

A Shared Commons

SCHUYLKILL RIVER
NATIONAL & STATE HERITAGE AREA

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Scenes of the Schuylkill Art Show Yields Calendar



river and its communities.

“The Schuylkill River Heritage Area works to promote community revitalization along the river corridor,” said Kurt Zwinkl, executive director of the SRHA. “Just as waterfronts often play a crucial role in revitalization efforts, so, too, does the presence of art and the influx of artists.”

The Scenes of the Schuylkill Art Show and Sale was once again a great success this year, featuring a unique collection of 23 original paintings by regional artists.

The exhibit ran from September 7 through October 28 at Montgomery County Community College West Campus Art Gallery in Pottstown. A reception on October 12 was well attended, and many people visited the gallery during the River Festival on October 13.

Twelve paintings from the show were chosen for a 2008 Scenes of the Schuylkill calendar, which is available for sale.

Gracing the cover of the calendar is this year’s selected entry, *Nocturne, Philadelphia*, by Arthur Ostroff, a richly textured oil pastel of Fairmount Waterworks at night.

The art show serves as a fundraiser for the SRHA, which benefits from sales of the original art and the calendars. It also presents an opportunity to stimulate awareness of regional artists, and to foster an appreciation, through art, of the diverse attributes of the

This is the fifth year the SRHA has held an art event. Philadelphia artist Nancy Barch, AWS, NWS served as juror. She selected the paintings in the show and the calendar pieces.

“All the works that I selected were high quality paintings that were creatively rendered and exhibited emotional content,” said Barch.

Calendars are available for \$10. To order calendars call the SRHA offices at (484) 945-0200.



Scenes of the Schuylkill Reception at MCCC’s West Campus Art Gallery on 16 High Street





Celebrating the Past

The Woodlands is a National Historic Landmark District located in West Philadelphia. It includes the William Hamilton mansion, carriage house and stable on a 54-acre tract, as well as the Woodlands Cemetery, founded on 100 acres of Hamilton's estate. Woodlands Cemetery has remained continuously active and features a park-like setting with an arboretum of over 750 trees, sculpted Victorian monuments and mausoleums, winding pathways, and brick walks.

In 1734, noted lawyer Andrew Hamilton purchased 250 acres of wooded agricultural land on the outskirts of Philadelphia. In 1768 the property descended to his grandson, William Hamilton, who built a Georgian villa of stuccoed stone with a grand two-story columned portico overlooking the river. Following a trip to England to study gardens and estates of nobility and the architecture of Robert Adam, Hamilton decided to double the size of his home and add a carriage house and stable, completed in 1792. Today these buildings remain as fine early examples of the American Federal Style with Adamesque influences. The house features a domed vestibule, a grand saloon with apse-like ends, an oval parlor and dining room.

Surrounding the mansion Hamilton cultivated one of the finest landscapes of his day, with imported exotic plants for his gardens. A glass greenhouse with flanking hothouses (demolished ca. 1850) helped propagate the largest collection of plants on the continent, including the first specimens of the Ginkgo, Norway Maple, *Ailanthus*, and Lombardy Poplar. By Hamilton's death in 1813 his estate had grown to over 600 acres and included most of West Philadelphia. In 1840 the last 100 acres were purchased by the Woodlands Cemetery Company of Philadelphia to preserve the land and buildings.

The Woodlands Cemetery Company of Philadelphia developed sections of the landscape into family lots and planted hundreds of new trees. Located on the highest ground, the cemetery's center circle features distinctive Victorian monuments and mausoleums. Since 1845 over 30,000 people have been interred at Woodlands Cemetery, including many notables such as Francis M. Drexel, artist and financier, and artist, Thomas Eakins. A portion of the cemetery also serves as recreational open space. Interment options of all types remain available.

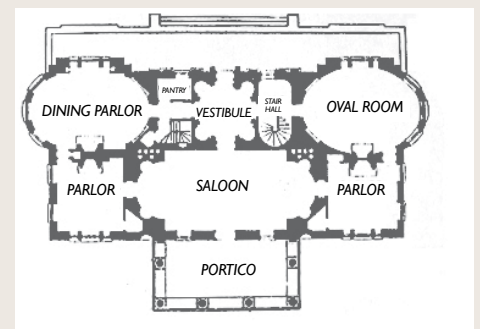
Since 2004, The Woodlands Trust for Historic Preservation has been working to restore the



exterior of the Hamilton mansion and carriage house. Funded in part by a Save America's Treasures matching grant of \$200,000 from the National Park Service, the portico's four earliest supporting wooden columns, dating from ca. 1770 and 1807, were replaced. Four hand-hewn interior posts were removed and replaced with steel, and new column drums and bases of Spanish cedar were installed to replicate the originals. A Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project matching grant of \$1 million has been awarded to assist with finishing the porch and further exterior restoration work, including ADA access. The Woodlands Trust continues to raise funds to meet the last half a million dollars of this new match.

The Woodlands is located at 4000 Woodland

Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19104. The grounds are open from dawn to dusk, but office and mansion hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Thursday. To learn more visit www.woodlandsp Philadelphia.org or call (215) 386-2181. Send e-mail inquiries to info@woodlandsp Philadelphia.org.



Riverfront Festival Draws Hundreds

On October 13, Pottstown's Riverfront Festival attracted hundreds of people from throughout the area to Riverfront Park on College Drive, many of whom visited the SRHA headquarters, and the Scenes of the Schuylkill art show.

The festival provided a wonderful opportunity for people to enjoy crafts and good food, try geocaching or kayaking, view two art shows, listen to live music and learn about the River.

Tricounty Bicycle Shop, of Pottstown, SRHA and Tri-County Chamber of Commerce pooled resources for a \$350 gift certificate from Tri-County Bicycle that was raffled off, along with two SRHA gift baskets. The raffle brought many to a trail information table where maps were distributed and trail-related questions answered throughout the day.

Meanwhile, many people came in to tour the SRHA building and see plans for the MCCC classrooms that will be built in the undeveloped portion of the facility. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network provided several mini-educational sessions on environmental issues.

Two outdoor activities were sponsored by the Heritage Area. Ted Danforth, of Hidden River Outfitters, ran three popular kayaking tours of the river that were filled to capacity. A geocaching activity led by Dave Kline taught novices how to use the Global Positioning System (GPS) to find hidden caches along the park and trail.

Art enthusiasts also had plenty to look at. Crafters were set up along the Schuylkill River trail, and two art shows, Scenes of the Schuylkill

and the Pottstown YWCA's Women's Festival of the Arts Show and Sale were held in the main college building and the High Street Gallery.

MCCC also held an open house throughout the event, and local schools, colleges and community groups set up booths with information.



Elected officials showed their support for the festival. L-R: Rep. Tom Quigely, Pottstown Mayor Sharon Thomas, SRHA Exec. Dir. Kurt Zwilk, MCCC President Karen Stout, MCCC Vice President Dean Foster and Senator John Rafferty.



Many different groups performed at the festival, including local school groups.

Planning for next year's Festival will start soon. If you're interested in the Festival, call MCCC's Carolyn Brunschwyler at (610) 718-1847.



Ted Danforth led three intro to kayaking classes



Can your Borough Manager do this? Pottstown's can. Ray Lopez threw some pots and gave a couple of lessons.

Students Beautify Park and Learn about the River

In July, 30 prospective college students took a kayaking lesson and tour; helped beautify Pottstown's Riverfront Park, and learned about the Schuylkill River region.

The students were part of a Montgomery County Community College-sponsored program called the LEAD Institute. They visited the Schuylkill River Heritage Area headquarters to learn about their local environment and assist with a community service project to improve Riverfront Park.

The LEAD Institute is designed to prepare underrepresented students and their families for the rigors of a college education by focusing on study skills, leadership development and career exploration. The students visited the Schuylkill

River Heritage Area's headquarters on College Drive as part of a week of community service activities.

"We wanted the students to become more civic minded, and, at the same time, learn about the environment and the natural resources of Montgomery County," said Eric R. Almonte, Director of Equity & Diversity Initiatives at MCCC in Blue Bell.

During their visit, the 30 students received a kayak lesson and tour of the river along Riverfront Park, guided by Ted Danforth, owner of Hidden River Outfitters, in Schwenksville. Then Pottstown Parks and Recreation Director John Reber spoke about career opportunities in recreation. Afterwards, he put the students to

work moving dirt and spreading grass seed.

Students also learned about the history and significance of the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area through a presentation by SRHA Executive Director Kurt Zwilk.

"To educate people about the region and the river is one of our missions," said Zwilk. "Bringing college students here to experience the river and learn about the region helps us achieve our goals."

Last year the Schuylkill River Heritage Area hosted a similar event for students from Philadelphia's Upward Bound program, sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania.

Heritage Partners



The Reading Company Technical and Historical Society recently opened the new Reading Railroad Heritage Museum on the seven-acre site of the former Pennsylvania Steel Foundry at 500 S. Third St., in **Hamburg**. It will showcase exhibits on the theme of how "The Reading Railroad Shaped Communities." Eventually, engines and rolling stock will be brought on site. Since 1976, the society has aggressively collected over 70 pieces of Reading Railroad locomotives, freight and passenger cars, as well as a comprehensive archive of photographs, documents, maps and artifacts. The new museum will serve as an interpretive center for those collections. For more information visit www.readingrailroad.org.



The Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center, at **Kutztown University**, will hold its annual celebration of Pennsylvania German Christmas customs and traditions, *Christmas on the Farm*, on December 8 from 10-4 p.m. All buildings at the center will be decorated in sparkling holiday finery, and most are handicapped accessible. Admission and parking is free.

The **Schuylkill County Visitors Bureau** is partnering with the Lehigh Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau and the **Greater Reading Convention and Visitors Bureau** to promote agricultural related tourism. Jointly, they are exploring ways to promote agriculturally-based attractions and events in the region, such as farmers markets, wineries, pick-your-own farms, county fairs and dairies.

The **Green Valleys Association** is hosting a holiday open house December 7-8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visitors can enjoy a catered Holiday Tea in the beautifully decorated Estate House, on Prizer Road in **Pottstown**, and shop the first-ever holiday store for wreaths, bird feeders and other unique gifts. A Christmas Evening Stroll will also be held Saturday from 6-9 p.m. More information is available at www.greenvalleys.org.

The rare Duc von Thol tulip. A limited number of bulbs will be available at Bartram's Garden's Seed Sale.

Bartram's Garden, in **Philadelphia**, has some unique seeds for sale. Every year, seeds are collected from the grounds, cleaned by volunteers and sold at the museum shop. This



Bartram's Garden volunteers clean seeds collected from the site's gardens

year's collection will include a *Plate de Haiti* tomato—a variety that came to America in 1793 from Haiti—as well as Black Valentine bush beans, Moldavian Dragonhead, Carolina Lupin and many others. A small selection of rare tulip bulbs is also available for purchase. For more information call (215) 729-5281.



Pottsgrove Manor, decorated in period for the holidays.

Yuletide Tours

Montgomery County Historic Sites celebrate the holidays by "Keeping the Legacy Alive" with special events and tours. **Pennypacker Mills** invites guests to Tours at the Mills, with guided tours of the decorated Victorian mansion highlighted by stories telling the history behind Christmas customs. **Pottsgrove Manor** features Yuletide Tours with a Twist, taking visitors through the 18th century Georgian mansion, complete with period decorations, as the Potts family prepares for a wedding. Both tours are held during regular hours Nov. 20-Jan. 6. Other holiday highlights include:

Sat., Dec. 1 Peter Wentz Farmstead: Candle Light 2 to 8 p.m.



Sun., Dec. 2 John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove: Holiday Open House 1 to 7 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 8 Pennypacker Mills: Victorian Christmas Open House 2 to 8 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 9 Pottsgrove Manor: Candlelight 12th Night Wedding Celebration 1 to 7 p.m.

For more information visit www.2montcopa.org.



Laurel Hill Mansion in holiday finery. Photo courtesy Laurel Hill Mansion

Holiday Yuletide Trolley tours of **Historic Fairmount Park Houses** run from Wednesday Nov. 28 through Sunday Dec. 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Experience the splendor of Christmas at **Cedar Grove, Lemon Hill, Strawberry Mansion, Mount Pleasant, Laurel Hill** and **Woodford**. Yuletide Trolleys depart from the Italian Fountain Circle at Fairmount Waterworks. For more information visit www.laurelhillmansion.org.



A decorated Strawberry Hill Mansion. Photo courtesy the Philadelphia Museum of Art

Over \$250,000 in Exelon Grants Distributed to Improve Schuylkill River Watershed

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area awarded three grants totaling \$250,275 from the Exelon Schuylkill River Watershed Restoration Program, in August.

The announcement took place at the Harold Adam Farm in Hamburg, a 2006 watershed restoration grant recipient. Speakers included Carol Collier, executive director of the Delaware River Basin Commission, Chris Mudrick, vice president Exelon's Limerick Generating Station, Kurt Zwikl, executive director, Schuylkill River Heritage Area and Champ Holman, chief of staff for Senator Jim Rhoades.

Participants had the opportunity to tour the farm and observe property improvements such as stream bank fencing and riparian buffers that reduce runoff into the stream. Christy Fach of the Berks County Conservancy gave a presentation on the project.

The Watershed Restoration Program was created by Exelon Nuclear last year. Funding from the program supports projects that enhance the quality of water in the Schuylkill River and its tributaries. The Schuylkill River Heritage Area oversees the fund, distributing money annually to non-profit organizations and government agencies.

This year, three projects were selected.

"All these projects benefit the entire watershed because they reduce the amount of run-off and pollution that enters creeks, and, ultimately, the river, which is a source of drinking water for over one million people," said Zwikl.

Projects selected were:

- Berks County Conservancy—\$98,500 for agricultural improvements on two farm properties located on tributaries of the Schuylkill River in Berks County.
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network—\$90,634 for stream bank stabilization and installation of a riparian buffer on a farm located along Mill Creek in Tilden Township, Berks County, to reduce nutrient loads that pollute the Schuylkill River.
- Schuylkill Headwaters Association—\$61,141 for the upgrade of three abandoned mine drainage remediation systems to improve the quality of water that drains to the headwaters of the Schuylkill River, in Schuylkill County.

"Working to improve water quality throughout the Schuylkill River Watershed is important

to all who live, work, visit and recreate within its boundaries and to those downstream, as the Schuylkill is the Delaware River's largest tributary" said Collier.

Recipients were chosen by a committee of representatives from Exelon, Delaware River Basin Commission, Philadelphia Water Department, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Environmental Protection and the Schuylkill River Heritage Area.

The annual fund is part of a demonstration project for the water diversion program at Exelon Nuclear's Limerick Generating Station and is under the purview of the Delaware River Basin Commission. This year, Exelon contributed a total of \$271,148 to the fund—an increase of \$110,000 over last year, when \$158,000 was donated.

"We are excited to be able to contribute at an even higher level this year to the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund. Our partnership with SRHA in establishing and managing this fund has resulted in many improvements to the Schuylkill River basin. As a producer of safe, clean, and reliable energy, it is only fitting that we continue to strengthen our stewardship of the environment we rely upon for continued operation," Mudrick said.

Exelon was able to contribute more money this year because weather conditions impact how the program is funded.

The bulk of this year's funding, along with \$6,100 rolled over from last year, went toward the three projects. Remaining funds were used to cover costs of administering the grants.



Harold Adam's farm streambank restoration project before (L), and after (below). Photos provided by the Berks County Conservancy.



The Independence National Historical Park Gateway dedication was attended by re-enactors from the NHP, starting 2nd from left Allan Sachse-Delaware & Lehigh NHC, Steve, Independence NHP and Kurt Zwikl, Schuylkill River NHA

New Gateway Centers Installed in Philadelphia

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area opened two new Gateway Centers in Philadelphia on August 29 at Independence National Historical Park and Bartram's Garden.

Gateway Centers are information booths that enlighten people about the region's cultural and historic significance. They contain information about history and attractions in the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area.

"It serves as an introduction to the Heritage Area," said Kurt Zwikl, Executive Director of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. "It informs people of who we are and what we're all about, as well as of the many places to visit in the region."

The Independence NHP Gateway Center was installed in partnership with the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

Independence NHP and Bartram's Garden are both important tourist attractions in Philadelphia. But, many visitors probably aren't aware of all that the surrounding area has to offer. The Independence NHP Gateway Center shares information about the Schuylkill River Heritage Area and the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor—with maps, brochures and videos from both regions.

Bartram's Garden's Gateway Center includes the Heritage Area wall map and a second map with local sites of interest.

Since 2003, the SRHA has placed more than a dozen Gateway Centers in well-visited locations across the region, including one in Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center.

Over the next several years, more Gateway Centers will be added to selected tourist sites throughout the Heritage Area. By strategically placing four or five Gateway Centers in each county, the SRHA hopes to insure that more people have a greater understanding of the valuable resources of the Heritage Area.

New 7.5-Mile Section of the Schuylkill River Trail Opens



Bartram Trail ceremony was attended by L-R: Rep. Tim Seip and Dave Argall, Schuylkill County Commissioners Robert Carl and Frank Staudenmeier, Berks County Commissioner Judy Schwank, Schuylkill County Commissioner Mantura Gallagher and several Tilden Township officials.

Schuylkill River Trail because it is the first major piece to be built in Upper Berks and Schuylkill counties," said Kurt Zwikl, Heritage Area executive director.

The new trail consists of two segments. A 6 mile segment begins in Hamburg at the Kernsville Dam trailhead parking lot, where an existing trail ends, and ends at the Auburn railroad bridge. The Bartram trail intersects the Appalachian Trail in Port Clinton.

A second 1.5-mile section in Landingville adjoins an existing loop trail at the Landingville Marsh. Eventually, the two sections are expected to be part of a continuous trail that runs along the river in Schuylkill County.

A brand new 7.5 miles of the Schuylkill River Trail's Bartram section was opened on September 10 at a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Kernsville Dam Trailhead in Hamburg.

Berks County Commissioner Judith L. Schwank and Schuylkill County Commissioner Frank J. Staudenmeier snipped the ribbon, while an estimated 75 people looked on. In attendance were State Representatives Tim Seip and David Argall, as well as Schuylkill County Commissioners Mantura M. Gallagher and Robert S. Carl, along with a number of municipal officials and trail users.

The ceremony officially opened a long-awaited section of scenic, tree-lined trail that offers up stunning views of the Schuylkill valley. Located along a wooded hillside, it is considered one of the most beautiful sections of the Schuylkill River Trail



Mal Bartram (C), widow of John B. Bartram, for whom the Bartram Trail is named.

The Schuylkill River Trail's Bartram Section is the Schuylkill and Upper Berks County portion of the larger Schuylkill River Trail, which will eventually run the entire length of the river from Philadelphia to Pottsville—an estimated 130 miles.

"This represents a crucial development for the



The Bartram Trail has interesting features that are interpreted in signs along its length.

The eight-month construction project was completed by Brubacher Excavating, Inc., of Bowmansville. Trailhead signs, trail blades and interpretive signs identifying points of historical interest are part of the project.

Funding for the project came from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

For more information contact Bob Folwell at rfolwell@schuylkillriver.org or (484) 945-0200.

Sojourn Teams Up with American Philosophical Society

The 2008 Schuylkill River Sojourn is many months away, but the Schuylkill River Heritage Area staff is already planning an exciting and novel 10th anniversary Sojourn for June 7-14.

A partnership with the American Philosophical Society will transform the 113-mile river trip into an exploration that will have Sojourners acting as explorers in their own back yards.

The APS Museum is designing 2008 Sojourn programs to correspond with the museum's year-long exhibit, UNDAUNTED: Five American Explorers, 1760-2007, which runs through the end of 2008. The APS intends to bring this exhibit to life for Sojourners throughout the journey, and to the general public at evening programs.

The APS will lead a "Flotilla" of five boats with each boat named for one of the explorers in the exhibition: David Rittenhouse, John James Audubon, Titian Ramsay Peale, Elisha Kent Kane and Ruth Patrick. Those explorers were all APS members with Philadelphia connections who made important discoveries. The UNDAUNTED exhibition reveals their practices in the field and the methods they used to document and map their findings.

Sojourners will become more than just paddlers. As they travel 14-18 miles a day, they will become field explorers, learning to investigate and document the natural world around

them. Potential presentations will be made by ornithologists, entomologists and astronomers, and Sojourners will be encouraged to try their hand at insect collecting, botanical sketching and tree identification, among other things.

Below is a sampling of activities being planned:

- An opening launch in Schuylkill Haven that brings out the community for celebratory fireworks and the christening of the "Flotilla" boats.
- A Celebrity Paddle with 4-5 different community leaders invited each day to join the Sojourners for one day of their journey.
- Public presentations, demonstrations and lectures by astronomers, ornithologists, entomologists and others natural scientists.
- A breakfast in Philadelphia on Saturday in the APS's Jefferson Garden and a special behind-the-scenes tour of the UNDAUNTED exhibition.

To learn more about the American Philosophical Society or the UNDAUNTED exhibition visit www.apmphilsoc.org.

Plans Unveiled for Schuylkill River Trail Expansion

A feasibility study has identified the proposed alignment for a new 20-mile section of the Schuylkill River Trail that would extend the trail from Reading north to Hamburg.

The new section, which will likely take years to complete, will fill an important gap in the Schuylkill River Trail, connecting the existing Pottstown-to-Reading piece with another recently built stretch that runs from Hamburg north to Auburn.

The study was reviewed at a meeting on September 27 by Bob Thomas, a principal with the architectural firm Campbell Thomas, who drafted the study. Thomas discussed the trail's alignment, phasing, and the possibility of creating a temporary on-road route.

The study also looked at the alignment of the proposed Freedom Trail, which would stretch from Lake Ontelaunee to Blue Marsh Lake and converge with the Schuylkill River Trail for about five miles.

Cost to complete the 20-mile Reading-to-Hamburg section of the Schuylkill River Trail is estimated at about \$8.9 million.

"The trail's success is dependent on project leadership, the formation of partnerships with municipalities, the cooperation of property owners, and the ability to find funding sources," said Schuylkill River Heritage Area Trails Project Manager Bob Folwell.

Eventually, the Schuylkill River Trail will run the entire length of the river, from Philadelphia to Pottsville. Two sections of that trail are largely complete, one from Philadelphia to Oaks, and another from Pottstown to Reading. The Reading-to-Hamburg piece represents a crucial segment that will make it possible to hike or bike from Pottstown to Auburn, a route totaling more than 40 miles.

"This is the missing link," said Thomas of the proposed Reading-to-Hamburg section. "This would give the northern half of Berks County access to the Schuylkill River Trail's Bartram section to the north, and to the south they will be able to follow the trail all the way to Pottstown."

Because the proposed alignment passes



through several town centers, it could serve as an important route for commuters, as well as recreational users. It is also expected to economically benefit the communities it transects.

"By improving the local environment, trails make a community a more attractive place for people to live and work," said Thomas.

While the trail is expected to take years to build, Thomas said an on-road bicycle route could be created and, over time, replaced by an actual trail.

The feasibility study is available online at www.schuylkillriver.org by following the link to "Resources," then "Studies and Reports."

Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area

140 College Drive • Pottstown, PA 19464
484-945-0200 • Fax: 484-945-0204
www.schuylkillriver.org

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Seeking Old Photos

The Schuylkill River region played a central role in the history of Pennsylvania and the nation.

Part of the mission of the SRHA is to educate people about that history. In keeping with that mission, we are working to create a book of old photographs that helps tell the story of the river's history, and particularly its importance during the Industrial Revolution, and the development of communities along the river.

To create this book we are seeking about 200 old photographs—good quality originals that can be scanned and used in our publication. The book will be published by Arcadia Publishing as part of their Images of America series.

If you have any old photos of the river, the Schuylkill Canal, bridges or river towns and cities, or know anyone who has a collection of old photos that we could use for this book, please contact Laura Catalano at lcatalano@schuylkillriver.org or (484) 945-0200.

Teaching the Craft of Greenland Paddle Making



"It's a neat thing to do," said Ted Danforth, owner of Hidden River Outfitters. "Participants created a paddle that simulates those crafted by generations of Inuit peoples. It is lighter, more natural and more flexible than most commercial paddles."

Hidden River Outfitters arranged to hold the class in Pottstown in order to draw attention to kayaking in the area. A class in traditional Greenland Kayak Construction was held at the Schuylkill River Heritage Area headquarters in January.

In August, Hidden River Outfitters, of Schwenksville, hosted a wooden Greenland paddle building class at the Riverfront Park pavilion, behind the Schuylkill River Heritage Area headquarters.

The workshop was taught by experienced paddle maker Chris Raab, owner of Tuktu Paddles, in New Jersey. Raab provided participants with a cedar paddle "blank," that each person carved into a Greenland paddle. At the end of the day, everyone left with a brand new handmade new paddle and the know-how to make another.

"I'm trying to promote kayaking in the region and to get people to focus on the recreational opportunities available in the Schuylkill River Heritage Area," said Danforth.

Raab, of Tuktu Paddles, participated in the kayak building class, and regularly holds lessons in paddle making. He specializes in handcrafted Greenland paddles.

Support the Schuylkill River Heritage Area

Join or renew online at www.schuylkillriver.org

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



140 College Drive
Pottstown, PA 19464

