

A Shared Commons

SCHUYLKILL RIVER
NATIONAL & STATE HERITAGE AREA

Summer 2009

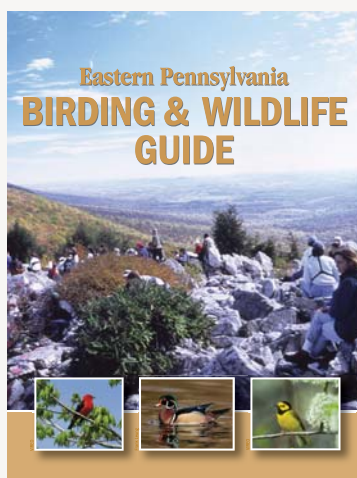
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Get Out and Enjoy!

New Birding and Wildlife Guide Now Available Free



Covering 13 counties, the guide features beautiful, full-color photographs and illustrations and gives a breakdown of important birding sites by county. Readers learn what species of birds and other wildlife may be seen at every site through the seasons. They also get details about the site itself, such as where to park and whether restrooms are available.

The book begins with an introduction by Pulitzer Prize finalist Scott Weidensaul that declares eastern Pennsylvania "a birding paradise." Weidensaul looks at the "giants of ornithology," that once walked the region, including John James Audubon and William Bartram.

"Mile for mile, the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers may be the most important waterways in the history of American bird study," asserts Weidensaul, the author of more than two dozen natural history books.

Guides will be available free of charge at selected parks, nature centers and birding sites while supplies last. They can also be ordered from the SRHA and the D&L at a cost of \$10 to cover shipping and handling. For a list of locations where the guide can be obtained, or to order a copy, visit the SRHA Web site at www.schuylkillriver.org, or the D&L Web site at www.delawareandlehigh.org.

Birders across the region have enthusiastically embraced the new Eastern Pennsylvania Birding and Wildlife Guide, which was released in May through a joint effort of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area, the Delaware and Lehigh National Corridor and the Lehigh Gap Nature Center.

The 130-page spiral-bound, full-color guide is available free upon request while supplies last at select eastern Pennsylvania birding sites and parks.

The book, funded in part through a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant, was created through a partnership of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area (SRHA), Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (D&L), National Parks Service and Lehigh Gap Nature Center.

"This book was written to answer one question: Where can I go birding?" explained Susan Fordyce, SRHA communications and projects manager who helped develop the guide. "It is intended to be user-friendly and interesting, not just for avid bird watchers, but to anyone wishing to spend some time with nature."



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Funding Received for Schuylkill River Trail Initiatives



SRGA Photo

Sen. Dave Argall (L) and Rep. Tim Seip (C) were made honorary Trail Ambassadors. SRGA Board President, Carl Raring (R), displays their official Trail Ambassador t-shirt.

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area's commitment to improving and promoting the Schuylkill River Trail was bolstered this spring by the receipt of funding for several trail-related projects.

In May, State Senator David Argall and State Representative Tim Seip presented a total of \$55,000 to rehabilitate a failing stone arch bridge along the Schuylkill River Trail's Bartram Section, in Landingville. The money will go toward a

\$200,000 project that includes repair of the former railroad bridge over Mahannon Creek and extending the trail about 400 feet. "I was pleased to secure a state grant for this effort. Projects like this add to the quality of life in Schuylkill County, which helps our region in competing for jobs," said Seip.

The new trail addition will bring trail users to a more logical ending point along the roadway, where cyclists can travel on-road to Landingville or Schuylkill Haven. It also enables the repair and adaptive reuse of an old railroad bridge along the former Pennsylvania Railroad line. Construction is expected to begin in mid 2010 and to be completed by next summer.

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area has also been awarded two grants from the National Park Service totaling \$20,000 for initiatives that engage children and community leaders in the Schuylkill River Trail.

The 2009 Challenge Cost Share grants are for two separate projects that involve the trail. One is entitled Youth Engagement through Treks for Kids, while the other is called Engaging Community Leaders and Diverse Communities. Both received \$10,000 from the National Park Service, and the Schuylkill River Heritage Area will provide matching funds.

Gateway Centers Added to Two State Parks



SRGA Photo

Ceremonies opening two new Schuylkill River Heritage Area Gateway Centers will be held in the visitors' center at two State Parks: French Creek in Berks County on July 21 at 11 a.m. and Tuscarora, Schuylkill County, on July 30 at 10 a.m.

Schuylkill River Heritage Area

Gateway Centers are essentially information booths intended to 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, which encompasses sections of Schuylkill, Berks, Montgomery, Chester and Philadelphia Counties.

"A gateway serves as an introduction to the Heritage Area," said Kurt Zwinkl, "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."

Each Gateway Center contains a video kiosk with a short video about sites and attractions. They also include tourism brochures and an illustrated wall map of the Heritage Area highlighting the Schuylkill River and its major tributaries, historic communities, trails, and national and state landmarks.

Since 2003, the SRHA has installed sixteen Gateway Centers in well-visited locations across the region. Over the next several years, about nine 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 both residents and tourists gain a greater understanding of the valuable resources of the Heritage Area.

Schuylkill River Trail Initiative

The push to complete the Schuylkill River Trail in Philadelphia has picked up a lot of momentum over the past several months. In June, a public hearing on the Schuylkill River Trail Development Initiative was held by State Representative Kenyatta Johnson and the members of the Joint Conservation Committee of the PA House of Representatives. The hearing sought to gather information about the trail and to garner support for state funding for the initiative. Schuylkill River Heritage Area Executive Director Kurt Zwinkl spoke at the hearing about the need to gain financial support.

Schuylkill River Sojourn

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area held its 11th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn from June 6-12, taking more than 200 participants on a 112-mile, seven-day guided canoe/kayak tour.

For the 2009 sojourn, Stroud Water Research Center designed a series of programs entitled "Reading the River: The Science of the Schuylkill." Sojourners paddling 14-18 miles per day were joined by scientists from Stroud, who gave presentations at evening and lunch stops about such topics as aquatic insects, fish species, freshwater clams, invasive crayfish, land planning practices and water quality. Stroud scientists have been studying the Schuylkill and its tributaries for 13 years. "Opportunities like this enable us to share our knowledge with the public, who plays an important role in protecting this vital resource," said Stroud Water Research Center Director Bern Sweeney. He called the sojourn "a great vehicle to get people to view the river as a resource—for recreation, industry and our drinking water." In fact, people who participate in the sojourn learn that and so much more.

"I enjoyed every aspect of it," said Frances Dalton, first time Sojourner from Philadelphia. "The beauty and excitement of the river; the solitude, good company, great food, constant exercise... and great information about the river via Stroud. I agree with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources that if we get to know the river, we will love it; and if we love it, we will preserve it."

The Sojourn's photographer, Cody Coddard, has posted the photos from the 2009 Sojourn. They can be viewed at <http://goddard.smugmug.com/Sojourns/809650>.



SRGA Photo

Get Out and Enjoy!

Exhibits

Galileo, the Medici and the Age of Astronomy **The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia**

April 4, 2009 - September 7, 2009

Created through The Franklin Institute's exclusive partnership with the Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza in Florence, Italy, this unique exhibit showcases Galileo's accomplishments, his relationship to the ruling Medici family, his discoveries, and his overall impact on astronomy, physics, and math. Highlighting the show will be one of the two remaining Galileo telescopes, out of Italy for the first time in history. Also exhibited will be other instruments belonging to Galileo, as well as paintings, prints, and manuscripts from the priceless Medici collection.



From Raw to Refined: The Creative Path of Master Craftsmen of the Pennsylvania Guild

Reading Public Museum, Reading

July 18-October 31

Features works by the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen and explores the origin of each craft from raw materials of earth, field, forest, and beyond, and looks at the path of the craftsmen to transform it into a work of art. Clay vessels, wooden bowls, woolen shawls and jewelry from precious metals are among the items exhibited.

Outdoor Excitement

Tuesday in the Park 5K Series

Pottstown Riverfront Park

June 30, July 28, & August 25, 7 pm

Summertime monthly 5K runs in Pottstown Riverfront Park on the Schuylkill River Trail. Race route is a very flat, out and back on the paved section of trail. Entry fee \$45, individual races \$15. Kids 12 & under are free. Register online at www.runreg.com. Sponsored by Chester County Running Store, Brooks, Pearl Izumi, Balega Socks, Pottstown Parks & Recreation, Schuylkill River Heritage Area.

Step Back in Time Day

Berks County Heritage Center

Sunday July 19, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Free. Demonstrations and workshops on old-time crafts and hands-on activities including ice cream making, old fashioned games, textile crafts, farming, fly-fishing and 18th century cooking. www.co.berks.pa.us

Hidden River Outfitter Kayak Tours

Schuylkill Banks, Philadelphia

Select Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer

Check website for dates and times: www.schuylkillbanks.org

Professionally guided kayak tours of the Schuylkill River between Walnut Street Dock and Fairmount Water Works, including 1/2 hour of instruction. Not recommended for ages under 8. Parental consent required for 18 and under. Tours provided by Hidden River Outfitters. Moderate exertion level.



Fueling the Furnace

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site

August 1-8, 9 am-5 pm

Park volunteers demonstrate the historical means of processing Hopewell's surrounding forest into charcoal. The multi-day program begins with construction of the skillfully stacked hardwood pile that is lit and allowed to smolder for days until the wood is converted to charcoal. The pile is then raked out, and the charcoal is brought to a charcoal house for storage. www.nps.gov/hofu

Goschenhoppen Folk Festival

Henry Antes House

318 Colonial Road, Perkiomenville

Friday, August 7 12-8 p.m., Saturday, August 8, 10-6 p.m.

Live demonstrations of more than 150 18th and 19th century skills by craftspeople in period costume using authentic tools to recreate. They'll demonstrate cooking, trades, pastimes and home skills. Stage programs are held throughout the day, featuring a variety of scholarly lectures and entertainments. Donation of \$10 for adults, \$2 for children 6-12.

www.goschenhoppen.org

CALL FOR ENTRIES

*Scenes of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area
Juried Art and Photography Show & Sale*

Submission date is August 3, 12-7 p.m.

*Prospectus and Application with details are at
www.schuylkillriver.org/resources.aspx*



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.

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