

16th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn Programs A River of the Year Celebration

Pre-Sojourn–Friday, June 6, 2014

4-8 p.m. Check-in at Schuylkill Haven Island Park, Schuylkill Haven

Schuylkill Haven Island Park welcomes paddlers to the 16th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn as they begin registering at 4 p.m. Chicken BBQ dinner will be available through Schuylkill Haven Island Park for those who order by May 29 by emailing bookkeeper@schuylkillhaven.org. An ice cream social will begin at 6 p.m.

Day 1–Saturday, June 7, 2014

15.5 miles: Schuylkill Haven to Port Clinton

Lunch: Noon at Auburn Dam. Bill Reichert will discuss the abandoned mine drainage cleanup efforts of the Schuylkill Headwaters Association.

Evening: The Port Clinton Fire Company serves up a spaghetti dinner at the Fire House as a fundraiser from 4-7 p.m. Afterward, at 7 p.m., fellow sojourner Brian Swisher will provide a presentation on the new Schuylkill River Water Trail guides he is currently helping design.

Day 2–Sunday, June 8, 2014

18.5 miles: Port Clinton to Jim Dietrich Park, Muhlenberg Twp.

Lunch: 12:30 at Peter Yarnell Park. Singer/songwriter Haley Sheeler, long popular among sojourners, will once again perform her original music.

Evening: Sojourners camp at Jim Dietrich Park. Programming TBD.

Day 3–Monday, June 9, 2014

16.3 miles: Jim Dietrich Park to Gibraltar

Lunch: Noon at Reading Riverfront Park. After paddling through Kelly's Rapids, sojourners will learn about watersheds from Berks County Conservancy's Tami Shimp.

Evening: Allegheny Aqueduct Park 7:30 p.m. Shad were historically a critical food source along the Schuylkill River until dams prevented them from traveling upriver in the early 1800s. Learn why shad were important, and what efforts have been undertaken to reintroduce them to the river from Josh Tryniewski of the PA Fish and Boat Commission

Day 4 – Tuesday, June 10, 2014

13.9 miles: Gibraltar to Pottstown

Lunch: Noon at Historic Morlatton Village. Learn about Frick's Locks Village, an important stop along the Schuylkill Canal that was abandoned when the Limerick Generating Station was built. It became a ghost town until recent efforts preserved a number of its buildings.

Evening: Pottstown's Riverfront Park. A special River of the Year program will bring together a panel of representatives from various conservancies along the Schuylkill and its tributaries to talk about their conservation efforts.

Day 5–Wednesday, June 11, 2014

17.8 miles: Pottstown to Mont Clare Lock 60

Lunch: Noon at Victory Park in Royersford. Montgomery County is celebrating 20 years of its open space preservation program. County planner Beth Pilling will give an overview of the program and its value to the river.

Evening: Always a sojourn highlight for both participants and onlookers, the paddlers will end their day by locking through Lock 60, the Schuylkill Canal's only fully restored, operating lock. The Otterbein United Methodist Church will serve a spaghetti dinner at 6 p.m. at St. Michael's Park. Following that, at 7:00 p.m., Kevin Brown, of the Norristown Dragon Boat Club will talk about Dragon Boating. The following day, Brown and some of his fellow club members will help us celebrate the Schuylkill as River of the Year by accompanying the sojourners to Norristown.

Day 6–Thursday, June 12, 2014

14 miles: Mont Clare to West Conshohocken

Lunch: 1:00 p.m. at Valley Forge National Historical Park. Park Superintendent Kate Hammond will talk about a new pedestrian bridge that will take Schuylkill River Trail users across the river. The Norristown Dragon Boat Club will join us on the river.

Evening: 7:30 p.m. West Conshohocken. The Circuit is a network of trails in the Philadelphia region that includes the Schuylkill River Trail. Sarah Clark Stuart of the Philadelphia Bicycle Coalition will discuss The Circuit and the movement to complete it.

Day 7–Friday, June 13, 2014

16 miles: West Conshohocken to Philadelphia

Noon at the Philadelphia Canoe Club. Did you know there is a boardwalk being built along the Schuylkill in Philadelphia? Learn about this fascinating project that will expand the Schuylkill River Trail and create a unique destination from Joe Synchronic, of the Schuylkill River Development Corp. After lunch, the Norristown Dragon Boat Club will again join the sojourn for the final stretch. Our final takeout will be Lloyd Hall at Boathouse Row. The vehicle shuttle will take place from Lloyd Hall to W. Conshohocken, followed by a final shuttle to Schuylkill Haven.