

Summer 2011, Vol. 2

Upcoming Events

Join the Master Gardeners for AN INFORMATION SESSION WEDNESDAY, JULY 20 FROM 6:00 PM TO 8: PM AT THE SCHUYLKILL AG CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM! At this presentation learn about techniques for homeowners to use to protect our watershed and conserve our water resources in Schuylkill County such as rain barrels, rain gardens, and stream-side vegetation. Fee: \$5 per household Pre-registered attendees names will be drawn for a rain barrel door prize! For more information, please contact Susan Hyland at (570) 622-4225.



On July 29th, SHA will be working with the Schuylkill YMCA's summer camp to install Storm Drain Markings (see picture on the left) beside storm drains along Mahantongo Street in Pottsville. These markings will encourage people to consider how stormwater carries pollutants into nearby waterways and, hopefully, think twice before throwing litter into or around storm drains. This initiative is in collaboration with the current efforts of the City of Pottsville to separate stormwater and sewer pipes and to reduce stormwater runoff. Beginning at 9:00 a.m., teams of volunteers will be spreading out throughout the area to install the markings. If you would like to help, please contact Megan Blackmon at (570) 622-3742 ext. 119 or at mblackmon@schuylkillheadwaters.org.

Please join one of our partnering organizations, the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, in celebrating their 15th Anniversary:

EPCAMR: Partnerships, Places & Pride

Inaugural Dinner & Fundraiser

August 4th, 2011

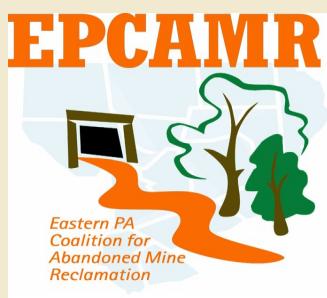
Best Western

Genetti Inn & Suites

Hazleton, PA

Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m., with a cocktail reception at 5:00 p.m.

For more information and to buy tickets, please visit <http://epcamr.org>.



SHA will be having their 2nd annual 5K run/walk. Come to the Run for the River to get exercise while supporting watershed restoration projects. The race will start and finish at the Mary D Recreation Complex. The 5K will be mostly a trail run, ending with a lap on the paved walking path around the Recreational Complex. There will also be a one mile fun run!



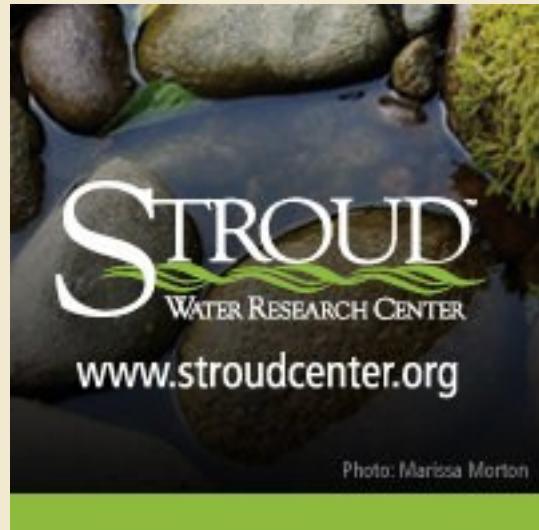
We've Been Busy!

The Schuylkill Headwaters Association's new website is now up and running! Check us out at <http://www.schuylkillheadwaters.org>!

On June 14th and 15th, OSM/VISTA Adele Holzman and Outreach Coordinator Megan Blackmon attended the 2011 Water Resources Education Network (WREN) Orientation and Wrap-up meeting at Dickinson College in Carlisle. Earlier this year, WREN awarded SHA a grant to hold next spring's "Art of Rain" Rain Barrel Workshop/Contest. At the conference, Adele and Megan were able to meet and discuss ideas with other grant recipients, including last year's grantees. Officials from all levels of government also presented.



On the evening of June 23, 2011, SHA lead approximately 20 people on a tour of past, present and future projects located in the Pine Knot Watershed. The tour lasted roughly three hours and included stops at a data monitoring station, a stripping pit and two reconstructed stream channels.



On June 28th, OSM/VISTA Adele Holzman and Outreach Coordinator Megan Blackmon attended the Stream and Buffer Workshop at the Stroud Water Research Center in Chester County. Stroud Center Director Dr. Bernard Sweeney and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's David Wise led sessions that discussed methods of ecological maintenance through the use of plant life. Attendees were also given a tour of the Stroud Center's unique, state of the art facility.



On the evening of June 28th, SHA President Bill Reichert and Outreach Coordinator Megan Blackmon attended The Schuylkill Area Community Foundation's Annual Program. SHA has an endowment with the foundation that is set aside for maintenance of treatment systems and water monitoring. Megan addressed attendees, explaining the mission of SHA as well as their partnership with the Community Foundation. For information or to make a donation to the Endowment Fund, please contact Bill Reichert at (570) 622-3742 x118 or at wreichert@co.schuylkill.pa.us.

For Your Information

Wondering about the new, purple decorations in Schuylkill County's trees? As stated in the *Republican Herald*, eighteen counties in Pennsylvania have been infested with the emerald ash borer beetle, which has killed over forty million ash trees in fifteen states. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), these beetles will eventually arrive in Schuylkill County. The bags trap the beetles, allowing the USDA to keep track of their numbers as they arrive. This will allow them to warn residents when the beetles arrive. The results of the survey will be updated weekly at <http://agriculture.state.pa.us>. In the mean time, the spread of the emerald ash borer can be slowed by confining the purchase of any type of ash wood to local businesses. The unintentional importing of infested wood has helped to speed up the spread of the emerald ash borer in Pennsylvania. If you see evidence of the emerald ash borer, please contact the Invasive Species Hotline at 866-253-7189.



According to an article published in the May 2011 issue of *Discover* magazine, there is a relatively cheap and easy way for farmers to clean up some of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) that pollutes our air: plant more and use compost! According to researchers, making the following changes on farms can significantly increase the amount of CO₂ that their soil absorbs out of the air by doing the following:

1. Compost
2. Keep fields planted year-round
3. Reduce tillage
4. Increase plant diversity

This year, seven international conferences will take place in order to explore this method as a form of sequestering greenhouse gases. A large study is also taking place at the University of California at Berkley. The university is collaborating with a coalition of ranchers and land management organizations. So far, the results look promising. The New South Wales Department of Land and Water Conservation is in the process of conducting another promising study that centers on the cultivation of perennial grasses. Some of these methods can also be effective in reducing storm water runoff.

Schuylkill Headwaters Officers

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Important Dates

July 20: Master gardeners information session, Schuylkill Ag Center Conference Room

July 29: Installation of Storm Drain Markings with the YMCA summer camp

August 4:

EPCAMR:

Partnerships, Places and Pride Inaugural Dinner and Fundraiser

October 9: Run for the River: SHA's 2nd annual 5K run/walk, meet by the Mary D Recreation Complex

November 10: Wild and Scenic Film Festival at the Sovereign Majestic

Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Inc.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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