



Volume 2013

Issue 1

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# SAN CONNECTIONS *Winter* 2013

## Schuylkill Shots Photo Winners Selected



The Schuylkill Action Network is proud to congratulate the winners of the 2012 Schuylkill Shots Photo Contest. A total of nine winners were selected from three categories (Fun on the Schuylkill, Wild and Scenic, and Top-Top-Tap). The winning photos were selected in December through an online voting process. This was the first year that the SAN held the photo contest.

During the contest, there were over 150 photo submissions, 1600 unique visitors to the contest, over 100 new Facebook fans acquired, and

nearly 6,000 votes.

The contest allowed everyone to share with us why the Schuylkill River is so special to them. Together, the photos highlight just how much the river contributes to our quality of life, creating opportunities for fun and recreation, providing drinking water for over 2 Million people, and allowing us to simply enjoy its wildness and beauty. The contest provided some great snapshots in time to help tell this story.

We would also like to thank the contest sponsors, who provided the wonderful prizes for the winners: The

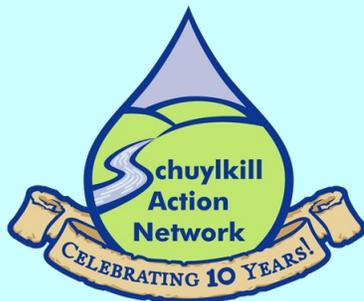
Philadelphia Water Department, Calumet Photographic, and REI Conshohocken.

The Schuylkill Shots photos, including the winners, can be found on our flicker page (address below). All of the photos are available to be used for education and outreach purposes to help protect the watershed. If you would like to use a photo, please contact [tdavidock@DelawareEstuary.org](mailto:tdavidock@DelawareEstuary.org) for the file and photographer credit information.

View Photos Here:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/76787619@N07/>

## SAVE THE DATE: May 9th



*In 2013, the SAN will celebrate it's 10 year anniversary. Please keep May 9th open and join us to celebrate a decade of watershed achievements. The SAN will be hold a luncheon event with presentation, speakers, awards, and networking at the Audubon Center at Mill Grove. Keep eye out for registration details.*

## 2013 Schuylkill River Restoration Fund Grant Program Announced



The 2013 ground round for the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund has been announced. Funding will also be continued for the Land Transaction Assistant Program. Please see below for details on applying for a grant. Good Luck!

- ◆ [Get 2013 Schuylkill River Restoration Fund guidelines and application.](#)
- ◆ [Learn more about the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund.](#)

### LAND TRANSACTION ASSISTANCE

A small portion of this year's grant funds will be targeted to assist with the transaction costs associated with the preservation of targeted lands within priority watersheds.

[Click here](#) for Land Transaction Assistance Program guidelines.

Questions? Please email Grants Program Coordinator [Tim Fenchel](#), or call 484-945-0200.

**Who:** Funds will be made available to non-profit organizations, county & municipal governments, and other related government agencies to undertake projects that focus on remediation of abandoned mine drainage, agricultural pollution and stormwater runoff to improve the quality and quantity of water in the Schuylkill River and its tributaries.

**What:** The Schuylkill River Heritage Area announce the opening of the 2013 Schuylkill River Restoration Fund grant program.

**When:** Letters of intent are due to SRHA by March 28, 2013.

## 2013 Schuylkill Scrub Registration Now Open



**Register your cleanup today and get entered into a drawing to win a Rain Barrel or \$100 Native Plant Gift Certificate!**

**visit [www.SchuylkillScrub.org](http://www.SchuylkillScrub.org)**

For years, conscientious groups in beautiful Southeastern Pennsylvania have charged into spring to diligently clean up a little piece of paradise. Now, thanks to the collaborative efforts of many individuals and organizations, an improved united effort is being launched as the Schuylkill Scrub.

The Schuylkill Scrub will register existing and new waterway cleanup efforts from the headwaters of the Schuylkill River down to the confluence of the Delaware River in Philadelphia. We expect that the

cumulative amount of trash removed through this campaign will be very impressive and immediately benefit the entire Schuylkill River



**APRIL 1<sup>st</sup> – MAY 31<sup>st</sup>**

- ◆ **More effective, with planned activity to positively affect the Schuylkill Watershed!**
- ◆ **More visible, featuring collaborative promotions before and during the Schuylkill Scrub!**
- ◆ **More accountability, with an organized effort designating specific areas to specific groups!**

## The 11th Annual French Creek Iron Tour Cycling for Open Space Sunday, June 9, 2013



Join over 1,500 riders for scenic cycling through Iron Furnace country and have a blast! The French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust preserves open space where iron blast furnaces and forges served as cornerstones of industry in colonial

Pennsylvania – hence “Iron Tour.”

When you ride in the French Creek Iron Tour, you have a direct impact on the preservation of the pristine countryside that surrounds you. Since 1967, the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust has protected more than 10,000 acres of open space in northern Chester County.

With courses ranging from 11 to 100 miles, there’s something for everyone – from seasoned riders looking for a challenge to families with kids in tow.

**Registration will close at 1800 riders or at 5 p.m., June 4, whichever comes first. There will be no day-of-event registration. Registration is non-refundable, and the ride takes place rain or shine.**

**For more information and to register, visit: <http://www.iron-tour.org/>**



## 2013 Watershed Congress

Sat, March 09, 2013 7:30AM to 4:00PM (Eastern)

Pottstown, PA

Montgomery County Community College - West Campus



The Watershed Congress has evolved over 15 years to advance the best available information and techniques for protecting and restoring watersheds. The focus on networking across disciplines means that the Watershed Congress melds science, policy and practical applications into one program. As a result, the annual Watershed Congress is a highly anticipated event for people interested in understanding, protecting and restoring their local streams.

The 2013 Watershed Congress is a day-long conference offering a 60-minute keynote panel discussion, three blocks of seven 60-minute concurrent sessions, one block of seven 30-minute sessions and a 60-minute poster session. For full descriptions of these sessions, check out the Program Detail at the [Watershed Congress calendar page](#).

**REGISTRATION** To register, please fill out the online registration form at:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=v6qlnbcab&oeidk=a07e6f9rd7s56c9c842>

**REGISTER**

**SCHOLARSHIPS** The Schuylkill Action Network offers a limited number of scholarships available for people living within the Schuylkill River watershed. Scholarship requests will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. One scholarship will be awarded per organization due to the limited number of scholarships available. Additional applicants from the same organization will only be considered if scholarships are still available as of March 1, 2013.

These scholarships are awarded on a reimbursement basis. Successful applicants will be required to contribute a short update to the Schuylkill Action Network blog that highlights something interesting or useful learned during the 2013 Watershed Congress. Expenses will be reimbursed upon our receipt of Reimbursement Form, original event receipt, and successful submission of blog post. For more information, contact Tom Davidock, [tdavidock@delawareestuary.org](mailto:tdavidock@delawareestuary.org).

## SAN Dates to Remember

- March 7th 10:00 am  
SAN Planning Meeting
- March 13th 10:00am  
SAN Pathogen Meeting
- March 20th 10:00am  
Stormwater Workgroup Meeting
- April 4th 10:00 am  
SAN Planning Meeting
- April 16th 10:00 am  
SAN WLC Meeting
- May 9th SAN 10 Year Anniversary

Ideas for the next edition of SAN Connections?

Contact Tom Davidock,  
SAN Coordinator:  
(800) 445-4935 x109  
or email:

[tdavidock@DelawareEstuary.org](mailto:tdavidock@DelawareEstuary.org)

## Reading Area Water Authority starts second initiative to protect water sources



Reading Eagle:  
2/25/2013  
By Valdis I. Lacis

Ontelaunee, which provides water to 125,000 residents in and around Reading. Lyn O'Hare, water resources specialist at SSM Engineers & Consultants, Wyomissing, said the authority's first source water protection plan was completed in 2007 with a \$190,000 grant from the state Department of Environmental Protection.

The authority's newly formed source water protection steering committee met last week to lay out a vision and implementation strategy, and to identify and prioritize potential sources of contamination, she said.

"It's important that we educate all Berks County residents on the importance of protecting our drinking water," O'Hare said.

Kate O'Brien, watershed specialist and educator with the Berks Conservation District, said that improving the streams that discharge into Lake Ontelaunee can be accomplished only with help from volunteers and partners, such as the Maiden Creek Watershed Association, Schuylkill Action Network, Berks County Conservancy and Berks Gas Truth of Kutztown, which monitors the impact of natural gas drilling on underground water resources.

Dean A. Miller, executive director, said he was pleased that officials of Albany,



Maidencreek and Richmond townships and Kutztown, which all impact the Lake Ontelaunee watershed, attended.

Lori Berkert, water resources specialist with SSM, noted that since 2008 the authority has collected data from 10 monitoring locations in the lake's watershed, and that chemical parameters are monitored weekly.

One of the committee's flagship projects is to remove sediment from the upper neck of the lake to increase its capacity and reduce the possibility of flooding, a project estimated to cost more than \$2 million, she said.

Jesse Goldberg, consultant with Miller Environmental Inc., said the authority is providing digital maps to the emergency services departments of both Lehigh and Berks counties to develop a fast-responding partnership in an environmental emergency.

O'Hare noted that the panel has mapped out protection zones for the Maiden Creek and Lake Ontelaunee intake points if a chemical spill occurs near them.

Michael Reider, watershed manager, noted that staff annually plant about 1,000 trees on city-owned property around Lake Ontelaunee to help protect water purity and the watershed.

Contact Valdis I. Lacis: 610-371-5000 or [news@readingeagle.com](mailto:news@readingeagle.com).

<http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=454897>