Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present the Schuylkill River Heritage Area’s 2015 Annual Report. Perhaps our greatest success story of 2015 was of the Schuylkill River Trail being voted the Best Urban Trail in America in a USA Today readers’ poll. We have, over the years, invested a great deal of time and energy into building, promoting and maintaining the trail, so naturally we are proud that it is so beloved. But the trail is only one of many projects we undertook in 2015. With a small staff of six employees and one AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, the Schuylkill River Heritage Area has worked tirelessly to promote the region. We held a record-breaking Schuylkill River Sojourn, sold out nearly every one of our six pedal and paddle events, partnered with Sly Fox Brewery to introduce SRT Ale (a very popular Ale for the Trail), and hosted a colonial style dinner at Historic Morlatton Village.

As you flip through the following pages, keep in mind that all our work - the grant programs, the art show, the paddling events, the trail projects - is carefully designed to encourage stewardship of our environment and make this region a better place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

Silas Chamberlin, PhD  
Executive Director

Rob Kuhlman  
President, Board of Directors

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

---

**2015 BY THE NUMBERS**

- **1700 Hours**  
  Schuylkill River Trail Ambassadors spent volunteering along the trail

- **3**  
  Organizations joined our Adopt-a-Trail program agreeing to maintain a combined total of 9 trail miles

- **$275,000**  
  Awarded in Schuylkill River Restoration Fund Grants to 9 projects that improve river water quality

- **$4,018**  
  Raised through the sale of SRT Ale from April to September, benefiting the Schuylkill River Trail

- **#1 Spot earned by the Schuylkill River Trail on the 10 Best Urban Trails in America List in a USA Today’s readers’ poll**

- **129**  
  Underserved teens from three counties gained an appreciation for nature through our Student Outdoor Leadership Odyssey

- **90**  
  People participated in our unique colonial dinner at Historic Morlatton Village

- **184 Paddlers**  
  From 14 states and Switzerland participated in the 17th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn including 74 who took the full 112-mile week-long paddle

- **110 Miles**  
  Traveled by a Sly Fox Brewery two-person team during the April SRT SPREE announcing the new SRT Ale

- **92 Art Pieces**  
  Exhibited in the 12th Annual Scenes of the Schuylkill Art Show

- **28,000**  
  Schuylkill River Trail Maps distributed
The Schuylkill River Trail was voted America’s #1 Urban Trail in a USA Today Reader’s Poll, beating out 20 other trails across the nation. In September over 100 trail users and supporters gathered along Schuylkill Banks in Philadelphia to celebrate that honor. Some of Pennsylvania’s top officials figured among the speakers: Secretary of the Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources Cindy Dunn, Secretary of the Dept. of Transportation Leslie Richards, Secretary of the Dept. of Environment Protection John Quigley and National Park Service Northeast Regional Director Mike Caldwell, along with other state and local officials. The event was highlighted by the unfurling of five banners recognizing the Schuylkill River Trail as the Best Urban Trail in America. Those banners were distributed to the five counties the trail passes through.

AMERICA’S BEST URBAN TRAIL

What we’re celebrating is not just about recreation. This project is about building a constituency for the river.

- John Quigley, Secretary PA Dept of Environmental Protection

An Ale for the Trail
In April, we partnered with Sly Fox Brewery to introduce SRT Ale, a seasonal beer that benefits the Schuylkill River Trail. Its Earth Day release was launched with the weeklong SRT SPREE, in which a two-person team traveled 110 miles along the river and trail by kayak, bike, horseback and on foot inspiring trail cleanups along the way. In September, Sly Fox presented us with a check for over $4,000 from the sale of SRT Ale to support trail projects.

Bike Pottstown/Bike Schuylkill
In 2015 we shared our Bike Pottstown and Bike Schuylkill cruisers over 1,000 times to people who used them for recreation along the Schuylkill River Trail and for transportation in three communities: Pottstown, Hamburg and Phoenixville.

New Schuylkill River Trail Maps
This summer, we printed 50,000 accordion-style, full-color Schuylkill River Trail maps that have proven to be incredibly popular. Over the course of the year we distributed 28,000 maps, posting them at trailheads and visitor sites throughout the region.

Trail Volunteers
Volunteers help us keep the trail clean and pruned in Berks and Schuylkill Counties. In 2015, we added three organizations to our Adopt-A-Trail volunteer program: Children’s Home of Reading, Alvernia University and White Deer Run Blue Mountain. These groups will each hold several cleanups a year, maintaining a total of nine trail miles.
A Unique Colonial Dinner at a Historic Site
Our dinner at the Historic White Horse Inn (c. 1762), in Morlatton Village, in Douglassville featured a colonial inspired-menu, a candlelit atmosphere, and waitstaff in period costume. It was an enjoyable evening that received rave reviews and gave a glimpse into local history.

Pedal & Paddles
Our round-trip Pedal and Paddle biking/kayaking adventures continue to be among our most popular programs. For 2015, we held six events - including our first Hike and Paddle at Lock 60 along the Schuylkill Canal. All together we took a total of 95 people along the trail and on the river.

12th Annual Scenes of the Schuylkill
The Annual Scenes of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area art show continues to draw more excitement each year. This year, we had 163 works submitted, 92 of which were juried into the show. In addition, a selection of works from previous shows were featured on an Art on the Trails banner in Norristown.

Schuylkill Outdoor Leadership Odyssey
For the past three years we have been fortunate enough to have VISTA workers serving one-year terms in our office. They have created and expanded the Schuylkill Outdoor Leadership Odyssey (SOLO), an educational program that connects underserved high school students to the outdoors. This year, 129 students from Philadelphia, Berks and Schuylkill Counties participated in the 10 to 12-week program that consists of classes with guest speakers, field trips, service projects and, when possible, a kayak trip on the river.

17th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn
The 17th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn was a record breaker, with 184 participants from 14 states. A total of 74 (more than ever before) made the full 112-mile trip from Schuylkill Haven to Philadelphia. Each day was filled with the maximum number of boats allowed on the water, 100-120, something we haven’t done since the Sojourn’s 10th anniversary in 2008.

EVENTS THAT SUPPORT RECREATION, CONSERVATION, HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

2nd Place: Memento Mori by Jonathan Bond
We distributed $275,000 in Schuylkill River Restoration Fund grants to projects that will improve water quality in the Schuylkill River and its tributaries. Since the Restoration Fund was established in 2006 through a public/private partnership, it has garnered more than $2.5 million and funded 73 projects that have reduced stormwater run-off, agricultural pollutants and abandoned mine drainage.

**Berk County Conservancy, Jason Rice Farm Project: $47,250.** Manure storage systems to keep pollutants out of Maiden Creek.

**Berk County Conservancy, Biehl and Kurtz Farms: $81,663.** Manure storage systems to keep pollutants out of two nearby creeks.

**The Dobson School, Native Meadow and Woodland Walk: $37,710.** A native meadow installation for stormwater control and education.

### Implementation Project Grants

**Berk County Conservancy, Gehris Property: $4,000**

**Montgomery County Conservation District, Perkiomen Township Basin: $30,000.** Stormwater basin improvements with native plantings, a community workshop and volunteer workdays.

**Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Porter Floodplain: $40,000.** Removal of coal refuse from the floodplain.

**West Philadelphia Coalition, Greening Lea Project: $26,000.** Transform a barren schoolyard into an active and sustainable community space.
OUR MEMBERS

Ms. Rebecca Abgott
Mr. Larry Adam
Ms. Joan Aichele
Ms. Donna Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Allender
Mr. Berard Avella
Mr. Greg Bahney
Mrs. Rita Bartram
Ms. Mary A. C. Brickner
Ms. Sheila Bressler
Ms. Rebecca Buday
Mr. & Mrs. David Biser
Bernetskie
Mr. & Mrs. John Bolline
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Blye
Mr. Harvey J. Bomberger
Mrs. aluminum
Mr. Dan Boyer
Mr. James P. Brazel
Ms. Elizabeth Breakell
Ms. Rebecca Brenner
Ms. Sheila Bressler
Ms. Mary A. C. Brickner
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Brown
Mr. David A. Brown
Mr. Charles Buttz
Mr. Francis Carduff
Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Carl
Ms. Lucy J. Carroll
Mr. Tom Carroll
Mr. Warren Carroll
Mr. James W. Castellan
Dr. & Mrs. Joel L. Caves
Mr. Doug Chapman
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Chisak
Mr. Mark Cholewa
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Christ
Dr. & Mrs. Allan Cohen
Mr. & Mrs. John Condello
Mr. Francis Conway
Mr. David Coyne
Mr. Richard Croxley
Mr. William Dahms
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Daley
Mr. Charles Day
Mr. Earl Deatrich, Jr.
Mr. Dennis DeFrancesco
Mr. E. Stewart Degler
Ms. Lisa Delozier
Ms. Anna Louise Detweiler
Mr. Dodson Dietrich
Ms. Kristine Distefano
Mr. & Mrs. John Doering
Mr. John Dolph
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Doudey
Mr. Daniel Doran
Mr. Michael D’Orazio
Mr. Ray Dotter
Mr. Kent Edwards
Ms. Tina Ehrig
Mr. & Mrs. James B. Elliott
Mr. Jay Erb
Mr. Scott Esslinger
Mr. Brandon Evans
Ms. Johanna C. Fallon
Mr. Paul M. Felton
Mr. George F. Ferris
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dean Foster
Mr. P. Richard Frantz
Ms. Regina Gargano
Ms. Susan G. Garrett
Ms. Mairi C. Gauger
Ms. Diane Gaul
Mr. Andrew Gilchrist
Mrs. Mary Ann Gindlespeger
Mr. William D. Gladden
Ms. Marie Gleason
Ms. Susan D. Gottschall
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Goodman
Mr. Robert Graves
Mr. James P. Grimnes
Mr. Amy Grove
Mr. Brian Gruber
Mr. Nathaniel C. Guest
Ms. Hollday Hammond
Mr. Robert A. Hand
Mr. Ed Harlin
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick K. Hatt
Mr. Linell Haug
Mr. George Heffler, Jr.
Mr. Raymond Heffner
Mr. Steven Henderson
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Hnath
Mr. Jonathan Hodgson & Ms. Andrea Knox
Dr. Neil A. Hoffman
Mr. Robert G. Hoffman
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard M. Hofmann
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Hopkins
Ms. Trish Houck
Ms. Megan Huff
Mr. Walt Hug
Mr. Stephen Hughes
Mr. & Mrs. John F. Hunt
Ms. Kay Jones
Mr. Peter Joyce
Mr. David T. Kaest
Ms. Ruth Moraski Keller
Mr. Brian Kelly
Mr. Hugh Kelly
Ms. Martha Kelly
Mr. Kyle Kemp
Ms. Suzanne Kent
Mr. William G. Koch
Mr. David R. Kohler, Capt., USN (Ret)
Mr. John A. Koury, Jr.
Mr. Rodger Krause
Mr. Paul Kreptou
Mr. Rob Kuhlman
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Kuhns
Ms. Regina Kurrasch
Mr. James A. Kurtz
Mr. Paul Kusko
Mr. Steven C. Landes
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Landis
Ms. Patricia Lasser
Mr. & Mrs. John Lea
Mr. George W. Legler
Mr. & Mrs. David LeGrand
Mr. Gerry Lenfest
Ms. Yvonne Lepiane
Mr. Mark Leschik
Mr. Kenneth Levan
Mr. David Lewis
Mr. David P. Lewis
Mr. Richard Lewis
Mr. Christopher Linn
Mr. Robert F. Loeper, Jr.
Mr. Harry F. Lorenz
Mr. & Mrs. John Lysaght, Jr.
Mr. James Macdonell
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Malick
Dr. & Mrs. Glen Marino
Mr. Charles N. Marshall
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Marshall
Mr. Peter David Maynard
Ms. Judith McDonald
Mr. Joseph McDermott
Mr. Edward McLaughlin
Mr. Steve Manus
Mr. Matthew McTish
Mr. Richard Melshemier
Ms. Isabel Melvin
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur P. Miller
Mr. James J. Miller
Mr. James Middleton
Mr. Jim Mitchell
Mr. Don Moll
Mr. Steve Montgomery
Ms. Bonnie Moore
Mr. Tom Moslak
Mr. & Mrs. David Muhlenberg
Mr. John A. Muhlenberg
Ms. Barbara Myers
Mr. Mark Neveonglosky
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin J. Ochs
Mr. Hugh O’Hare
Ms. Betty O’Neil
Mr. Peter J. Oswald
Ms. Lou Ann Pacocha
Mr. Todd Palmer
Mr. John F. Pearson
Ms. Deborah Penrod
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Pezely
Mr. & Mrs. Hank Phillips
Ms. Juliann Pinto
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Porter
Mr. Barry Powell
Ms. Alison Price
Mrs. Dorothy Pulcher
Ms. Betsy Quant
Mr. Doug Quinster
Mr. Bruce Rankin
Ms. Joselyn Rankin
Mr. & Mrs. Carl V. Raring
Mr. Steve Razzano
Ms. Leslie Rebmann
Mr. & Mrs. Garrett Redmond
Mr. Richard W. Reiber
Mr. & Mrs. William Reichert
Col. Harry H. Reichner, Jr.
Mr. Cory Reid
Ms. Sue Repko
Ms. Sydne L. Romig
Mr. Fred Rosen
Mr. David Rouse
Mr. Brian L. Russo
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Rutkowski
Mr. Al Salazar
Mr. Richard L. Sassaman
Ms. Wendolyn Saville
Mr. Eric Scatchard
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick H. Schuetz
Ms. Edie Sloan-Hammond
Ms. Eloise Smyrl
Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Snyder
Ms. Eugenia Sowick and Mr. George Schanzenbach
Mr. Peter Stanson
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Stevens
Mr. Michael Stokes
Ms. Sandra Sudofsky
Mr. Gerald Sweeney
Mr. Brian D. Swisher
Ms. Kay Sykora
Ms. Stephanie Szalaki
Mr. & Mrs. Lee E. Tabas
Ms. Judith Thomas
Mr. Robert P. Thomas
Mr. Jim Thorne
Mr. David Thun
Mr. & Mrs. David Thomas
Ms. Mary Timpany
Ms. Nancy Tobias
Mr. Matthew Todd
Mr. Cheri Towne
Ms. Candace Trace
Ms. Debra Trace
Mr. Thomas C. Troutman
Ms. Donna Usavage
Mr. & Mrs. Duncan Van Dusen
Mr. Elaine Van Horn
Mr. & Mrs. James Van Horn
Ms. Kathleen A. Wagner
Ms. Davida Waters
Mr. James Watko
Mr. George Wausnock
Mr. Bill Weber, Jr.
Mr. John Weber
Mr. Raymond Weidner
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Weidler
Mrs. Wendi Wheeler
Mrs. Agnes Wiedmann
Ms. Karen S. Williamson
Mr. & Mrs. Donald J. Witman
Mr. John Wolfe
Dr. Jay H. Wonder, D.M.D
Mr. Brett Wrigley
Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Young
Mr. Stephen Zeller
Mr. Allen J. Zimmerman
Borough of Shillington
Our Team

Staff
Silas Chamberlin, Executive Director
Kurt Zwikl, Outgoing Executive Director
Dolores Bauman, Finance Manager
Laura Catalano, Communications Director
Tim Fenchel, Grants Program Coordinator

2015 Executive Committee
President Rob Kuhlman
Vice President Kay Sykora
Treasurer Bill Gladden
Secretary Daniel J. Doran

2015 Board Members
Kelly Anderson
Tina Fink
John A. Koury, Jr.
Rodger Krause
Kay Jones
Christopher Linn,
Donald Moll
Joshua Nims
Leslie Rebmann
William Reichert
Edie Shean-Hammond
Mike Stokes
Carl Raring, Immediate Past President

Ex-Officio
Hon. David G. Argall, PA State Senate

Liasons
Drew Gilchrist, DCNR Liason
Jeffrey A. Knowles, DCNR Liason

Kaitlin Flahive, Trail Sustainability Coordinator
Robert Folwell, Trails Project Manager
Cindy Kott, Administrative Assistant
Dwight Powell, Consulting Engineer

Schuylkill River Heritage Area
Managed by the Schuylkill River Greenway Association
140 College Drive • Pottstown, PA 19464 • 484-945-0200 • Fax 484-945-0204
www.schuylkillriver.org