



# 2008 SCHEDULE

## SCHUYLKILL COUNTY NATURE CLUB

The Schuylkill County Nature Club is a project of the Schuylkill Conservation District. All hikes are free and open to the public. Please no pets due to insurance risks. Dress according to the weather and bring water, snacks, bug spray and sunscreen. Poor weather cancels! More information: "Porcupine Pat" @ 570.622.4124 ext. 113 or [porcupinepat@yahoo.com](mailto:porcupinepat@yahoo.com)

- **Saturday, January 26 from 2:00-4:30 p.m.** "Pottsville Walking Path" with "Porcupine Pat." Meets in front of John S. Clarke Elementary on 16<sup>th</sup> Street by ballfield. Flat to hilly terrain of about three miles with great views.
- **Saturday, February 9 from 10:00-11:30 a.m.** "Sharp Mountain Sojourn East" with "Porcupine Pat." Meets in front of the Schuylkill YWCA on South Centre Street in Pottsville (park along South Centre Street) for a trek on the mountain's east side and the Schuylkill River Gap. See the view from the Henry Clay monument and enjoy spectacular scenery above our county seat. Flat to hilly terrain. This, and the hike in January, are Pottsville Project Fit and Pottsville Recreation Commission programs. When you attend three hikes, you get a free t-shirt!
- **Saturday, February 23 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.** "Leap Year Hike at Locust Lake State Park" with Park Environmental Education Specialist Robin Tracey. Meets in visitor parking lot before Contact Station. Four miles long with moderate conditions. See lots of BIG hemlocks and enjoy our county's #1 tourist destination!
- **Saturday, March 8 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.** "Trail Trekking at Tuscarora State Park" with Park Environmental Education Specialist Robin Tracey. Meets at the Tuscarora State Park office parking lot located off Tuscarora State Park Road that is off Rt. 309 north of Tamaqua. This is an easy 2.5 mile hike featuring chestnut trees.
- **Saturday, March 29 from 1:30-4:00 p.m.** "Walk to the High Dam" with "Big Owl" McSurdy. See the "Inscription Tree" and county line marker plus the scenic Evening Branch. Meets on the concrete slab parking lot off Gold Mine Road. Travel Rt. 443 west into Lebanon County and turn right onto Gold Mine Road. Flat hike.
- **Saturday, April 19 from 1:30-4:30 p.m.** "Jeff's Swamp Journey" with "Big Owl." A moderate hike meeting at the carpool parking lot of the Ravine Exit of I-81/Rt. 125. See interesting swamp plants, an artesian spring, and beautiful DeHaas Run. Part of Saint Anthony's Wilderness – largest open space area in SE PA.
- **Sunday, April 27 from 2:00-3:30 p.m.** "Landingville Marsh Spring Trek" with "Porcupine Pat." Enjoy the John Bartram Trail in Landingville. Meets in the new parking lot on Tunnel Road outside of the village. This flat hike features the site of America's oldest railroad tunnel (1827). This is a Pottsville Project Fit and Pottsville Recreation Commission hike program. Walk three and get a free T-shirt!
- **Saturday, May 3 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.** "Swatara State Park Spring Wildflower Walk" with "Big Owl" McSurdy. Enjoy the beautiful spring wildflowers found in this park. Meets in the parking area at the intersection of Rt. 443 and Swopes Valley Road in Suedberg. Flat hike.
- **Saturday, June 14 from 1:30-4:30 p.m.** "Wolf Creek Waterfalls Walk" scenic falls above Saint Clair. Meets on the Burma Road about one mile outside of Saint Clair. Pull off to the right of the Burma Road and then we will carpool to the hike start location. A moderate hike with flat to steep terrain.
- **Sunday, July 20 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.** "Mystery Hike—Pottsville Area?????" Where is "Porcupine" going to take you? Meets in the Schuylkill County AG Center parking lot off the Gordon Nagle Trail to carpool somewhere! Easy walking though!
- **Sunday, August 24 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.** "Coal Country Ramble" with "Porcupine Pat" on the old Lehigh Valley rail bed in Craigs Patch north of Mahanoy City. Meets at the bridge on Main Street (Rt. 339) in the borough for carpool to the site. Moderate rating.
- **Saturday, September 27 from 10:00-11:30 a.m.** "Tamaqua Area Mystery Tour" with "Porcupine Pat." Meets at the Tamaqua Public Library on Railroad Street. This will be a flat hike featuring wilderness-like views.
- **Saturday, October 18 from 1:30-4:30 p.m.** "Swatara Creek Rail/Trail Walk" with "Big Owl." This flat hike meets at the carpool parking lot of the Ravine Exit of I-81 and Rt. 125. Nice mountain scenery.
- **Sunday, October 26 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.** "Frog Hollow Fall 'n Leaf Tour" with "Big Owl" McSurdy. Meet in the parking lot of Frog Hollow Environmental Education Center on Stone Mountain Road in Friedensburg. Site is owned by the South Schuylkill Garden Club and features beautiful trees and Upper Little Swatara Creek.
- **Friday, November 7 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.** "Hoot Hike" with "Big Owl" McSurdy at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds and Bear Creek Environmental Area. Meet promptly at 6:30 p.m. at the main entrance to the fairgrounds on Rt. 895 directly across from the quarry entrance.
- **Sunday, November 9 from 1:30-4:30 p.m.** "Boxcar Rocks" with "Big Owl" McSurdy. This moderate walk features massive boulders and a nice reclamation area. Meets on the concrete slab parking lot off Gold Mine Road. Travel Rt. 443 into Lebanon County and turn right onto Gold Mine Road.
- **Saturday, December 6 from 10:00-11:30 a.m.** "End 'o Year Hike" with "Porcupine Pat" at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. Meets in the Clubhouse parking lot. Follow Rt. 443 to Lake Shore Drive all the way to the Clubhouse. See waterfalls and all the new improvements and additions in the first county park for our county. Flat to moderate terrain.

Mark your calendars for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bear Creek Festival to be held Sunday, May 18, 2008 from 12 – 4:00 p.m. Free admission. Lots of activities for people of all ages. Schuylkill County Fairgrounds, Rt. 895, Summit Station.