

Friends of Schuylkill River Park



Winter 2010

www.fsrp.org

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Announcements

December 11th, 11am: Arts exhibition for kids in the BoConcept Arts Program—at the BoConcept Showroom (1719 Chestnut)

January 2011: Kids clay hand building classes begins at Markward

January 2011: Kids painting classes begin at Markward

June 4, 2011, 7pm: Eat, Drink, and be Green Cocktail Party Fund-raiser

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2010 Fall Festival - "Best One Ever!"

Overheard at the Fall Festival "...Best One Ever!" That was borne out by the number of food, drink, and activity tickets sold. The record breaking crowd flocked from the neighborhood and beyond to the annual fete on a sunny - and windy - Saturday, October 16.

Kids lined up for perennial favorites -- bouncing in the Super Moon Bounce, decorating pumpkins, playing games for prizes, decorating cupcakes, face painting -- and a festival first, 4-H Club donkey cart rides and petting zoo.

Signature DJs, Inc. returned this year for an encore, with music and fun contests -- interspersed with an unprecedented lineup of performances and demonstrations to delight festival goers! Students of MacGuffin Theatre & Film Company, a Philadelphia-based arts education program for kids, entertained with their harmonies and choreography to a selection of show tune favorites; Martial Posture Arts Karate School wowed the crowd with precision moves to rhythmic tunes; Kid Relentless invited the toddlers among us to tumble on the mats; and in keeping with the season, thephillydog.com hosted a dog costume parade.

Vendors, some returning for the third year in a row, lined the bustling walkway with an eclectic mix of art, crafts, dog and pet supplies, hand-made clothing and jewelry, plants, and more.

The food court featured the usual fun fare from FSRP including drinks, hot dogs, hamburgers, hummus, popcorn, cotton candy, and home-baked goods -- all thanks to the generosity of major donors: Catering by Miles, Dmitri's, Marathon Grill, New Leaf Iced Tea, Pepsico, South Square Market, Tall Pines, and Vita Coco. Gavin's Café also donated a portion of food sales.

The fabulous and enticing silent auction included works from more local artists than ever! And the number of businesses donating silent auction AND raffle prizes **surpassed last year's record.**

While the Fall Festival is a fundraising event - net proceeds this year approached \$6,000 -- it is also a celebration of our community. And it would not be possible without the vendors, raffle and silent auction donors, festival underwriting donors, entertainment donors, FSRP Board members, the patience and support of the Markward Recreation Center Staff, and last but not least, the volunteers who give generously of their time. All are essential to the success of the Fall Festival -- which has become a neighborhood tradition!

If you're interested in donating a raffle or silent auction item, being a vendor, or volunteering for the 2011 Fall Festival, please email us at fsrporg@gmail.com or visit our website www.fsrp.org.



The Friends of Schuylkill River Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The official registration and financial information of The Friends of Schuylkill River Park may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Pedestrian Bridge Progress

What with the momentous South Street Bridge opening this fall, returning vehicle traffic onto South Street and providing a great connection to West Philly, we can be forgiven for forgetting about our pedestrian bridge over the CSX railroad tracks. But don't imagine that this has disappeared, it is still coming! The new schedule from the Schuylkill River Development Corporation is for the project to be advertised for bids in February, 2011. Next the bids will be de-

livered, contracts negotiated, and a Notice To Proceed will most likely be given in April. Construction could take at least a year, depending on the weather, which means it could be opened in the spring, 2012. (But don't be surprised if this schedule should slip even more as the time approaches.) The only bright spot is that the playing field will probably be open by the time the fences go up for the staging area in the 'bowl' that will serve the bridge work.

Community Design Collaborative Grant Update

The Community Design Collaborative (CDC) grant to the FSRP of a design team to develop a design suggesting improvements to the area around Markward Recreation Center is in full swing. Remember, FSRP identified this area as one deserving of improvement. We want to repair, refurbish, and enhance the three areas around the Markward building: the sidewalk/seating area out at the street intersection of Taney and Pine, the steps/ramp and portico that lead to the playground, and finally the water sculpture plaza and seating area near the tennis courts. The first meeting that brought all the stakeholders together to articulate everyone's concerns and ideas was a great success. The design team returned this month and presented to the

group their design ideas generated from the input of the first meeting. It was an eye opening discussion and a wonderful presentation of the possibilities. The design was a strong one that tried to address all the critical points. Stakeholders asked a lot of questions and offered strong suggestions and encouragement. The drawings were not ready for publication as of this newsletter but stay tuned. As soon as we receive them we will post the drawings on our website and you will see them in the next newsletter.

What's the next step? FSRP wants to raise money to get the work done. This will mean searching for applicable grants, corporate monies and private donations.



Representative Babette Josephs at the FSRP Fall Festival

*BoConcept Arts
Program*

Clay Handbuilding
Winter 2010 - 2011

Saturdays

10:30-12:00

Markward Playground

Children ages 8 years and older (max. 12). Starts in January—dates forthcoming.

The Clay Class returns for Winter 2010—2011 and will focus on a variety of projects using basic hand building techniques of pinching, coiling and slab building to make functional and decorative items. The projects will include platters, bowls, vases, mobiles, and so on inspired by autumn motifs and holidays.

To sign up contact the Markward Recreation Center, 215-685-6649. There is a small registration fee.



*BoConcept Arts
Program
Painting
Winter 2010 - 2011*

Saturdays
12:30-2:00
Markward Playground

Children 1st through 4th grade (max. 12). Jan 15, 22, 29, Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19

Faculty from the Fairmount Art Center will again teach an arts program for kids.

**This session's theme:
Artist's in Time**

Who made great art? What inspired great art? Is it art? Come explore these questions, while making your own art in the process! This new and exciting class hosted by the faculty of the Fairmount Art Center, will begin with the work from ancient times and end with contemporary art. In between, each class will introduce new artists and artistic style while unfolding a fabric of arts learning in context! The class will explore a range of media including painting, sculpture, printmaking, and book arts; let's get creative!

To sign up contact the Markward Recreation Center, 215-685-6649. There is a small registration fee.

Recipe for a Fantastic Tree Planting Day

Twenty-two volunteers, fourteen cubic feet of mulch, fifteen bare root trees, thirty stakes and ties, numerous spade shovels, three pick axes, one stake pounder, one sledge hammer, one pick-up truck, one host and hostess and one logistics manager combined with enthusiasm, strong and tireless work ethics and a beautiful day contributed to a fantastic first FSRP Tree Tenders tree planting on Saturday, November 20th.

A huge thank you goes out to Bicycle Therapy for loaning their truck to pick-up the trees and mulch; Deborah Leibel and Fred Goodman for being super hostess and host by providing coffee, hot cider, and yummy baked goods for the volunteers and water for the trees; John Studdy from Bartlett Tree Experts and Bernadette Moyer from Keystone Gardens, a tree and a landscape expert respectively, provided excellent leadership and tree planting demos.

Give a whooping holler to all the tree planting volunteers: John Kelly, Joan Wells, Rob Camcel, John Fischer, David Wenger, April McKernan, David Odell, Andy Kahan, Christopher Sheridan, Julie Daniel, Amy Riley, Baylor Harton, Priscilla Hillyer, Susan Mattison, Heather Jessie and Sara Gunderson.

You can find fruits of the labor which include trees all around O'Connor Pool (Taney /South /26th Streets), at the NE corner of 20th and Lombard and in front of Radbill Animal Hospital.

There will be approximately 15 trees being planted in the spring (date TBD). If you are interested in getting involved, email fsrptreetenders@phillyparks.org

Additionally, street tree applications are being taken for the next planting cycle. Information can be found at <http://www.fsrp.org/treetenders>

All of these trees are part of a bigger picture: 1,000 trees were planted by Tree Tenders Philadelphia this fall. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the region's leading organization for community greening, will launch TreeVitalize One Million in spring 2011, a three-state campaign to improve the environment and economy by increasing the tree canopy by a million trees.

These plantings improve air quality, reduce heat-island effect, manage storm runoff to reduce flooding and water pollution, increase property values, and lift up the quality of life in neighborhoods. Philadelphia and the region are greener and **healthier as a result of your efforts!**

Free Street Trees

Would you like a free tree in front of a property you own - a home or business? The Friends of Schuylkill River Park *Tree Tenders* covers the area bordered by the Schuylkill River and Broad between Walnut and South. We work with TreeVitalize to plant trees for free, including cement cutting, within our bounds. Support from CCRA allows us to also grind stumps for free. For more information and to download an application, visit: www.fsrp.org/treetenders

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FALL FESTIVAL 2010

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Martial Posture Karate School
Kid Relentless
thephillydog.com

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Woven Treasures

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Melograno
Nook Bakery
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
Philadelphia Zoo
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Pooches Choice
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Resurrection
Rittenhouse Hardware
Rittenhouse Women's Wellness
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Seafood Unlimited
Sidecar
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Food, Drinks, Prizes, and Supplies

Blick Art Materials
Boutique Fancy Fluff
Catering by Miles
Dmitri's
Gavin's Café
Lora Hemphill
Marathon Grill
New Leaf Iced Tea
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Pepsico
South Square Market
Tall Pines
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