



# SAN CONNECTIONS

Summer 2011



Volume 2011

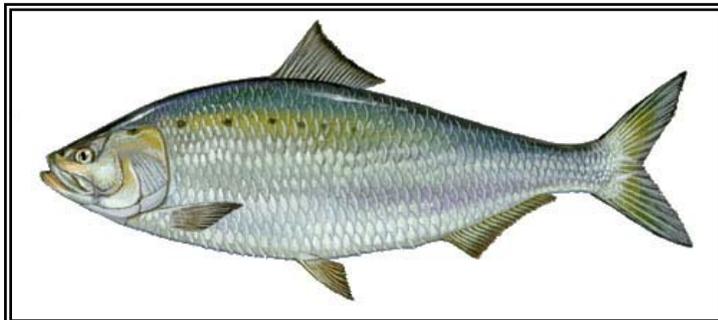
Issue 3

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## Shad making a comeback up Schuylkill River?

From Reading Eagle  
6/26/2011



Engineering, time, luck and good intentions have combined to lead American shad to spawning grounds up the Schuylkill River. For the first time since the 1800s, adult American shad, stocked five years ago in Reading, have managed to reach Phoenixville in a instinct-driven, arduous trek through fish ladders and man-made passages at Fairmount Dam in Philadelphia, Flat Rock Dam in Gladwyne and Norristown Dam in Montgomery County. According to Mike Kaufmann, area fisheries manager for southeast Pennsylvania, his team was successful electrofishing for shad above Norristown Dam, but below Black Rock Dam. "We saw what appeared to be one spent female," he said. "There was no doubt it was an American shad as it came up

on its side immediately next to the boat and I could look it square in the eye."

According to Kaufmann, his crew electrofished in the dam's tailrace, but actually saw the fish about a quarter-mile below the dam after about a half-hour of actual shocking time.

"If we found one, it's safe to assume others made it this far as well," said Kaufmann.

For 10 years, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has stocked shad fry in the Schuylkill River, attempting to reintroduce a species that once was plentiful in the river. Successful regeneration of

shad is dependent on an unimpeded path back upriver to Reading. Kaufmann's recent discovery via electrofishing is proof the shad are attempting to return to their spawning grounds.

Recently, shad have returned to the Delaware River in excellent numbers. In the Susquehanna River, however shad numbers have diminished considerably.

Contact Roger Mallon: 610-371-5060 or [sports@readingeagle.com](mailto:sports@readingeagle.com).

Learn More about Schuylkill River Shad restoration efforts at:

[http://www.fairmountwaterworks.org/news\\_pwd\\_study.php](http://www.fairmountwaterworks.org/news_pwd_study.php)

## Growing Greener Grant Requesting a Letter of Support from the SAN



### Growing Greener

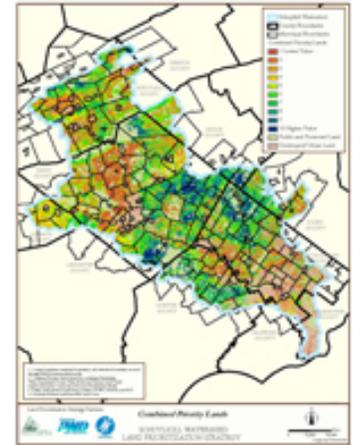
As many of you may have heard, Pennsylvania DEP has opened up another round of Growing Greener. Applications are due on **August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. *A priority activity in the SE region is a Project that support the priorities of the*

Schuylkill Action Network including implementation projects identified in Source Water Protection Plans. If you would like to request a letter of support from the SAN, please make your requests by **AUGUST 10th 2011**. Requests can be submitted directly to the SAN workgroup chairperson.

Contact information is available here: [http://www.schuylkillwaters.org/contact\\_us](http://www.schuylkillwaters.org/contact_us). Please copy Tom Davidock ([tdavidock@DelawareEstuary.org](mailto:tdavidock@DelawareEstuary.org)) on any email requests.

## Land Transaction Grants Available for Priority Watershed Lands

The Schuylkill River Restoration Fund, in collaboration with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, will continue its pilot program this year that focuses on the permanent protection of priority watershed land. This new program will provide matching grants of up to \$4,000 per project to assist with transaction costs for permanent land protection projects (conservation easements, full fee acquisitions, donations) **within the Schuylkill River watershed**. Grants can be awarded to qualified non-profit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) conservation organizations or units of government. The purpose of these grants is to incentivize and facilitate the protection of high priority lands for water quality and habitat protection in the Schuylkill River watershed.



### Grant Award Process

Funding is still available in the 2011 pilot round of this grant program. Only one application may be submitted per project. Application deadlines for this project are due to SRHA no later than **October 30, 2011**, which may be before or after transaction costs are incurred. Applications will be prioritized based primarily on the amount of friction and/or priority lands protected. However, other factors, including the date (or estimated date) of the transaction, the applicant's history, the level of protection provided/proposed, the amount/type of match, and date, quality, and completeness of the application may also be used to prioritize if applications exceed available funds, with the goal of fulfilling the purpose of the program to the greatest degree possible with successful projects.

For more details about the program, please download the application guidelines below:

[http://www.schuylkillwaters.org/doc\\_files/2011%20LandTrans%20Assist%20Guidelines.pdf](http://www.schuylkillwaters.org/doc_files/2011%20LandTrans%20Assist%20Guidelines.pdf).

Please help to spread the word. Priority watershed land data is available on the Schuylkill priority lands website:

<http://www.schuylkillprioritylands.org/>

## Northampton Township joins District Attorney in unveiling 24-hour prescription drug collection box



By Jeff Werner  
[BucksLocalNews.com](http://www.buckslocalnews.com)

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP – “Let’s make every day a drug take back day,” said Northampton Township Police Chief Barry Pilla in unveiling the first 24-hour prescription

drug collection box in Pennsylvania on Thursday.

Pilla joined District Attorney David Heckler, township supervisor Vince Deon and Council Rock Coalition for Healthy Youth director Debbie Moskovitz at a press conference to officially roll out the new Med-Return Collection Unit.

Officials said the collection box, which will permanently be affixed to the wall in the lobby of the police station, will not only keep drugs out of the ecosystem, more importantly it will keep them out of the hands of children and potential abusers.

That’s important, said Moskovitz, because 70 percent of children who are abusing prescription drugs get

them straight from their friends and family.

“That’s why we need to get them out of the homes and dispose of them safely and properly here with a lock box like this because that will decrease the availability of prescription drug abuse,” said Moskovitz.

Heckler agreed and commended the township for taking “a great leap forward” in providing the service 24 hours a day. “It’s what we need to do to get the narcotics away from our kids,” said Heckler, noting that overwhelmingly the drugs that children are abusing “in our communities are prescription drugs.”

## prescription drug collection box...continued

The concept grew out of the Bucks County Drug Take Back program sponsored by the District Attorney's Office in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration. To date, the take-back days have resulted in the collection of more than 4,000 pounds of medications that could have easily ended up in the ecosystem, on the illegal market or in the hands of children, said Pilla.

Since the collection campaign began, Moskovitz said the numbers have steadily increased, from 850 pounds during the first collection drive to 1,308 pounds last November and 2,114 pounds this past April.

In Northampton alone, 250 pounds of expired or no longer needed prescriptions were collected in April at the public library. That represented the

largest haul of any of the drop-off sites throughout the county, said Pilla.

Heckler and Pilla both commended Chris McAteer Jr., the chief of county detectives, for spearheading the drug collection effort in Bucks County and making it the second most successful in the state, just behind Allegheny County in western Pennsylvania.

"There is plainly an enormous demand for this particular service, to get this stuff out of the environment and away from our kids," said Heckler. "It's just a terrific win-win. This is just a logical extension of that effort," he said of the Med-Return Collection Unit.

Northampton's \$900 unit is being paid for through equal contributions from CRCHY, the police department and the Bucks

County District Attorney's Office.

"You can thank the drug dealers of Bucks County who have provided the lucre that we tuck away and spend on things like this," said Heckler.

The D.A. noted that the county's drug forfeiture program has pledged to put up one-third of the cost of the units for every community interested in following Northampton's lead.

"Hopefully as this rolls out, we're hoping there will be a number of other police departments making similar announcements," said Heckler.

To read the entire article, please visit: [http://www.buckslocalnews.com/articles/2011/06/11/the\\_advance/news/doc4de8734e50ace297545384.txt](http://www.buckslocalnews.com/articles/2011/06/11/the_advance/news/doc4de8734e50ace297545384.txt)



## 8th Annual "Hit the Hay"

8.1 Mile Trail Run & Walk

Sunday August 28, 2011

Presented by the Hay Creek Watershed Association

Course design, marking and timing by [Pretzel City Sports](#)

**RACE STARTS:** 9:00 AM Registration begins at 7:30 AM

**LOCATION:** Register at the Rustic Park #4 in Birdsboro.

Location can be obtained online or GPS by entering 1314 Hay Creek Road, Birdsboro PA 19508.

**COURSE:** Wind your way past two beautiful pine scented reservoirs, over decaying canal locks, splash through streams and finish in a picturesque park.

**AMENITIES:** T-shirt to the first 100 registrants and day of registrants **while supplies last**. Refreshments and snacks to finishers, toilet facilities and parking available.

**AWARDS:** Philadelphia sports package to top male and female winners. Signature Hay Creek Watershed Association prize to top 3 male and female finishers 16-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69, and 70+. Prizes will NOT be shipped.

**ENTRY:** \$25.00 if postmarked by August 15, or online by August 25th. Afterwards and day of race: \$30.00. Receive a T-shirt while they last. **HCWA MEMBERS:** [Receive \\$5 member DISCOUNT when you register online.](#)

**QUESTIONS?:** Email: [info@haycreekwatershed.org](mailto:info@haycreekwatershed.org) or call 484-288-0536.

More info at: <http://www.hcwa.camp9.org/Calendar?eventId=246394&EventViewMode=EventDetails>

## Cancer patients' urine suspected in Wissahickon iodine-131 levels

By Sandy Bauers  
[Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

Three weeks after an earthquake and tsunami severely damaged Japan's Fukushima nuclear power plant, Lisa Daniels opened an e-mail with test results of river water samples from Southeastern Pennsylvania.

It was just after lunch April 1. Nationwide, officials were testing rain, rivers, milk, and other substances to learn if radioactivity from the stricken plant was present.

They'd seen it after Chernobyl, and now it was showing up nationwide, including in rainwater from a deluge in central Pennsylvania.

Daniels, a water division chief at the state Department of Environmental Protection, wasn't worried. Enough time had passed that the radiation would have decayed or been carried away.

But when she looked at the sample from the Wissahickon Creek near Green Lane, just upstream from a city drinking water intake, she froze.

None of the other river samples in the batch showed iodine-131. But this one did.

By 6 p.m. that day, that drinking water intake would be getting extra treatment, and officials would be embarking on a detective mission that has generated interest nationwide.

Since then, officials have found more iodine-131 in the Wissahickon, and at several sewage treatment plants along the creek.

They've also realized that worrisome levels of iodine-131 had been detected long before the Fukushima accident in several Philadelphia drinking water samples taken as part of an obscure monitoring program run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Within that limited data set of 59 locations across the country, Philadelphia's levels were the highest in the previous decade, the Water Department discovered.

So Fukushima couldn't be the cause after all.

The source they now suspect was a surprise. Iodine-131 is used to treat thyroid cancer, and they suspect it's coming from patients excreting excess radioactivity in their urine, which then winds up in rivers, and ultimately in Philadelphia's drinking water intakes.

Iodine-131 is not good for you.

When radioactive iodine gets into the body, it concentrates in the thyroid gland. Low doses can impair the gland's activity, according to the EPA. Long-term exposure to high amounts can cause cancer.

Officials from the Water Department, the EPA, and the DEP emphasize that the levels detected are tiny and don't constitute a public health threat. Philadelphia's drinking water meets standards for radioactivity and remains safe, they say.

Read online @ [http://articles.philly.com/2011-07-21/news/29798099\\_1\\_drinking-water-radioactive-iodine-water-department](http://articles.philly.com/2011-07-21/news/29798099_1_drinking-water-radioactive-iodine-water-department)

### SAN Dates to Remember

- July 28th, 9:30 am  
SAN Stormwater Mtg
- July 28th 2:00 pm  
E&O Workgroup Mtg
- August 11th 10:00am  
SAN Planning Mtg
- Sept. 8th 10:00am  
SAN Planning Mtg
- Sept. 21st 10:00am  
SAN Pathogen Mtg
- Sept. 22nd 10:00am  
AMD Workgroup Mtg

## SAN Event Calendar

The screenshot shows a web-based calendar interface for September 2011. The calendar grid has days of the week as columns and dates as rows. Several dates have colored boxes indicating events, with some text visible in the boxes, such as 'SAN Stormwater Mtg' and 'SAN Pathogen Mtg'. The interface includes navigation links like 'Previous', 'Next', and 'Home'.

This past June, we recently updated the SAN website with an Events Calendar tool. All SAN members are able to post events on the Calendar. Feel free to use the Calendar to advertise any of you Schuylkill River events, activities, meetings, etc. Also, stop by and check out the dates of our upcoming workgroup meetings, workshops, and other SAN events.

Updating the calendar is easy— just sign in, open the calendar, and click on the date of your event/meeting. Just fill in the appropriate fields and press submit.

If you have any questions, please email [tdavidock@DelawareEstuary.org](mailto:tdavidock@DelawareEstuary.org) or call (302) 655-4990 Ext 109.

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)

Check it  
Out