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Schuylkill River Heritage Area
Managed by the Schuylkill River Greenway Assn.
140 College Drive • Pottstown, PA 19464
484-945-0200 • fax 484-945-0204
www.schuylkillriver.org

cover photo: Mouns Jones house at Morlatton Village, Berks County

March 2007

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present the Schuylkill River Heritage Area's 2006 Annual Report.

This past year we again made great strides in our efforts to preserve and promote awareness of the region's many unique natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources.

Most notably, we were awarded the largest grant in the history of the SRHA—\$660,000 from the Philadelphia-based William Penn Foundation. This funding has further empowered our drive to develop the Schuylkill River Trail into a unified 130-mile trail system that will become an outstanding regional resource and, ultimately, a tourist destination. The money is funding a trail steward who is overseeing a trail council and the development of a comprehensive signage and marketing package to brand and promote the trail.

Another marked achievement is our acquisition of \$500,000 in state funds toward the creation of a Riverfront Academic and Heritage Center. This money, which we received in partnership with Montgomery County Community College, sets the stage for us to construct a regionally significant interpretive center and for the college to add classroom space in our building. This exciting new center will expand our ability to educate the public about the region's many natural and cultural attributes.

We also made tremendous progress on the Thun Trail section of the Schuylkill River Trail. In 2004, we set our sights on completing the Pottstown-to-Reading portion of the trail by 2007, and we are well on our way toward realizing that goal. In 2006, we constructed 1.8 miles of trail connecting Berks County with Pottstown. This vital link makes it possible to hike or bike eight miles from Pottstown to Birdsboro. We can see daily that many people enjoy the trail in Pottstown, which has become more inviting with the completion of this newest Berks County piece.

In addition to these major projects and partnerships, 2006 saw us through a number of other accomplishments. We once again hosted the Scenes of the Schuylkill Art show, which aims to stimulate an awareness of regional artists and foster an appreciation of the beauty and diversity of the region. We also held the 3rd Annual Reconnections 5K, and led 170 paddlers down the Schuylkill in the 8th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn. We opened two new Gateway Centers, distributed \$136,000 worth of grant funding from Exelon for three projects that improve the watershed, and awarded \$162,000 in project grants from the state. We also hosted the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Pennsylvania Greenway Bicycle Sojourn, bringing 260 cyclists onto the trail.

It is evident that our work continues to have a major impact on the region, revitalizing communities up and down the river. As we continue to grow, as our successes continue to mount, we hope to see our endeavors blossom into a myriad of new creative, recreational, cultural and environmental advances that will benefit the region for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Kurt D. Zwikl Ronald C. Downie
Executive Director President, Board of Directors

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area is dedicated to assisting communities, organizations and citizens of the Schuylkill River region to preserve and sustain their cultural heritage and natural environment for future generations.

2006 At A Glance

New Developments Improve the Schuylkill River Land and Water Trail

In 2006, Montgomery County completed and opened a new paved section of the Schuylkill River Trail from Riverfront Park, Pottstown, to the Berks County Line. In August, SRHA constructed a 1.8 mile crushed gravel piece from the Berks County line to Morlatton Village in Douglassville. Douglass Township received a police bicycle for their police to patrol the trail. These segments make it possible to walk or bike eight miles from Riverfront Park in Pottstown to Birdsboro. Other new additions were a trailhead pavilion and canoe launch at Pottstown's Riverfront Park. The SRHA worked with Eagle Scout Adam Hampton to build the canoe launch and the Pottstown Rotary Club to construct much of the pavilion.



Front L-R: Berks County Commissioner Judy Schwank presents Montgomery County Commissioners Ruth Damsker and James Matthews with pretzels from Berks County at the Hands Across the County dedication of the Schuylkill River Trail. Kurt Zwikl, SRHA, Dave Kraybel, Pottstown Health and Wellness, and Connie Downie (rear) look on.

SRHA and offered the use of their new art gallery at 16 High St. for the Art Show.

Solitary Egret, Tinicum Marsh, by Philadelphia artist Charles Cushing was selected for production into signed and numbered limited edition prints and note cards, available for sale from the Schuylkill River Heritage Area.

\$500,000 Check Paves the Way for A New Riverfront Academic and Heritage Center

The SRHA is partnering with Montgomery County Community College to create a new, regionally significant Schuylkill Riverfront Academic and Heritage Center in the SRHA building in Pottstown.

A \$500,000 grant from the state's Redevelopment Assistance Program, secured by Sen. John Rafferty, and another \$500,000 from the Department of Education's Higher Education Assistance, gave the project a financial boost. That \$1 million must now be matched by SRHA and MCCC funds.

The center will provide space for four classrooms that will be used to expand the MCCC's course offerings, including non-credit courses that promote awareness of the river. An Interpretive Center is planned that will feature educational, historic and tourist information about the Schuylkill River region.

Summer Sojourns Highlight the River

In June, The Schuylkill River Sojourn paddled 113 miles from Schuylkill Haven to Philadelphia, featuring programs that provided participants with a new appreciation for the river as an environmental, recreational and historic resource.

In July, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Pennsylvania Greenway Bicycle Sojourn introduced 260 cyclists to newly built sections of the Schuylkill River Trail. At Pottstown's Riverfront Park, they helped cut the ribbon on the new trailhead pavilion. Local physicians, dubbing themselves "Docs on a Roll," used the event to promote the benefits of physical fitness along the trail, and led the pack of bicyclists into Pottstown.

Funding for the trailhead and the 1.8-mile trail segment was provided by the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation.

Schuylkill River Heritage Area Receives Economic Development Award

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area received an Economic Development Award from the Tri-County Area Chamber of Commerce for constructing a trailhead in Pottstown and building the Schuylkill River Trail in Douglass Township, Berks County, connecting the trail to Pottstown.

This marks the third time the SRHA has been honored by the Tri-County Area Chamber of Commerce with Regional Planning awards presented in 2003 and 2004. These recognitions underscore the vital role trails and recreation play in keeping a community economically viable.



L-R: Kurt Zwikl, SRHA, 2006's selected artist Charles Cushing, Christy and George Martin in front of the original painting, Tinicum Marsh, Solitary Egret

Scenes of the Schuylkill Art Show A Success

In 2006 The Scenes of the Schuylkill Juried Art Show and Competition featured 37 original entries capturing the scenes of the river corridor. Montgomery County Community College West Campus partnered with the

FISCAL YEAR 2006 APPROPRIATIONS, GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area, managed by the Schuylkill River Greenway Association, a non-profit 501c3 organization, is supported by federal and state appropriations and receives public and private sector grants and donations. Funding supports a variety of projects as well as administration and program development.

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS	Fiscal year 2003	Fiscal year 2004	Fiscal year 2005	Fiscal year 2006
National Park Service	\$ 7,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 45,442	\$ 254,613

STATE APPROPRIATIONS	
DCNR - Heritage Park Implementation Grant	\$ 171,500
DCNR - Heritage Park Management Grants	\$ 50,000
DCNR - Heritage Park Study Grants	\$ 136,000
DCNR - Community Conservation Partnership Program	\$ 50,000
PennDOT	\$ 295,364

COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS	
Schuylkill County	\$ 12,150
Berks County	\$ 25,000
Montgomery County	\$ 10,000

PRIVATE FUNDS, GRANTS & SPONSORSHIPS	
Corporate sponsorships	\$ 7,050
George & Miriam Martin Foundation	\$ 20,000
Memberships & Contributions	\$ 18,542
Merchandise Sales	\$ 4,566
PA Humanities Council	\$ 9,941
PA Organization of Watersheds and Rivers (POWR)	\$ 7,000
Rails to Trails Conservancy	\$ 6,000
Rotary Club of Pottstown	\$ 3,000
Sojourn & Special Events	\$ 35,746
William Penn Foundation	\$ 302,500
Wyomissing Foundation	\$ 22,333

In Kind Contributions	Reinhart & Co.	\$ 1,094
	Ryan, Russell, Ogden & Seltzer, LLP	\$ 7,618
Various Other Funds		\$ 10,390

FISCAL YEAR 2006 PROJECTS

2006 Sojourn	\$ 42,687
Conservation Program - Exelon	\$ 158,000
Ethnic Heritage Study	\$ 5,745
Gateway Center Development	\$ 13,489
Heritage Parks Programs	\$ 367,591
Lancaster Avenue Bridge Construction	\$ 314,065
Master Sign Plan	\$ 74,009
Reconnections 5K Race	\$ 6,207
Scenes of the Schuylkill	\$ 6,441
Trails Design & Construction	\$ 271,028
Website/Communications	\$ 21,434
Other Events	\$ 4,258

Schuylkill River Society Members

Donations of \$1,000 or greater received for 2006

- Alice W. Ballard
- Exelon Nuclear
- Mr. & Mrs. Jack E. Gindlesperger
- John A. Koury, Jr., Esq.
- Mr. & Mrs. Carl Landis
- George & Miriam Martin Foundation
- McTish, Kunkle & Associates
- Mrs. Eleanor Morris
- Pennsylvania American Water
- Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation
- Ryan, Russell, Ogden & Seltzer, LLP
- Sovereign Bank
- William Penn Foundation
- Wyomissing Foundation



Solitary Egret by Charles Cushing, 2006's Scenes of the Schuylkill selected artwork.



2006 PA HERITAGE PARK GRANTS

- Historic Morlatton Village Living History Study, Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County
- Valley Forge Interpretive Tour, Once Upon a Nation, Montgomery County
- Historic CNJ Locomotive 113 Restoration Project, Railway Restoration Project 113, Schuylkill County
- Sovereign Majestic Theatre Improvements, Sovereign Majestic Theatre, Schuylkill County
- “Company is Coming” Project, Audubon Society at Mill Grove, Montgomery County
- Anthracite Museum Study, Borough of Ashland, Schuylkill County
- Laurel Hill Cemetery Audio Tour, Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia
- Gateway Information Center at Tuscarora State Park, Schuylkill River Greenway Association, Schuylkill County



A line of boats at Tuscarora State Park

PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE PARKS PROGRAM

Below is a breakdown of the State Heritage Area grants program funding that represents the history of the partnership between DCNR and the Heritage Area.

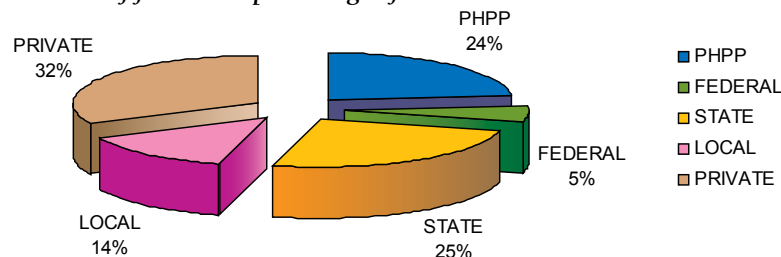
Resources leveraged by Heritage Parks Grants 1993*-2006

	TOTAL
PA HERITAGE PARKS GRANTS	\$ 2,774,088
FEDERAL	\$ 620,311
STATE	\$ 2,935,000
LOCAL	\$ 1,641,565
PRIVATE	\$ 3,742,056

TOTAL INVESTMENT	\$11,713,020
LEVERAGED DOLLARS	\$ 8,938,932

*Early Implementation Grants were given in 1993 and 1994. Full participation in the Heritage Parks Program did not begin until 1995.

Sources of funds as a percentage of total investment



EXELON NUCLEAR GRANT PARTNERSHIP

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area has teamed up with Exelon Nuclear's Limerick Generating Station to improve the Schuylkill River Watershed. Exelon established the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund with a \$158,000 allocation in January 2006, and the SRHA oversaw the allocations. Exelon will contribute money annually to the fund, supporting projects that enhance the quality and quantity of water in the Schuylkill River and its tributaries. The SRHA will distribute the money to non-profit organizations and government agencies seeking to undertake such projects as repairing eroded stream banks or restoring polluted waterways.

The projects funded in 2006 were:

- Irish Creek Agricultural Improvements, Berks County Conservation District
- Maiden Creek Agricultural and Stream Bank Restoration, Berks Conservancy
- Unami Creek Headwaters Restoration, Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy

Exelon and the SRHA hope to encourage other corporations to contribute to the fund, thereby increasing the scope and number of projects that can be funded in future years.

WILLIAM PENN GRANT RECEIVED FOR SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAIL

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area received a two-year, \$660,000 grant from the Philadelphia-based William Penn Foundation. The money will go toward improvements to the Schuylkill River Trail, ultimately leading to the creation of a unified trail system.

The trail, which now totals over 50 miles of completed pieces, will eventually stretch over 130-miles, running along the entire length of the river and crossing through five counties.

With funding from this grant we are working to make the various pieces of the existing trail—and all future pieces—



look and feel like a single, uniform Schuylkill River Trail.

The grant enabled us to hire Kara Wilson as a new Trail Steward, responsible for coordinating and leading management planning of the trail. Wilson is working with a Trail Council, formed this year, to establish standardized signs, access points, maps and brochures.

The Trail Council is composed of 18 representatives from the trail's various owning and managing entities, as well as members of DCNR and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

The grant will pay for signs and marketing materials, and will fund trail improvements at three targeted areas, which will serve as demonstration areas for the remainder of the trail. Those areas include Center City from Locust Street to the Montgomery County/city line, a section from the city line to Mont Clare, and a third section from Pottstown to Reading.

It will also fund a regional trail management study that will, when complete in 2007, recommend standards, policies and long-term funding sources for trail maintenance

Ultimately, the trail improvements are intended to enhance knowledge of and improve access to the trail, paving the way for it to become not only a resource for residents, but a regional destination for tourists.

The Schuylkill River Trail near Pottstown, Montgomery County, one of the sections targeted in the William Penn Grant



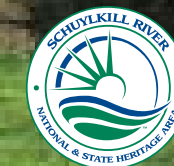
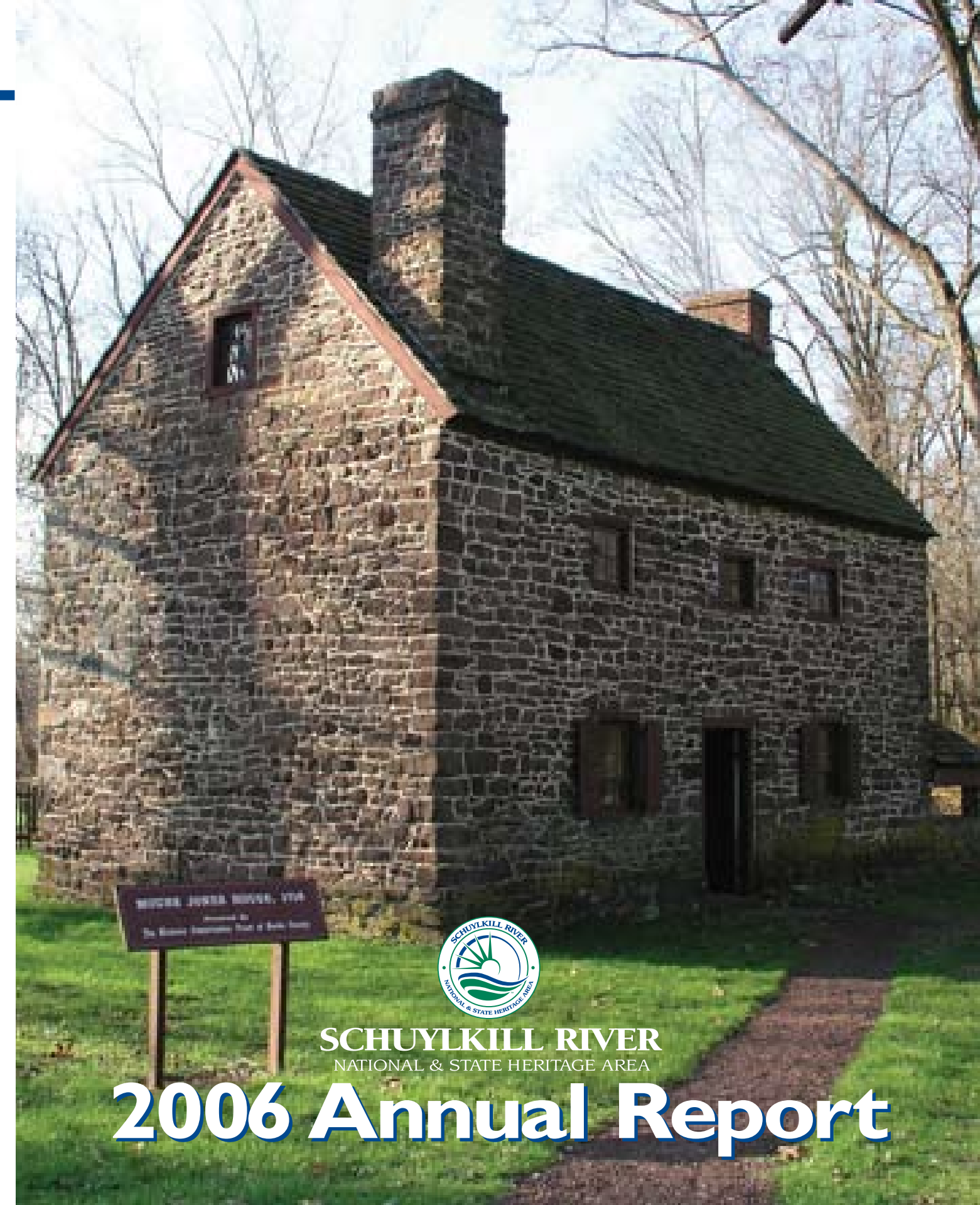
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SCHUYLKILL RIVER
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