



Update

FALL 2004

www.schuylkillriver.org

SCHUYLKILL RIVER NATIONAL & STATE HERITAGE AREA

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The foundation and success of the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area is built upon creating and maintaining successful partnerships. We have dozens of partnerships with non-profit, historical, environmental, recreational, educational and tourism entities; and we also partner with the federal, state and local governments as well as businesses and foundations.

Perhaps our best-known partnerships are with the National Park Service and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) in Harrisburg. The National Park Service provides us with technical assistance and guidance on a variety of issues and oversees our Congressional appropriation. We administer the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program on behalf of DCNR and annually reach out to organizations throughout our five-county heritage area with program grants.

There is, however, a third entity that is playing an increasingly significant role in who we are and where we are going. The Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA) was formed to enhance the work of individual Congressionally designated National Heritage Areas and the heritage development movement in America. There are currently 24 National Heritage Areas in the United States with several more under review by Congress. The Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area is a member of the Alliance; and by virtue of my position as Executive Director of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area, I sit on the Alliance's Board of Directors. The goals of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas are:

- To create and enhance strategic links among the Congressionally designated National Heritage Areas, emerging heritage areas, and private, non-profit and governmental organizations associated with heritage development.
- To educate key constituencies, including communities and the public-at-large, about successes and opportunities associated with heritage development in the areas of natural resource conservation,

historic preservation, community revitalization, economic development, recreation enhancement, the arts, folklife, education and interpretation.

- To develop educational conferences, programs and workshops concerning heritage development.
- To create and maintain a federal platform for all heritage areas upon which both collective and individual issues are articulated.
- To encourage the formation of local, private, state and federal partnerships in the field of heritage development.
- To develop and support entrepreneurial activities with the private sector in support of sustainable heritage development.

The organization conducts their annual meeting in the Nation's Capitol every February and holds two additional meetings in April and October each at a different heritage area. The Schuylkill River Heritage Area will host the fall 2005 meeting in Southeast Pennsylvania. The Alliance of National Heritage Areas has also reached out to our European partners and now conducts an international conference on heritage issues. This past October, the Alliance was the recipient of the National Trust Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Award for Federal Partnerships and Historic Preservation indicating a growing national recognition.

The Alliance is an important partner not because they support us financially (we actually pay them to be a member), but because they provide us with a forum to discuss projects, programs and ideas with individuals who share our ideals of conservation, preservation, and community and economic revitalization. The Alliance of National Heritage Areas is at the forefront of the heritage movement, and we are fortunate to be partnering with them to help lead the way.

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Greenway Assn.



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AUTUMN RECEPTION



L-R: Trailkeepers Kyle Kemp and Greg Marshall receive recognition for their work on maintaining local trails from Executive Director Kurt Zwilk.



L-R: Kurt Zwilk presents Allan, Betsy and Jeremy Quant with their award, a miniature red canoe, for their dedication to the Schuylkill River Sojourn.

On October 19, members and friends of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area met at Morlatton Village in Douglassville, Berks County, for the annual Autumn Reception. In addition to presenting awards, the event served as the backdrop for announcing the Heritage Area's selected artwork for 2004. This year's winning artist was Julia Longacre, who chose to paint the back of the Mouns Jones House, which faces the Schuylkill River, for her entry.

The awards ceremony honored Trail-

keepers Greg Marshall and Kyle Kemp for their continued hard work on the trails maintained by SRHA. Canoe Susquehanna's Allan, Betsy and Jeremy Quant for the extra help they provide during the Schuylkill River Sojourn.

Afterwards the Historic Preservation Trust provided tours of several of the historic buildings at Morlatton Village.



John Hibschman, Executive Director of the Historic Preservation Trust, the managing entity for Morlatton Village, receives from artist Julia Longacre a personalized print of her painting of the Mouns Jones House titled "Footsteps to the River".



Many people took advantage of the Mouns Jones house (shown above) and White Horse Tavern tours at Morlatton Village during the SRHA's Autumn Reception.

MISSION: To conserve, interpret and develop the historical, cultural, natural and recreational resources related to the industrial and cultural heritage of the Schuylkill River Valley.

VISION: We envision a Schuylkill River region fully revitalized and restored: A region whose citizens understand, value and are fully committed to preserving and sustaining their cultural heritage and natural environment for future generations.

HERITAGE AREA PROJECTS.....



TAMAQUA TRAIN STATION

–Schuylkill County

On August 1, the Tamaqua Train Station was officially dedicated and opened after 13 years of fundraising efforts and restoration.

Kurt Zwinkl, SRHA Executive Director, Representative David G. Argall (R-124), and Congressman Tim Holden all spoke about the hard work and determination devoted to this restoration effort.

In his remarks, David Argall noted that through the years the restoration of the train station was the inspiration for more than 35 facade projects on Tamaqua's Broad Street.



The restored restaurant was a popular destination.



For 13 years, the volunteer group Tamaqua Save Our Station (SOS), worked to raise money and grants to finance a \$1.5 million renovation project at the station at 18 N. Railroad St. Several of the grants were PA Heritage Park Grants administered through the Schuylkill River Heritage Area.

The concourse of the Tamaqua Train Station houses a Schuylkill River Heritage Area gateway.

The passenger station was constructed in 1874. Passenger service was discontinued at the station in 1961. The railroad maintained offices at the station until 1980. Over time, the building fell into disrepair. After being considered for demolition, community volunteers took action in August 1991 and formed Tamaqua SOS.

The station's restaurant was in operation from about 1874 to 1930. Old photos were used for the current restoration, and the flooring and curtains reflect the materials and patterns that were originally used. The hope is that one day it may open again for business.

For more information, contact Linda Yulanavage, Downtown Tamaqua, at 570-668-6899.

TWO NEW HERITAGE AREA GATEWAYS DEDICATED

–Berks County



L-R: Richard Kratz, Reading Area Community College President; Sam Alley, RACC Board Chairman; Crystal Seitz, Reading-Berks Visitors Bureau Exec. Director and Executive Director Kurt Zwinkl cut the ribbon at the RACC gateway.

In October and November the Schuylkill River Heritage Area dedicated two more Schuylkill River Gateway Centers. On October 4 at the Yocum Library lobby at Reading Area Community College (RACC) and on November 17 at Cabela's in Hamburg.

The RACC Gateway Center was developed in cooperation with Reading Area Community College and the Reading-Berks Visitors Bureau. The Cabela's Gateway Center partners were the Reading-Berks Visitors Bureau, Schuylkill County Visitors Bureau and Our Town Foundation in Hamburg.

For more information contact Cory Kegerise at 484-945-0200, ckegerise@schuylkillriver.org



Cutting the ribbon at Cabela's Gateway are (L-R): Kurt Zwinkl, SRHA ED; Mike Payne, Cabela's Store Manager; Linda Wrobel, Reading-Berks VB; Deena Kershner, Our Town Foundation.



HERITAGE AREA PROJECTS.....

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY ETHNIC HERITAGE STUDY

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area has begun work on an Ethnic Heritage Study of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. SRHA has contracted Michael and Carrie Kline of Talking Across the Lines: Worldwide Conversations, LLC to survey ethnic fairs, festivals, foodways, music, and craft traditions across Schuylkill County. Michael and Carrie are both professionally trained folklorists and bring a wealth of experience to this project. Their prior work includes projects for the Wheeling National Heritage Area, Augusta Heritage Center, and Pioneer Valley Folklife Society. Working with the Klines is Hanna Thurman from Putnam County, West Virginia. Hanna is a 2002 graduate of Marshall University and is interested in pursuing a career in public folklore. The goal of the Ethnic Heritage Study is to provide SRHA and local historical societies, arts councils, and other Schuylkill County organizations with recommendations on how to better identify, support, preserve, and promote the many manifestations of ethnic heritage in Schuylkill County. Advising SRHA and the team is a committee of Schuylkill County residents who are active in heritage preservation and who are knowledgeable about the diverse ethnic groups, both past and present, that make Schuylkill County unique. The Klines will live in Tamaqua through October 1, 2005 and will travel across the county during that time. The project is funded in part through a Pennsylvania Heritage Parks grant in partnership with the Institute for Cultural Partnerships, Harrisburg, and the Schuylkill County Visitors Bureau. Housing assistance has been graciously provided by the Acopian Center at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and the Tamaqua Historical Society.



Pottstown Outdoor Business Study roll out, L-R: Kurt Zwikl, Dr. Denise Ogden, Doc Ogden, Kutztown University; Dale Mahle, Tri-County Chamber of Commerce; and Evan Brandt, reporter from the Pottstown Mercury.

OUTDOOR BUSINESS STUDY UNVEILED

In mid-September the Heritage Area released the findings of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area Outdoor Recreation Business Study to the public. SRHA hosted

press conferences in Schuylkill, Berks, Montgomery, and Chester Counties and received press coverage from a variety of newspapers, radio and television stations, and industry journals across the region. The study was completed by Dr. James R. (Doc) Ogden and Dr. Roger Hibbs of the Kutztown University School of Business and Dr. Denise T. Ogden from Penn State Berks/Lehigh Valley Campus. The study found that there is tremendous potential for new busi-

L-R in Chester County: Barbara Cohen, President of Phoenixville Chamber; Kurt Zwikl; Doc Ogden and Dr. Denise Ogden.



Berks County Outdoor Business Study roll out: well attended by the business community and media.

nesses related to outdoor recreation to be established along the Schuylkill River and for existing businesses to expand. Chambers of Commerce across the Heritage Area have enthusiastically endorsed the study and have been partnering with the Heritage Area in distribution efforts. The study is available as a PDF file on SRHA's website at www.schuylkillriver.org/studies_reports.

For more information, contact Cory Kegerise at 484-945-0200, ckegerise@schuylkillriver.org.

SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAIL RIDE



On the trail L-R: Cory Kegerise, David Downs, Wayne Bowen, Frosty Falls owner Wendy Schildt, Cindy Kott, Sue Fordyce, Kurt Zwikl and Maddy Cantu. The dog wasn't part of the bike trip, just there for snacks.

On July 30 the Schuylkill River Heritage Area office closed for a fact-finding staff bike ride of the Schuylkill River Trail. The purpose was to ride the recently completed trail section from the Art Museum to 30th Street, and introduce new staff members to the trail itself and to bike the trail to the Oaks trailhead of the Perkiomen Trail.

A stop at Frosty Falls in Bridgeport, a drive-in across the river from Norristown, prompted an in-depth discussion, over ice cream, about the importance of trailside amenities and services as outlined in the Outdoor Business Study.

SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAILS.....



HERBEIN'S LOCK —Berks County

Herbein's Lock in Leesport, PA was lock #38 in the Schuylkill Navigation System. It functioned as a guard lock that protected the Duncan Canal section from the waters of the Schuylkill River during high water events.

The lock chamber was filled when Herbein's Dam was removed in the 1950's and the site has become obscured by vegetation. Despite the passage of time and the forces of nature, the basic structure of the lock walls remains intact. Local canal historian, Glen Wenrich, is passing along his knowledge of this lock to the next generation through a restoration project with Eagle Scout candidate Lucas Zmroczek.

With the financial and design assistance of SRHA, Lucas is preparing the canal chamber and surroundings for further reclamation and interpretation.

SRHA is also pursuing a possible collaboration with the Drystone Conservancy of Kentucky to restore the stone lock and retaining walls to their original state. The Drystone Conservancy is a non-profit group of master drystone masons who strive to pass on their old world craft to the next generation. Drystone laid walls and structures, such as the walls at Herbein's Lock, are restored as hands-on projects

for their students.

In time, Herbein's Lock will be stabilized and accessible for residents of the heritage area to enjoy and appreciate as a part of their cultural heritage.

For more information contact Maddy Cantu, Schuylkill River Heritage Area, at 484-945-0200 or mcantu@schuylkillriver.org

SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAILS SIGNAGE STUDY

SRHA is putting the finishing touches on a Master Sign Plan for the Schuylkill River Water and Land Trails. The Plan is being created by the landscape architecture firm of Simone Jaffe Collins (SJC) of Berwyn, PA in collaboration with Blatt Communications of Fleetwood, PA. SJC classified the various types of signs needed for both the Land and Water Trails including wayfinding, portage, landing, trailhead, directional, and interpretive signs and identified probable locations for each type. The information is recorded in a GIS database that will serve as a maintenance and management tool following installation. The graphic design portion of the study will create template designs for each sign type that will be customized to suit the needs of each site and partner organization.

The sign designs incorporate an Emergency Locator system to allow trail users to clearly identify their location to EMS responders in the event of an emergency. SRHA is seeking funding for implementation and is working with a variety of partners across the area to sign the trails. The first round of signs is expected to be installed in 2005.

For more information contact Sue Fordyce at 484-495-0200, sfordyce@schuylkillriver.org



The late mayor of Pottsville's daughters, Caitlin M., 9, and Erin J., 6, officially opened the Terry Reiley Memorial Park and Canoe Ramp.

WATER TRAIL LANDINGS

The City of Pottsville officially opened Terry Reiley Memorial Park and Canoe Ramp on September 21. Terry Reiley, the former mayor of Pottsville was convinced this spot was perfect for a canoe/kayak launch, and it has been added as a landing on the Schuylkill River Water Trail Guide.

The project was made possible by partnerships involving Richard B. Ryon and Gordon Real Estate, Pottsville Street Department, The Schuylkill River Heritage Area, Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Pottsville Lions Club, Mazzuca Enterprises Inc., Miller Bros. Construction and the Pennsylvania Conservation Corps.

The Tamaqua landing, below, is the most Northern landing on the water trail, and completes the Schuylkill County landings of the Water Trail.



Tamaqua Water Trail Landing is graded, signed and ready for use.



KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY SUMMER INSTITUTE

John H. White is a chair and professor of Art Education at Kutztown University. Every summer, as a creative exercise for art teachers, he puts together a program called the Kutztown Summer Institute. The purpose of the institute is to challenge the teacher's perception and experiences of art and art-making, with the intent of taking what they learn back to the classroom.

This year Professor White happened upon the Schuylkill River Heritage Area, and after learning more about the Heritage Area decided it would be a perfect vehicle around which to develop this year's Summer Institute.

After several meetings with the Heritage Area staff, an itinerary was developed around experiential themes John developed: Imaging topics, Metaphors, Times and Eras, to name a few.

On the first week of August a group of approximately 20 K-12 Art Teachers experienced the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. The sites visited included Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, the Schuylkill's headwaters between Tamaqua and Pottsville, Port Clinton, Bartram Trail, Kernsville Dam, Valley Forge, Bartram's Garden, Reading Riverfront, Lock 60 at Mont Clare, Pottstown Home Tour, Phoenixville Black Rock Dam Sanctuary, Fairmount Waterworks and ended at Manayunk on Friday afternoon. The week also included physical experiences such as hiking on the Bartram trail, paddling canoes in Mont Clare's canal and riding bikes along the Schuylkill River Trail.

The final project after visiting these sites was to develop a piece of public art that could be installed at a site in the Heritage Area.

At a debriefing meeting with Professor White, the proposed art projects were



presented, including feedback from the Institute participants. An interesting comment from some of the art teachers was that the week spent along the river made them more aware of the river and its far reaching effect on human history and current events.

Showing the participants the headwaters on the first day of the Institute, and the confluence with the Delaware on the second gave them the big picture right away. This was the same river, from a trickle out of the side of a hill to a major shipping lane in an urban landscape. The rest of the week allowed them to fill in the rest of the pieces of the river's influence.

The public art projects developed were very interesting: a metal tree sculpture for Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, a fountain at Reading Riverfront, and for an area near the confluence of the Schuylkill with the Delaware, a meditation poem about the Schuylkill River that's read as you walk outward on a spiral from one line of the poem to the next (shown at right).

For more information, contact Kurt Zwikl at 484-945-0200 or kzwikl@schuylkillriver.org.



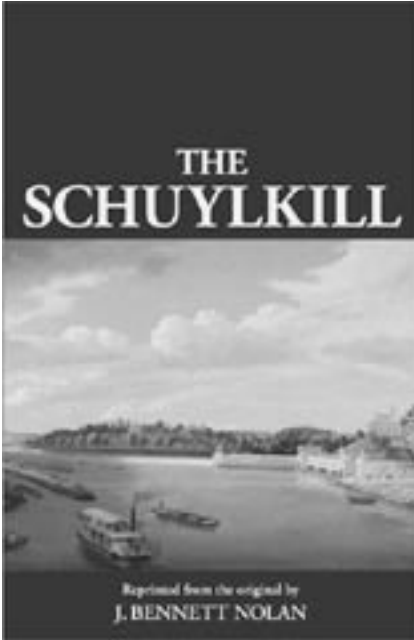
Meditation on the River

Start at orange running waters
see coal silt piles
mansions from nowhere
towns caught in coal-ebb
hawks fly
through hikers
pause
and pass
dams clean
old coal
to charcoal
city swims upstream
her newly discovered
quiet embankments
Iron forged
fought hard
for freedom
towns building anew
environmental education
canoe on the only old lock
they rested in the cold hill-river keep
in the winter
of independence
she whispers
thru the great city
giving water
at the last
giving gardens
giving all of it
to the ocean

— © Amy Beaudet

HERITAGE AREA NEWS.....

THE SCHUYLKILL REPRINT SOON AVAILABLE



J. Bennett Nolan's book *The Schuylkill* has always been considered the premiere source of information about the Schuylkill River.

First published in 1951, J. Bennett Nolan's *The Schuylkill* treats the reader

to a fast-paced sojourn down the river valley that, time and again, guided the course of American history.

This reprint presents the complete, unedited text of the first edition. Readers will find that even the few "modern" comparisons the author made half a century ago add to the quaint historical perspective.

The new edition was given an updated cover that features a full color image of *Fairmount Water Works* by Thomas Birch, courtesy of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia.

The reprinted edition is available for \$19.95 per copy, plus \$7 shipping and handling per book. The books are expected mid-December. To order your copy of *The Schuylkill*, contact Cindy Kott at 484-945-0200 or ckott@schuylkillriver.org. Orders will also be taken from the SRHA's web page: www.schuylkillriver.org. Look for *The River Store* link.



SRHA RECEIVES PASSPORT STAMP

For those familiar with the Passport to Your National Parks® program, a cancellation stamp for the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area is now available at the Pottstown office. The actual passport books are not being sold at Pottstown, but can be purchased at National Park Sites such as nearby Valley Forge NHP or Hopewell Furnace NHS. The stamp arrived on September 1, and on September 3 Donato Rinaldi from New Haven, CT stopped by and was the first person to have his passport book stamped.

For those not familiar with this program, visit www.parkstamps.org to get an idea of how passionate people are about collecting stamps from National Park Service sites.



Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area
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- Individual: \$50
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Schuylkill River Society Levels

- Bronze: \$1,000 up to \$2,499
- Silver: \$2,500 up to \$4,999
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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email (optional): _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Check enclosed (payable to SRGA) Charge my Visa/Mastercard

Credit card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

Call me about planned giving

Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Official registration and financial information can be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. SRGA's registration number is 2155. Registration does not imply endorsement.

“FOOTSTEPS TO THE RIVER” CHOSEN FOR PRINT AND NOTE CARDS



A watercolor painting of the historic Mouns Jones House in Berks County has been selected as the winner of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area's second annual art print competition. Through sale of the original, as well as limited edition prints and holiday cards, the SRHA aims to raise funds and draw

attention to the beauty and heritage of the region.

Old farmhouses, historic buildings, and rural Pennsylvania landscapes are favorite subjects for Longacre, a Montgomery County native with a keen interest in local history.

The watercolor has been produced into limited edition prints and seasonal note cards. The original will be auctioned off December 1 at the SRHA headquarters in Pottstown.

The prints are limited to a run of 200, signed and numbered by Ms. Longacre and printed on acid-free paper with fade-free inks. Each color ink of the

four-color process was allowed to dry before the next ink was printed. This labor intensive process is rarely used by printers anymore, and produces a richly colored print. This process is well adapted to Julia Longacre's watercolors, which are known for their subtle and detailed renderings.

Last year, Berks County artist Linda Henry produced a vibrant watercolor painting of a scene of the Schuylkill River. Prints and holiday cards of Linda Henry's painting are still available.

You can order prints and cards by phone at 484-945-0200, or online at www.schuylkillriver.org, follow the link to *The River Store*.



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