



NEWS *from the* FARM

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General Meeting - May 27

Come Hear Shandor Szalay Help to Develop the Pennypack River Conservation Plan

Our speaker for the May meeting will be Shandor J. Szalay, a Senior Project Scientist from FX Browne, Inc. He is assisting the Philadelphia Water Department & their Partners in developing a River Conservation Plan for the Pennypack watershed. He will explain how we can all help to identify areas along this watershed that need to be addressed in the plan. In addition, Shandor will give us an update on the improvement of the Pennypack adjacent to Fox Chase Farm since the riparian buffer was widened on our "class one stream" on the Farm. (See *Riparian Buffer* article)

The Pennypack watershed drains a large portion of eastern Montgomery County including portions of Warminster, Horsham, Hatboro, Bryn Athyn, Meadowbrook & Rockledge. In Philadelphia, it impacts the heart of the northeast. It also connects to the Southampton Creek in Bucks County.

Even if you are not a frequent Park user this watershed directly affects you since it empties into the Delaware about one mile from the intake of the Phila. Water Department's Baxter Treatment Plant that supplies drinking water for the city & many suburban communities.

Painless Donations

Believe it or not, there is a way to donate money to the farm when you buy groceries, clothes and many other items. And it costs you nothing. The program is called *escrip*. By registering your credit card on line and/or your Genuardi's card at the store or on line you can funnel a percentage of your purchases to the Friends of Fox Chase Farm. Necessary information:

Website: www.escrip.com

Friends of Fox Chase Farm ID number: **150301445**

Meet the Farmer

At long last - WE HAVE A FARMER!!! Come out and meet Daryl and his family at an upcoming open house.

A Riparian Buffer on Fox Chase Farm

A riparian buffer is an area along a stream planted in trees, shrubs and grasses that helps to stop soil erosion, capture or filter out fertilizers & / or livestock manure from polluting the stream, and provide shade to improve the health of the stream.

The original buffer on Fox Chase Farm was installed by the Friends of Fox Chase Farm in 1996 with the help of the Friends of Pennypack Park. Unfortunately, due to the farmer's concerns about losing pasture space for animal grazing the original buffer was too narrow to do much good.

When the Fairmount Park Commission obtained a grant from the William Penn Foundation, they were able to evaluate many areas of the park system to determine what needed improvement. A wider buffer for this important class one stream was identified as a priority. With the cooperation of David Kipphut, Principal of Abraham Lincoln High School, we were able to arrange for the Phila. Water Dept. (PWD) to test the water in the stream on the farm, where it empties into the Pennypack, & upstream & down stream of the outflow. Based on these preliminary results PWD agreed to help with widening the buffer & planting native plants. With the expertise of the staff of the Natural Lands Restoration & Environmental Education Program (NLREEP) within the Fairmount Park Commission, sources of native plant material were identified for purchase. PWD generously footed the bill for all the plant material & helped plant it with a group of dedicated volunteers recruited by NLREEP. In May of 2002 about 400 trees & 735 shrubs were planted to create a 45' buffer on the sides of the stream. This is an area of approximately 1.85 acres.

Although riparian buffers take several years to reach maturity & significantly improve stream quality, preliminary results on the 2year old project are encouraging. This month's speaker will share some of the encouraging signs with us.

Plant Sale Results

The annual plant sale was held on May 8th. FFCF made about \$750.

Sheep Shearing Results

The sheep shearing festival on April 17th was a great success. About 1300 people attended. FFCF ran the food concession and made about \$700.

A Goodie for the Volunteers

A grant has made lawn seats to the Philadelphia orchestra available to the volunteers of not-for-profit organizations. If you have volunteered at the farm over the last couple years and are interested in tickets, send a self addressed stamped envelop to: Friends of Fox Chase Farm, PO Box 24756, Phila, PA 19111, Attn: Karen. The number of tickets is limited so please include first, second, and third choices. Include a phone number and or e-mail address in case there is a question. Concerts are June 24 to July 29 during the week. They are for the orchestra - not for any other events. Up to 4 tickets per volunteer.

For information on concert dates and programs go to www.manncenter.org (the Philadelphia Orchestra 12 concert series). The Inquirer will also have a schedule at some point.



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P.O. Box 24756

Philadelphia, PA 19111

Upcoming Events:

General meeting - May 27

(see article regarding speaker)

Open houses - 10AM til noon

June 12

July 10

August 14

September 11

October 9

Member Picnic - July 22

General election - September 23

At General Meeting - call FFCF phone if you are interested in running for office.

