



CELEBRATING
20 YEARS OF
COLLABORATION

SAN CONNECTIONS

FALL 2023 & WINTER 2024



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20TH ANNIVERSARY

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

2023 marks 20 years of the Schuylkill Action Network! To commemorate this milestone, partners came together from across the watershed for a celebratory annual meeting held at Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown, nestled in the Stony Creek subwatershed. With a crowd of about 80 partners spanning many different organizations and sectors and ranging in their time of involvement from founding members to first-time attendees --this year's SANniversary was a success!

The theme, 'Then, Now, and the Future,' highlighted the power of the SAN's 20 years of partnership and collaborative success. The meeting kicked off with **Opening Remarks and Presentation** by Kelly Anderson, Philadelphia Water Department's (PWD) Director of the Office of Watersheds and SAN Executive Steering Committee Chair. Kelly spoke about PWD's involvement in the restoration of the Schuylkill River, including early issues impacting the river, and how partners have come together over the past two decades to tackle them as well as future priorities for the Schuylkill. Kelly emphasized the essential role of partnerships and the necessity to evolve as priorities and impacts on the river change.



Partners gathered for the 20th SANniversary at Elmwood Park Zoo

(From left to right) Virginia Vassalotti (EPA), Kathy Klein (PDE), Kate Hutelmyer (CCWRA), Alex Cupo (SBN), and Susan Myerov (PEC)

The SAN Stories Premiere was featured at our commemorative event. SAN Stories is a short documentary produced by SAN Fellow Kristen Cooney. It features partners representing different sectors and roles over 20 years of the SAN, capturing their perspectives on conservation successes, memories, and lessons learned along the way. [You can watch SAN Stories here.](#) Stay tuned for SAN Stories 'shorts', snackable content that will be posted to our media channels soon.



20th SANniversary Founders Panel

(From left to right and with current affiliation) Cathy Curran Myers (Reading EAC), Carol Collier (Drexel University Academy of Sciences), Chris Crockett (Aqua, an Essential Utility Company), Howard Neukrug (Water Center at Penn) and Panel Moderator Kim Fies (Berks County Department of Agriculture).

The **Founders Panel** featured significant figures in the SAN’s formation: Chris Crockett (Aqua), Howard Neukrug (Water Center at Penn), Carol Collier (Drexel University Academy of Natural Sciences), and Cathy Curran Myers (Reading EAC & formerly PA DEP). The founders came together to share their perspectives on the moments that brought SAN partners together in the early days as well as inspiration and ideas for what the future of the SAN holds.

The afternoon included Workgroup Updates covering a 20-year perspective on each of the SAN’s 5 core workgroups. Highlights from each workgroup are included below and on the following pages.

Workgroup Then & Now Overview

ABANDONED MINE DRAINAGE

- Watershed assessment and restoration efforts began in 1998
- Estimated \$15–20 million invested in the upper Schuylkill for AMD treatment projects!
- Maintenance and ongoing monitoring of AMD treatment systems are critical to their success in protecting downstream water quality into the future
- Tours of treatment sites have been a great connection point for partners

AGRICULTURE

- Evolution from single practice focus to comprehensive ‘whole farm’ planning and implementation
- Huge boost to agricultural restoration through targeted subwatershed funding programs (USDA NRCS National Water Quality Initiative, William Penn Foundation Delaware River Watershed Initiative) combined with Schuylkill River Restoration Fund (SRRF).
- New management regimes and technology plus generational transitions on farms.
- New support for Urban Agriculture efforts in Berks County and specifically the City of Reading

Former and current workgroup chairs take the stage to provide updates.

From left to right: Chris Anderson (EPA), Krista Seng (Aqua), and Alex Cupo (SBN); Joe Hebelka (PADEP) and Amanda Obosenko (Aqua); and Tim Fenchel (SRG).



Workgroup Then & Now Overview Cont.

ENGAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP

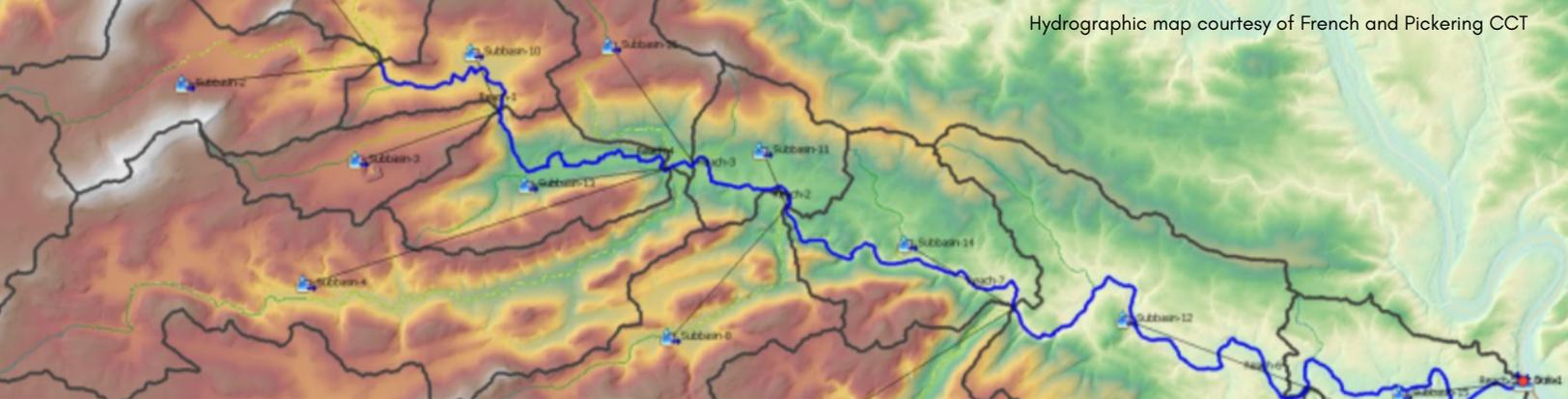
- Projects of past included Student Street Art Contests
- We are still carrying the torch on the Schuylkill Scrub and Scrub n Pub
- New projects include the Community of Communicators Virtual Partner Workshop and
- Hands-on Teacher Training Workshop at Green Lane with Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy

STORMWATER

- Schuylkill Action Students Kickoff and GSI at over 30 school campuses through this program
- SAN Retail Outreach Committee (SANROC) - cleanups, storm drain marking and King of Prussia mall retail outreach on best practices for stormwater management
- 2023 Olin Labs Circular Soil GSI Rain Garden Tour at Temple Boathouse in Philadelphia
- 2023 'Sold Out' Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Workshop

PATHOGENS AND POINT SOURCE

- Sewer System upgrades significantly reduced pathogen inputs
- Delaware Valley Early Warning System (EWS) facilitates information sharing
- Tours: Aqua Lab in Bryn Mawr and Upper Montgomery Joint Authority WWTP
- Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Monitoring
- Green Lane Freshwater Mussel Rearing Center



Afternoon Sessions rotated between **Schuylkill Highlands Updates** and an **Elmwood Park Zoo Operations Tour**.

Karl Russek (French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust) presented on flooding projections in French and Pickering Creek subwatersheds attributed to impervious surfaces and landscape changes in Chester County combined with the exacerbating impacts of climate change. Karl also stressed the importance of communicating the connection between upstream land protection and source water protection for downstream communities and providing those downstream community members ample opportunities to connect and engage with the upstream landscape.

Vicky Laubach (Green Valleys Watershed Association) presented a rough cut of Freshwaters Illustrated's Schuylkill Watershed video series entitled *Hidden Worlds*. Generously funded by the William Penn Foundation via the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, this video highlights the unique species, communities, and human impacts in the Schuylkill Highlands region with beautiful stills and videos filmed across the watershed.



By Freshwaters Illustrated



Larry Lloyd (Berks Nature) was all smiles during the SANnual meeting's Elmwood Park Zoo tour.

During the Zoo tour, attendees learned about the history of the Elmwood Park Zoo and infrastructure changes underway across the campus.

The meeting concluded with Alphabet Soup & door prize announcements. Celebrations continued with a partner happy hour at another Norristown gem, Von C. Brewing.

Thank you our partners for the impactful and consistent work you've done since the dawn of the SAN and continue to do as the SAN moves forward into the future. **Let's continue to improve the Schuylkill waters together, drop by drop.**

THANK YOU PARTNERS!

THE MAGIC OF SAN AT 20

BY JON M CAPACASA

I am delighted to help celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) and to offer perspectives as a co-founder of this magical partnership in early 2003. I can recall, quite clearly, how the idea for the SAN began. Howard Neukrug and the PWD Watershed team briefed me and the EPA and PA DEP staff on the findings of a landmark Source Water Protection Assessment for the Schuylkill River basin sources in February 2003. After seeing the clear challenge of a “bottom of the watershed” water system to curtail pollution threats in a 130-mile watershed, I agreed to put EPA’s full support to start a watershed partnership and to join the PA DEP and PWD as a core set of partner agencies. And so started the growth of SAN to over 300 partnering agencies today.

In a world of sound bites and short attention spans, one must vigorously applaud the 20-year run of the SAN focused on making this watershed and its drinking water “better than before.” Its vision statement reads:

“Clean water and a healthy Schuylkill River watershed accessible for all.”

I was honored to serve as the Executive Steering Committee Chair for the first 13 of SAN’s 20 years striving to fulfill the vision through concrete action and sustainable solutions. Along with the key workgroups and growing partnerships, SAN has maintained a strategic vision and focus on the largest threats to health and welfare and a commitment to work in partnership way with groups of all kind.

Jon M Capacasa is the former Director of the Water Protection Division for EPA Region III and 13- year Chair of the SAN Executive Steering Committee.



Kelly Anderson and Jon M Capacasa connect at a past SAN Annual Meeting.



Chris Anderson explains green stormwater infrastructure improvements to a tour group.

SAN's work has yielded permanent improvements in the watershed and its infrastructure such as:

- Permanently preserving thousands of acres of watershed area as a buffer to pollution and development and in so doing the agricultural heritage in the region
- Leading the way on green stormwater management using infiltration and natural systems to trap flows and pollution
- New capture and treatment structures preventing pollution runoff from farm fields and acid mine seeps
- Permanent enhancements to wastewater treatment such as Reading and Exeter and other towns; and curtailing wildcat sewers
- Creating and sustaining a new Delaware Valley Early Warning System to effect timely coordination and preventive response actions for downstream sources from accidental spills and other pollution events.

And many more.



Larry Lloyd shares words of wisdom.



The SAN gets its inaugural funding.

SAN has not shied away from the toughest sources or the historically intractable issues hampering progress in environmental improvement. The many project-level success stories of curtailing acid mine drainage flows through new diversions or treatment systems for abandoned mines stand out to me as key examples of SAN's commitment to innovate and tackle the toughest jobs.

My great thanks to the Executive Steering Committee partners, SAN Coordinators and many volunteers who have put the "People magic" into this special organization. They have put forth investments large and small – both financial and "time and talents."

I like to compare SAN to providing funding for other, major long-term goals - like a college education for one's child or investing over time to buy your new home. These goals of education and housing do not happen through short-term or occasional attention to meeting the goals. They happen through a dedicated plan of action for incremental investment over many years. SAN has excelled at maintaining its focus on our strategic vision and organizing around it. And keeping "action" as our middle name and core value.

The tens of millions of dollars of investments in solutions - some incremental and some game-changing - have made the SAN a model for the nation. {And we were the proud recipients of the first national Source Water Protection Award and Governor of PA's awards.}

Let's sustain the magic of SAN as an organization of people who cherish this resource - and to sponsor actions to achieve a sustainable and resilient watershed. We pledge not to return to the days of ridicule of "Schuylkill punch" or allowing the watershed to be an industrial dumping ground. Ben Franklin famously said: "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." At this 20-year milestone, we can take credit for many pounds of prevention being applied in the Schuylkill River watershed averting the need for a ton of cures, while committing ourselves to continue this important work.

Congratulations to the many SAN partners in this effort which is a model for the nation!



Jen Adkins and Carol Collier



Kate Keppen, Eric Grindrod, Lyn Rodino, Larry Lloyd and Kim Fies at the 10th Anniversary Meeting.



Virginia Vassalotti, Krista Seng and Kate Hutelymer pose next to the SAN Constitution

[Click here](#) - or scan for more photos from the 20 years of the SAN in our memory lane slideshow



2023 SAN MVP KRISTA SENG

The Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) proudly celebrates Krista Seng as the 2023 MVP as a testament to her unwavering commitment and impactful work on behalf of the Schuylkill watershed. Krista views water as not just a vital resource for drinking but also as a cornerstone for recreation and education. This holistic perspective has been the driving force behind her illustrious career.



Krista Seng is presented with the 2023 SAN MVP award by Chris Anderson at the 20th Anniversary SAN Annual Meeting

"I am totally surprised and honored by this award. I care very deeply about the work of the SAN to improve the quality of our waterways and the lives around it. Each SAN meeting inspires me to bring my problem-solving and creativity to the table, and I'm so thankful to have this group of partners who care just as much as I do. I can't wait to see what we accomplish in the next 10 years!"

-Krista Seng

Krista's career path to date has been intimately tied to the Schuylkill and its tributaries, beginning with an internship at the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, where she cultivated her passion for habitat, ecology, and the human aspects of clean water. Krista's impact grew as Watershed Specialist for Montgomery County Conservation District leading, supporting and advising the implementation of a variety of stormwater management and stream restoration projects in the Schuylkill and beyond. As SAN Stormwater Workgroup co-chair and key player in projects like Schuylkill Action Students, she has shown an exceptional ability to identify needs and inspire action.

In her role at Aqua, an Essential Utility company, and on the SAN Planning Committee, her strategic insights and proactive approaches in community initiatives have significantly advanced the SAN's reach.

Presenting the award, Chris Anderson highlighted Krista's legendary dedication, passion and enthusiasm, not only for her professional endeavors but also in personal touches like her famous breakfast spreads for the Stormwater Workgroup meetings. Krista's influence extends far beyond her official roles, touching the hearts and minds of those around her.

Krista Seng's journey and achievements to date are a beacon of inspiration to us all. Her dedication to the SAN and her broader vision for environmental stewardship and community involvement set a remarkable example. We are deeply grateful for her continued support and are thrilled to honor her with the 2023 SAN MVP Award.



SAN Workgroup First Quarter Meetings on Zoom



[Multi-cultural Communications Training](#)
with the Engagement & Stewardship Workgroup
January 30th from 1 - 3pm

[Stormwater Workgroup](#)
with presentation by Virginia Smith, Villanova
February 12th from 10 - 12pm

[Agriculture Workgroup](#)
February 14th from 10 - 12pm

[Pathogens & Point Source Workgroup](#)
February 20th from 10 - 12pm

[Abandoned Mine Drainage Workgroup](#)
Join us hybrid, in-person gathering
registration coming soon
April 11th from 10 - 12pm

PATHOGENS & POINT SOURCE

SAN Pathogens and Point Source Workgroup Welcomed by Upper Montgomery Joint Authority for a Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour

On August 15, the SAN Pathogens and Point Source Workgroup gathered for an insightful visit at the Upper Montgomery Joint Authority (UMJA) in Pennsburg. The meeting commenced with a brief overview of partner updates, followed by an engaging tour of the facility guided by Operations Manager, Jason DiPietro.



Tour attendees gather for a group photo.

Mr. DiPietro led the group through the facility's recent transformations, highlighting features of a monumental \$27 million upgrade from 2017 to 2020. This project marked a significant shift in treatment technology, transitioning from traditional trickling filtration to cutting-edge Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) treatment and FuzzyFilters for tertiary filtration. These enhancements exemplify UMJA's commitment to adopting state-of-the-art wastewater management.



From 2019 to 2021, UMJA undertook extensive projects to reduce inflow and infiltration.

These included:

- Installation of flow meters in the collection system
- Detailed inspection of main and lateral lines
- Comprehensive lining and rehabilitation of laterals
- Installation of backflow preventers
- Third-party inspections of sump pumps

These results of these upgrades are significant, achieving a 30% reduction in both average daily and three-month maximum flows.

FuzzyFilters as shown in this photo to the left are compressible filter balls that allow operators to fine-tune adjustments

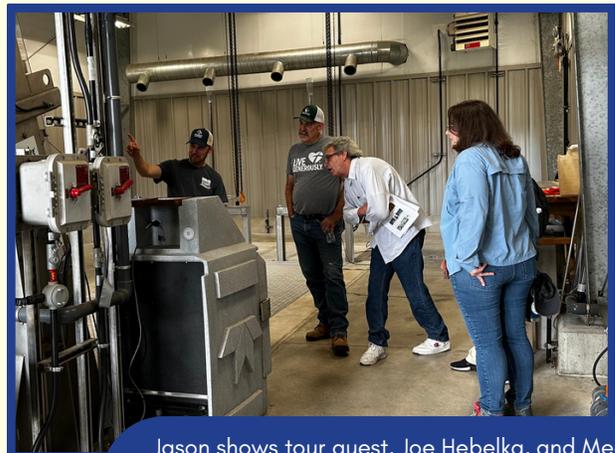
Community engagement is a cornerstone of UMJA's ethos. The establishment of a Fats, Oils, Grease, and Solids (FOGS) compliance program, coupled with providing extensive resources for local restaurants, underscores their commitment to community education and involvement.

In a creative endeavor, UMJA engaged students from Upper Perkiomen Valley High School in painting manhole covers throughout the plant, blending community involvement with artistic expression. (See photos of student art below). UMJA looks forward to welcoming the students back for more artistic contributions while educating them about wastewater management. Additionally, UMJA's commitment to public education includes offering regular plant tours.

Looking forward, UMJA plans to incorporate a freshwater mussel hatchery on-site. This initiative aligns with their mission to manage their operations in a socially, ethically, and environmentally responsible manner. Continuously striving to protect public health and improve the quality of life for their customers and the broader community, UMJA remains a beacon of progress and community partnership within the Perkiomen Valley.



Jason stands above one of several settling tanks where bacteria are at work in treatment water.



Jason shows tour guest, Joe Hebelka, and Meghan Rogalus the compactor where solids are extracted from the system.



Jason shows off the intricate systems monitoring system broadcasting live data feedback throughout the entire plant. Virginia Vassalotti, Alison Aminto and Chris Anderson in audience.

[Click here](#) - or scan for more photos of the tour on our Flickr Albm



PA American Water Partner Tour Features Welcome Improvements to Exeter Treatment Plant

On August 17th, Pennsylvania American Water Company (PAWC) welcomed Richard Negrin, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and SAN partner organizations including Berks County Conservation District, Berks Nature, Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Program Coordinators, Schuylkill River Greenways for a tour of upgrades to the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant.

In October 2018, heavy rainfall and influent pump failures resulted in the accidental discharge of four million gallons of untreated sewage into the Schuylkill River, threatening drinking water downstream. Faced with budgetary constraints associated with major upgrades needed to bring the treatment and collection system into compliance, Exeter Township opted to sell the wastewater system to Pennsylvania American Water in 2019.

Since then, PAWC has made tremendous strides and invested over \$20 million to bring this system into compliance and establish it as a state-of-the-art facility.

An additional \$46 million in improvements are planned within the next several years!



Secretary Negrin shares his thoughts with the group on PAWC's investments in the Exeter plant.

Investments highlighted during the August tour included:

- **Influent Pump Station**
 - The pumps and pump station components which failed in 2018 have been replaced.
- **Return Activated Sludge Pump Station**
 - Replacement of aging infrastructure and electrical components to enhance plant operation health and safety.
- **Collection System Evaluation**
 - Per compliance requirements set forth by PADEP the infrastructure of the collection system has been surveyed and deficiencies identified. PAWC has increased monitoring equipment throughout the system to enable a swift response if system improvements are needed.
- **Chlorine Conversion**
 - The previous gas chlorine system has been replaced with a safer form of liquid sodium hypochlorite disinfection (shown here in photo to the left).



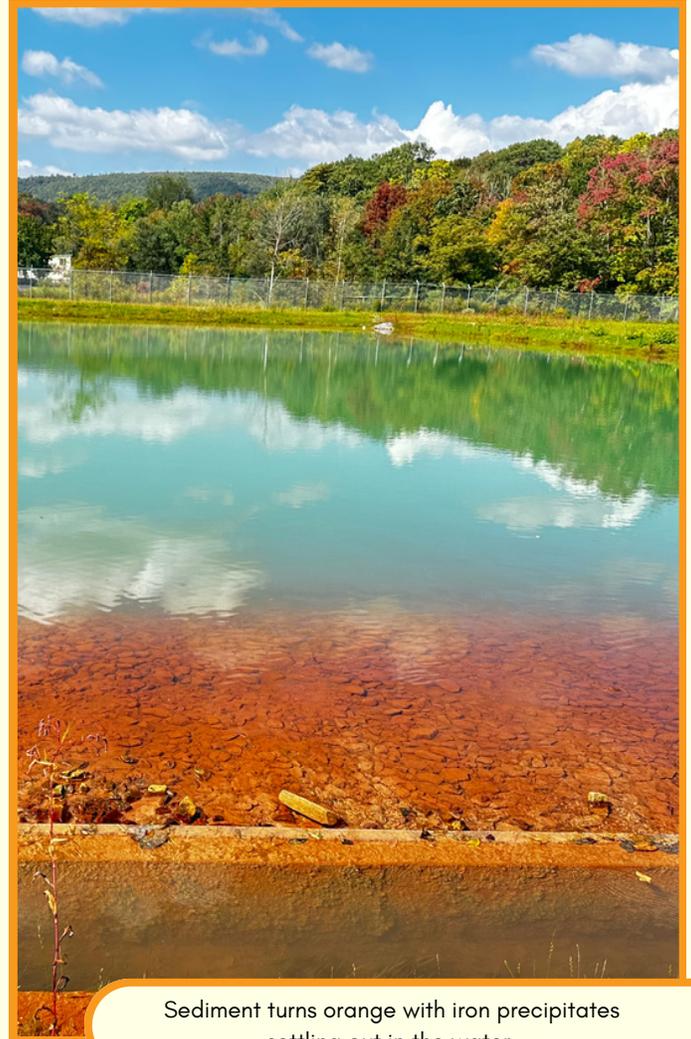
hypo-chlorite disinfection (shown here in photo to the left).

ABANDONED MINE DRAINAGE

On Tuesday, October 3rd, partners convened for a hybrid AMD meeting, which was subsequently followed by a tour of the Otto site. Special thanks to our hosts, Alexa Smith, Schuylkill Conservation District and Dan Koury PADEP, for their knowledgeable and warm welcome.

Nestled in Schuylkill County, the Otto site stands as a beacon of environmental innovation. In 2022, it underwent a significant retrofit to enhance its passive treatment capabilities. This upgrade represents a pivotal step in combating the long-standing issue of AMD, demonstrating a commitment to sustainable environmental practices.

Originally budgeted at approximately \$800,000, unforeseen inflation pushed the final project cost to \$1.1 million. Thanks to fundraising efforts of the Schuylkill Headwaters Association, our partners overcame the budget deficit and completed the project.



Sediment turns orange with iron precipitates settling out in the water.

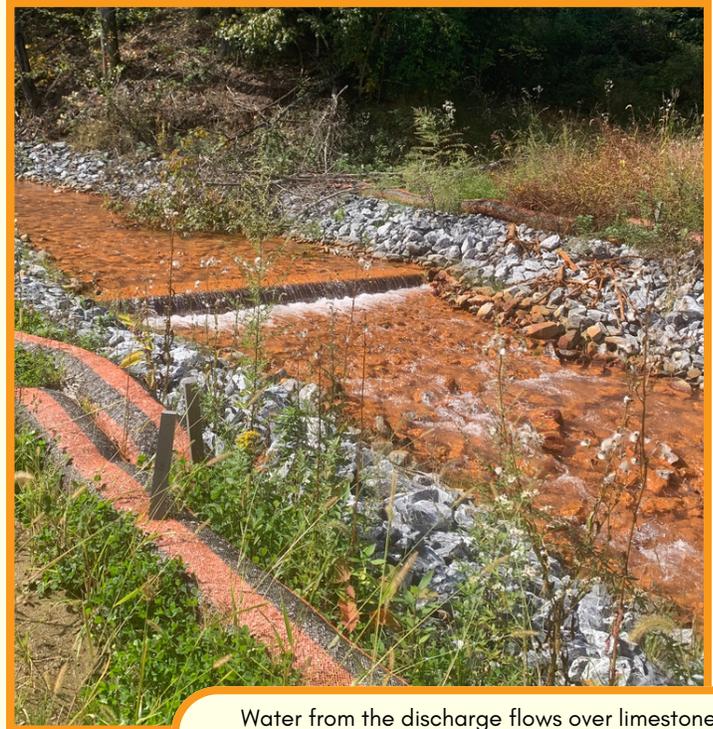


AMD Tour group gathers mid-tour for a group photo. Left to right: Erik Sildorff, Tali MacArthur, Robbie Fulton, Alexa Smith, Karl Russek, Kaitie Evers, Tom Clark, Dan Koury, Paul DiRenzo

Abandoned mine drainage often carries heavy metals and metals and contaminants, notably iron. When this iron-rich water is exposed to air, a fascinating chemical reaction occurs: the iron oxidizes and precipitates, forming the striking orange sediment in the channel bed.

The upgraded retrofit at Otto features several water bars, or level spreaders, which aerate the water as the water flows toward the settling pond (as shown right).

A key feature of the system is the cleverly designed channel, lined with high-purity limestone. The water, laden with contaminants, trickles down this channel at a subtle gradient. This slow journey ensures maximum exposure to the limestone, which plays a critical role in neutralizing acidity and increasing the speed of precipitating metals.



Water from the discharge flows over limestone rocks and across level spreaders.

The construction photo below displays the new drainage channel leading from the discharge to system intake, located at the top right. This, and all stone channels are lined with high purity limestone. The project also required all the existing settling ponds to be drained and dredged of their former sediment accumulation.

The Schuylkill Conservation District plays a crucial role, diligently monitoring and maintaining Otto (along with the other treatment systems in the area) to continue to ensure its long-term effectiveness.



AGRICULTURE

2023 Schuylkill River Restoration Fund Bus Tour Highlights Ag Workgroup Partner Successes

On Friday, September 8th the Schuylkill Action Network and Schuylkill River Greenways hosted the annual Schuylkill River Restoration Fund (SRRF) Bus Tour and Press Event. The tour group had the opportunity to see firsthand two SRRF-funded projects in Berks County that are making a big impact on the Schuylkill River's water quality.

The first stop on the tour was Willow Run Farm, owned and operated by 3rd generation dairy farmer Steve Miller.



Nick Ramsey, USDA NRCS District Conservationist for Berks County describes improvements at Willow Run Farm.



The recently built manure storage facility at Willow Run Farm.

Willow Run Farm is preserved via an easement with the Berks County Department of Agriculture and drains to two tributaries to the Manatawny Creek, and ultimately the Schuylkill River. Before the improvements, frequently wet and flooded barnyard and pasture areas contributed manure to these tributaries. Now, with the help of USDA NRCS, Berks Nature, and the SRRF, the farm boasts streambank fencing, animal crossings, and improved waste management facilities that reduce the mixing of rain water and manure.

“The cycling of nutrients with a manure storage is so much better for the crop production...and for the environmental benefit.” - Nick Ramsey, USDA NRCS Berks County District Conservationist



Jennifer Brooks, Environmental Education and Outreach Coordinator with Berks County Conservation District shares the history of the Pine Creek Restoration project with the tour participants.

The second stop was the Pine Creek Streambank Restoration Project. The Pine Creek, located in the Schuylkill Highlands, had been hit by severe flooding in 2018 that realigned the stream and severely eroded its banks.

The impacted landowners teamed up with the Berks County Conservation District and Pine Creek Valley Watershed Association on this restoration project which helped restore the stream's natural beauty and ecological integrity using bioengineering and hundreds of native tree and shrub plantings.

The buses returned to our initial meeting spot and then it was time for a press event and a delicious lunch. The SRRF awardees were announced, and the Philadelphia Water Department pledged to increase their funding allocation in 2024 from \$100,000 to \$250,000!

The theme of the benefits of collaboration in achieving big improvements for the watershed carries through the day through our interactions with our amazing SAN partners and the efforts to restore and preserve the Schuylkill River watershed.



A segment of the Pine Creek Restoration Project.

STORMWATER

Southeast PA Municipal and Environmental Professionals Convene for Stormwater Management Workshop

On Friday October 20th, SAN partnered with the Center for Watershed Protection and Upper Merion Township to host a workshop on municipal stormwater management to nearly 80 professionals from southeastern Pennsylvania.

Beth Uhler, the Center for Watershed Protection's Pennsylvania Director kicked off the workshop delving into crucial topics around establishing and managing a Stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) Inspection Program. Beth shared practical information about the importance of creating and maintaining a BMP inventory, sample inspection programs and procedures, work order processes and training around municipally-owned BMPs as well as a case study on a municipal outreach program addressing privately-owned BMPs.

Julie Schneider, Watershed Planner, and Paige Buzard, Landscape Designer, both from the Center for Watershed Protection, then navigated through the distinctions between nonstructural BMPs and structural BMPs, identified common inspection and maintenance issues, and explored the differences between routine maintenance and restorative maintenance.



Workshop participants viewed 2 adjacent stormwater inlet filters in Upper Merion Township's parking lot. The **top** was awaiting maintenance whereas the **bottom** had recently undergone routine seasonal maintenance. The comparison highlighted the importance of maintaining these structures in the fall months, to minimize pipe clogging and sedimentation.

Geoff Hickman, Upper Merion Township Director of Public Works, and Beth Uhler spearheaded an on-site mock inspection of detention basin undergoing a maintenance planting and a rain garden in construction. This hands-on session provided invaluable insights into challenges and effective strategies for constructing and maintaining municipal stormwater management features. The participants asked a number of insightful questions and the real-world application of the field component and mock inspection was a clear value-add among participants.



Geoff Hickman shares about invasive removal and replacement planting being completed by Upper Merion EAC and Shade Tree Commission members in collaboration with the Public Works Department.

“I loved the opportunity to actually get out and see BMP facilities with a trained engineer to see how they'd assess these practices.” - Anonymous Workshop Participant

The success of this workshop owes much to the collaborative efforts of the planning team. Our sincere appreciation to the William Penn Foundation for their financial support and to Upper Merion Township and the Center for Watershed Protection team for committing their time and expertise and sharing integral roles in orchestrating this event.

As the discussions reverberate and insights gained are put into practice, we look forward to witnessing the positive impact these shared learnings will have on enhancing stormwater management practices across the region.



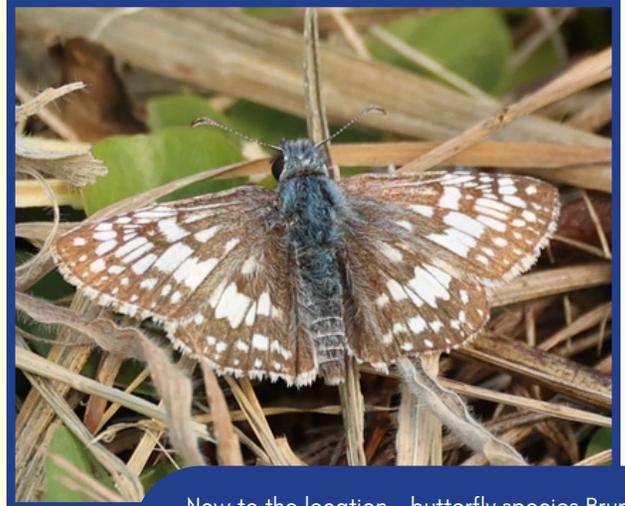
ENGAGEMENT & STEWARDSHIP

Partners and community members gathered at the Jacob Reiff Park in Lower Salford, PA on October 17th for a Work-N-Learn 'Butterfly Survey' event kindly hosted by Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy (PWC).

Are there butterflies in late-October?

You bet! The group tallied two Virginia Tiger Moth caterpillars, a handful of monarch chrysalises along with a couple Common Checkered Skipper butterflies. They even spotted a *Burnsius* which was a new species not previously seen at this site.

PWC runs these volunteer events throughout the summer at Jacob Reiff to grow the quantity and variety of plants in the butterfly food plot. Volunteers also help conduct surveys at this site and several other locations at parks in the watershed.



New to the location – butterfly species *Burnsius* was spotted!
Photo Credit: Kristen Cooney



Kaitie Evers and Ryan Beltz compete to see who can spot more monarch chrysalises in a small pollinator patch.

Beth Myers, Director of Ecology at Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy shares, "In 2023, PWC volunteers and staff observed 1,380 individual butterflies and moths from 48 different species. 26 surveys were conducted in total between May and October. Volunteers were overjoyed to observe 67 caterpillars, 11 chrysalis, and 34 adult Monarch Butterflies during this season's surveys! During the fall of 2023, PWC staff and volunteers planted an additional 200 native trees and 3,700 native perennials in the park. They are hoping that these projects will further benefit and increase local butterfly populations and diversity."

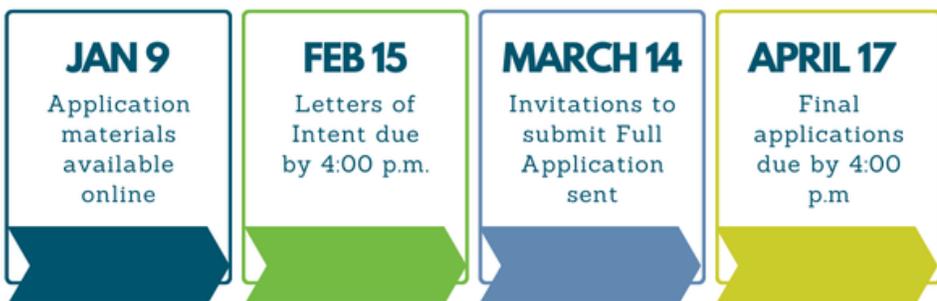
Partner Resources, Funding Opportunities, and Events



THE SCHUYLKILL RIVER

RESTORATION FUND

2024 GRANT TIMELINE



SRRF Grant Portal is now open

[Click here to learn more](#)

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary developed a Planting Activity Kit for children in 2nd - 4th grade to learn about how power of plants can improve our waterways. The kit contains everything you need for a group of 25 students to plant 2 pots each with native pollinator flowers. The activity takes approximately 1 hour to complete; then, plants can be monitored for 4+ weeks and eventually transplanted into the ground. If interested, please email Chesa Blom at fblom@delawareestuary.org to obtain your kit.



Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy Stormwater Symposium

Friday, March 8th, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm
Ursinus College, 610 E. Main Street, Collegeville

Join the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy and our regional partners to dive deeper into the world of stormwater! Discover the different methods local organizations are using to tackle stormwater issues. Municipalities will walk away with educational materials and volunteer opportunities for their residents. This training is also designed to be a one-stop-shop for municipal staff, covering all six MCMs!

[Click here to learn more](#)



The poster features a green background with a white stylized flower logo at the top center containing the letters 'sbn'. Below the logo, the text '2024 ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Underneath, the date and time are listed: 'THURSDAY, FEB. 1, 2024' and 'TIME: 6 - 8PM'. The location is given as 'SCIENCE HISTORY INSTITUTE' and '315 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA, 19106'. A paragraph of text describes the event, mentioning the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia (SBN) and the opportunity for networking and refreshments. At the bottom, a URL for ticket information is provided: 'http://tinyurl.com/3n8v28ev'. The poster is decorated with white wavy lines at the top and bottom.

sbn

2024 ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

THURSDAY, FEB. 1, 2024
TIME: 6 - 8PM

SCIENCE HISTORY INSTITUTE
315 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA, 19106

Join the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia (SBN) to celebrate our accomplishments over the past year, hear plans for the year ahead, weigh in on governance items and elect new Board Members. Come and connect with members of our local impact economy, as there will be ample networking time. Hors d'oeuvres and other refreshments will be served.

For ticket information, visit:
<http://tinyurl.com/3n8v28ev>

Sustainable Business Network

GSI Partners Winter Quarterly Meeting

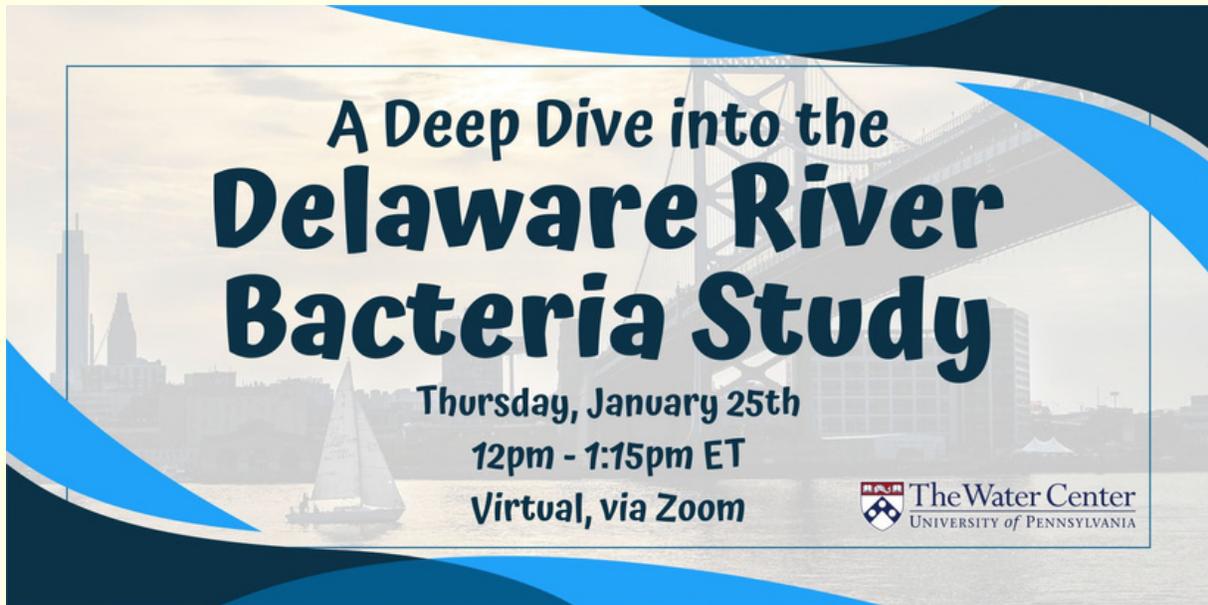
Thursday, January 18
10am – 12pm

Pipeline, 30 S 15th St, 15th
Floor, Philadelphia, PA
19102 (Café Space)

2024 Achieving Climate Resilience Through Water Symposium

Wednesday, March 20 | 9 – 4pm
Science History Institute

The symposium will include three tracks, including Green Stormwater Management: New Approaches, Operations & Maintenance; Stormwater & Climate Resilience Regulations & Policies; and Funding and Financing Opportunities for Water Infrastructure & Community Greening. [Click here to learn more](#)



The Water Center is pleased to announce the release of a new report, Delaware River Bacteria Study: An Evaluation of the Occurrence and Sources of Fecal Indicator Bacteria in the Camden–Chester–Philadelphia Region and Opportunities for Remediation.

The Delaware River Bacteria Study is an independent, science-based water quality and water policy study. It evaluates the occurrence and sources of fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) in the Camden–Chester–Philadelphia region of the Delaware River and opportunities for remediation.

[Click here to register and learn more.](#)

Richard King Mellon Foundation

Great Lakes Commission des Grands Lacs

NOAA

Sea Grant PENNSYLVANIA

PennState Extension

**CHOOSE NATIVE
WORKSHOP
FOR LANDSCAPERS &
WATER GARDENERS**

**March 7
8:30am-3:30pm
John Heinz National
Wildlife Refuge**

[Click here to learn more
and register.](#)

Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference

April 3-5, 2024 | Bethlehem

BROCHURE

The PA Land Conservation Conference registration is open.

Submit your registration before February 13 to take advantage of early bird pricing!

We Conserve PA Learn & Network virtual events:

Monday, January 22 at 7PM | [Why Municipalities Should Consider a Utility-Scale Solar Ordinance](#)

Tuesday, January 23 at 10AM | [Supporting Conservation Workflows with ArcGIS](#)

Tuesday, January 30 at 1PM | [Building Reliable Support for Land Preservation](#)

Report Published December 2023

DRBC recently published the Comprehensive Assessment of the Delaware River Basin Commission's Water Audit Program (2012-2021). The report provides a detailed look at ten years of Water Audit Program data Delaware River Basin wide.

[Click here to view the report.](#)

December 2023

A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION'S WATER AUDIT PROGRAM (2012-2021)

Technical Report No. 2023-7

