Fair Road, Summit Station, PA

Come learn about all things environmental, outdoors, natural, and agricultural in Schuylkill County. This is a family fun day filled with free activities, free admission, and free parking! Contact Schuylkill Conservation District at 570-622-3742 for more information.

Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 1385
Pottsville, PA 17901
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE
REQUIRED