

The Froghorn

This Newsletter is published quarterly by the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center for the Silver Lake Nature Center, a facility of the Bucks County Parks and Recreation Department.

CONTACT US

Silver Lake Nature Center
1306 Bath Road
Bristol, Pa 19007
215 785-1177

SilverLakeNatureCenter@buckscounty.org
www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org

NATURE CENTER HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm
Every Other Sunday, 12 pm - 5pm
Closed Monday

Trails are open daily from Sunrise to Sunset

STAFF

Lorraine Skala, Interim Director/Naturalist

PattiAnn Cutter, PR-Marketing Manager/
Environmental Educator

Jennifer Bilger, Environmental Educator/
Summer Camp Director

Arden Williams, Volunteer Coordinator/
Administrative Assistant

Danielle Morrisey, Office Manager

Stan Glowacki, Intern

The Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation does not discriminate on the basis of disabilities in its programs, activities, and facilities.



Our Mission:

The Silver Lake Nature Center inspires connections with nature for people of all ages, interests, and abilities through education, recreation, preservation, research, and advocacy.

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Memberships

Individual \$25
Household \$35

Check here for \$10 Senior discount

Special Memberships
(provides funds for additional programs)

Grey Fox \$ 50 - \$99
Red Fox \$ 100 - \$249
Willow Oak \$ 250 - \$499
Pin Oak \$ 500 - \$999
Legacy Investor \$ 1000



Please Print

Name:

Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Application for Membership

Gift New Renewal

First Last

house number/street name Apt.

All contributions and dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law - IRS code section 501 (c)(3).
Checks should be made payable to: FOSL (Friends of Silver Lake)
1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA 19007
phone: 215 785-1177 fax: 215 785-3228 website: www.silverlakenaturecenter.org

"A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement."

The Backyard Naturalist by Lorraine Skala

Food – a common denominator! Whether you're a vegetarian, lacto-vegetarian, vegan, omnivore, or something in between, we all need food! And unless you wild forage your meals, you probably rely on a farmer to provide at least some of it for you. Who's *your* farmer?

Farming has changed over time. As recent as a hundred years ago, producing food was accomplished through the labor of humans and farm animals, such as horses. It took a calorie of energy to produce a calorie of energy. No free lunch there! Today it takes ten times that much energy to produce a calorie. Not only is lunch not free but it's gotten more expensive. So where is this energy coming from, and what is it being used for? Fossil fuels provide most of the energy today for fertilizers, pesticides and machinery on factory farms. 'Factory farms' is not being used here as a derogatory term; modern big farms have given themselves that label. This is how the business of growing food is conducted today and we pay a price. The price is the impact of the extraction industry (oil and gas) that keeps the factories going. By-products of the extraction industry impact our air, water and soil.

That's not the only price. Penn State University – PA's agricultural school – conducted a study many years ago that demonstrated how produce is losing its nutritional value when compared to food grown using traditional organic methods. There is also the price of transportation to deliver food to the stores. And of course, we cannot forget the price in health of animals kept in close quarters – avian flu spread through Iowa and Indiana farms raising the price of eggs. Over 40 million chickens in Iowa alone had to be destroyed. None of this is new news.

Why am I going on about this? Because we have a local solution to this problem right here in our backyards. We are fortunate to host Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) here at the Nature Center. Sandy Guzikowski sources from her own and other local farms to create Endless Bounty Dynamic CSA. Join this CSA and you will support local farms, reduce fossil fuel use, promote a more humane treatment of chickens and oh yes, eat the most delicious, nutritious food. Get to know your farmer!

Bird Seed Sale

Available varieties:	Audubon Mix*	Sunflower chips
	Conservation Mix	Sunflower seed
	Peanut hearts	Thistle
	Suet	

Order by March 25th 2016

Pick up on April 2nd 2016

**Formerly
Silver Lake Mix*

Place orders by Phone, online or in person

www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org or 215 785 1177

2015 Century Club

Volunteers who put in over 100 hours of volunteer service last year!

Kaitlyn Berkelbach	Lois Glasscock	Hope Sauppe
Michael Boehi	Susan Grayeski	Donna Scalzo
Nick Boehi	Aubrey Hunt	James Sell
Samantha Brooks	Clarence King	Marty Shively
David Chalfant	John McGrath	Buck Sleuman
Pat Coleman	Aidan Meister	Jeanne Stemmer
Charlotte Doan	Patricia Merkel	Eileen Swank
David Fletcher	Bonnie O'Boyle	Jessica Tokarczyk
Anthony Garwood	Robert Pearson	Arden Williams
	Cissi Quattrocchi	Adam Ziegler
	Janice Rhodes	

Honorable mention to Bob Mercer and Carolyn Girgenti, former staff members who also volunteered many hours in 2015

Friends of Silver Lake NatureCenter Board of Directors

Donna Scalzo- *President*
Cissi Quattrocchi- *Vice President*
Scott Brown- *Secretary*
Pat Coleman- *Treasurer*
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Robert Casselberry
Jackie Garber,
Theresa Giardine
Dave Gibbon
Bruce Harris
Ron McGuckin
Hope Sauppe
James Sell
Tyler Yankey

Bucks County Commissioners

Robert G. Lougherty- *Chairman*
Charles H. Martin- *Vice-Chairman*
Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia- *LCSW*

Bucks County Department of Parks & Recreation

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Executive Director

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Todd Kowalski- *Vice Chairman*
William Wert- *Secretary*
Nelson E. Clements
Andrea Coaxum,
Penrose Hallowell
Charles Raudenbush, Jr.
Ed Zielanski
Lowell Musselman

Volunteer of the Quarter

Bob Pearson

Bob Pearson started volunteering here at Silver Lake Nature Center in 2012. Since then he has put in nearly 400 hours! Bob is readily available when a tree is down across our trails; he creates and maintains our meadow trail during summer months; and he is here for volunteer work days and special water cleanups. Bob is always willing to help out in any way he can to maintain our preserve!

Thank you Bob for ALL you do!

Water Monitoring: A Community Project

Water monitoring is a project that Silver Lake Nature Center has been involved in for 4 years now, through a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection funded by Coastal Resources Management. The project seeks to promote stewardship of the local waterways from community members who look out for pollution events within the watershed.

Volunteer water monitors record conditions and observe changes throughout the watershed over time. They locate and record the location of pipes, culverts, and other potential sources of concern.

Silver Lake Nature Center and Preserve is located in a Coastal Plain area and will soon celebrate its 50th year of being in existence. Water is an essential part of survival for the many rare species that are found within the boundaries of the preserve. Starting with the flora that bloom in the meadows and forests to the creatures that inhabit the marshes, swamps and ponds, water quality is of utmost importance.

Our volunteer water monitors are citizens who understand the need to know what's going on in our local waterways. They have detected and remedied a water main break, a sewage leak, oil leaks, and fish kill due to improper water releases. These detections have all contributed to improved water quality for people and wildlife.

Other water monitoring partners have been the PA Fish and Boat Commission, Delaware River Keepers, and the Department of Environmental Protection. The Center is always looking for additional monitors. Free training is provided for individuals who would like to donate time once a week or once a month to be a Visual Monitor or a Water Monitor. Visual monitors use an assessment sheet to record what they see at a site. Water monitors take samples of the water at specific sites and test it using calibrated instruments.

If you are interested in becoming a monitor, please contact Arden Williams at 267-880-5020 or awilliams@buckscounty.org.



New Faces

You may have noticed some new faces around the Nature Center in the last few months— we'd like to take a moment and introduce them to you!

Arden Williams, *Volunteer Coordinator / Administrative Assistant*

Arden graduated from Harry S Truman High School in 1990 and continued her education as a student athlete at Syracuse University where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Child and Family Studies. What she loves about SLNC: "I love that Silver Lake Nature Center is part of the County Park System because it affords families the opportunity to spend quality time together while connecting with nature at a minimal cost. This nature preserve is one the most interesting places in Lower Bucks County for inquiring minds."

Stan Glowacki, *Intern*

Hi I'm Stan Glowacki, and I'm an intern here at Silver Lake Nature Center! I recently graduated from Delaware Valley University in December, where I majored in wildlife conservation. At Silver Lake I assist with the water monitoring program by testing water samples and recording the data. I love working here because I am fascinated by how ecosystems work, and a nature center is one of the best places to observe the world around us. Hopefully I will spot the mink one of these days!

Danielle Morrisey, *Office Manager*

Danielle attended the Bucks County Technical School, graduating from the Horticulture Program in 1994. She recently celebrated 15 years of marriage and has spent the last 8 years tending her own family garden, as the mother of two young boys. Watching them learn and grow has been an education all its own, and helped crystalize her desire to excite and feed the curiosity of others.

Danielle is very excited to be a part of all the wonderful things going on here at the Silver Lake Nature Center. Her role as the Office Manager gives her the opportunity to help support the staff as they strive to uphold the mission of SLNC - that is to inspire connections with nature for people of all ages, interests, and abilities through education, recreation, preservation, research, and advocacy.

Business Partners

Friends of Silver Lake Business Partners and Donors

November 2015—February 2016

Thank you for your generous support!

Business Partners

Diamond Partner \$5000+

The Dow Chemical Company
County of Bucks
Fairless Energy, LLC
PA Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources (DCNR)

Platinum Partner \$3000+

Comcast Foundation

Silver Partner \$1000+

Lower Bucks Hospital
Crown Holdings, Inc.
Bristol Gardens Apartments

Patron \$250+

R&S General Contractors
Cesare's Ristorante
Begley, Carlin & Mandio
Heritage Conservancy

Friend \$100+

Lucisano Bros., Inc.
King George II Inn
Mazzanti's Market
Mountain Laurel Spirits
Harry's Painting & Carpentry
D. DeMarchis & Sons, Inc.
Bayard Pump & Tank Co. Inc.
Barnett Builders, Inc.
Borough Pub
Bucks County Bank

New Members

Pat Buchanan
Nina Budzichowski
Joe Connett
Danielle Morrisey

Patricia Gallagher
Henry Gerstle
Cathy Shull

Featured Programs

Naturalist Skills Trips

For adults who wish to further their natural history knowledge in a fun and hands-on learning environment! Meet at the Nature Center, dress for the weather, bring water and lunch!

\$30 members/\$40 non-members, **pre-registration required** 215.785.1177 or SilverLakeNatureCenter@buckscounty.org.

Geology of Bucks County with Phil Getty Saturday, 3/26 - 10am to 4pm

Geologist Phil Getty will take participants on a geologic tour of Bucks County. The tour will cover many aspects of geology beyond looking at rocks, such as how the bedrock in an area affects streams, topography, soils, biology and our history.

Herpetology of Bucks County with Kyle Loucks Saturday, 4/23 -10am to 2pm

Kyle Loucks will take participants on an exploration of the reptiles and amphibians of Bucks County.

Plants of Bucks County with Pat Coleman Saturday, 4/30 - 10am to 2pm

Spring blooms too good to miss! Join us on a ramble through the trails of the Silver Lake Nature Center searching out and identifying spring growth at all levels of the forest. We will visit Delhaas Woods as well as trails closer to the Nature Center. Muck boots and binoculars are strongly suggested

Insects of Bucks County with Mary Anne Borge & co-led by Pat Coleman. Saturday, 8/13 -10am to 2pm

We'll visit several different habitats, from forest to meadow to wetland, to hunt for insect species in each. By observing them, we'll learn about the role of insects in these different communities. Wear sturdy comfortable walking shoes, bring a camera and binoculars .

Calling all Volunteers! Events - Opportunities - News

Upcoming Volunteer Events:

For more details please see the 2016 Spring Program or [www.SilverLake Nature Center.org](http://www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org)

Volunteer Recognition and Annual Meeting- Saturday, 3/19 from 10 am to 12 pm (RSVP by 3/12)
Earthship Potluck- Saturday, 4/2/16
Birdseed Sale- Saturday 4/2/16 (Last day order is Friday March 25th)
Earth Day Work Day- Saturday, 4/16 from 9 am to 2 pm
Volunteer Work Days- Saturdays 5/7, 6/4 and 7/9 from 9 am to 2 pm (No Work Day Saturday 4/2, or 7/2)
Migratory Bird Count- Saturday 5/14 from 5:30 am to 6:30pm
Flea Market & Craft Fair- Saturday 6/18 from 8 am to 2 pm
Butterfly Count- Saturday 7/9 from 10am until 4pm

Volunteer Opportunities:

Greeters- the first face of the Center; greeting visitors, answering phones, and running the cash register
Naturalist Aides- adults who want to help us teach environmental education programs
Trail Maintenance Crew- adults willing to regularly maintain certain parts of the preserve
CIT's (Counselors-In-Training)- high school or college students willing to volunteer as counselors at our summer camp
Summer Camp Guest Naturalists Wanted
We are looking for people with a special skill, talent, or knowledge base who are willing to volunteer to lead mini-programs for our summer camps

News:

Coordinator of Volunteers Update

After 8 years as Coordinator of Volunteers, Jenn Bilger is excited to announce that Arden Williams will be named as the new Coordinator of Volunteers at the March 19th Volunteer Recognition and Annual Meeting. Jenn says "... I will still be here at Silver Lake, but I will be shifting my focus to adult education, the intern program, and grants as well as continuing to be Summer Camp Director. Volunteers, you are in good hands with Arden!"

Volunteer Recognition and Annual Meeting Report

In 2015, 270 volunteers put in 13,076.81 hours of volunteer service, worth an estimated \$126,000.00!

Thank you! It's so simple to say, yet it doesn't fully express the gratitude felt when we think about your contributions to the Center...

Roscoe the Raccoon would like to express his sincere gratitude to everyone who chose ornaments from The Giving Tree in order to donate program supplies and materials, or gift cards to the Center.

We would like to thank the following people for their recent generosity in December 2015 and January 2016:

Margaret McGinnis for a ream of copy paper for a Giving Tree Gift and refreshments donated for the Winter Solstice Event

Hope & Kevin Sauppe for gift cards from: Sam's Club, Giant, Durham Deli, and Joe's Pizza.

Diana Bullard for Giving Tree Gifts: Gift cards for a Flower shop, Walmart, a set of Little Red Riding Hood hand puppets and a set of 4 professional career puppets.

Patty & Pat Cutter for donating snacks for the Kids & Nature Days program.

Marie Wojcik for donating Giving Tree Gifts of Two supplies of Glue Dots

Nancy Bartle for always bringing in her own treats for the animals.

Sue Grayeski for enhancing the animal enclosures with her donations.

Len Jankowski for donating homemade soup.

Hope Sauppe for bringing in yummy food for every volunteer work day.

Spring Programs and Activities

Birding Trips

For more details please see the 2016 Spring Program or www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org

\$15/ Members; \$19/ Non-members. **Pre registration required**
215-785-1177 or SilverLakeNaturCenter@buckscounty.org

John Heinz Wildlife Refuge & Bartram's Garden

Saturday, 4/23, 7:30am – 4pm

Led by Steve Boyle

Located in South Philadelphia.

We will begin the day at the refuge and will stop at about 11:30 for a break for lunch there.

Please bring food and beverages.

After lunch we will continue to Bartram's Gardens which is a 15 minute drive from John Heinz.

Registration/payment due by April 16.

Birding Cape May (including Stipson's Island)

Saturday, 5/21 6:30am-5pm

Led by Linda Rowan & Mick Jeitner

Join us as we head to where the birds are– Cape May! By all accounts, Cape May is the destination for migrating birds. There are upland forests, forested wetlands, salt marshes, beaches, maritime forests and grasslands. Combined with the wind and geography and you have a great place for spotting migrating hawks, seabirds, shorebirds, songbirds.

Registration/payment due by May 14.

Birding Bull's Island & DE Canal State Park

Saturday, 6/11 7:30am – 4pm

Led by Hope & Kevin Sauppe

We will take a scenic ride along the Delaware River to Bull's Island and search for migratory birds including Warblers, Thrushes, and Vireos.

We'll explore areas within the Delaware Canal State Park where Cuckoos, Pileated Woodpeckers, and various Raptors including Bald Eagles may be seen. Moderate amount of walking but on easier trails. Pack a picnic lunch.

Registration/payment due by June 4th.

Scouting Programs & Opportunities

We offer many Girl and Boy Scout programs, including Flag Retirement Ceremonies, Badges, Journeys, Service/Volunteer Projects, and more!

Night-time programs, such as Night Hikes and Sleepovers, are available and include an indoor presentation focusing on nocturnal life, a walk on the trails (without flashlights), a campfire and marshmallow roast, storytelling, and a sing-a-long. We can work with you to suit the needs of your group with such options as fire building, fire safety, skits, and awards.

Contact PattiAnn 267-880-5022 or palynn@buckscounty.org

Fun for Preschoolers

Preschool groups welcome! Come enjoy our fun, educational programs. Topics include Ponds & Puddles; Bugs & Beasties; Winter Wonders; Hibernation Happens and many more.

These programs are designed to educate children and increase awareness of our natural world. They can be conducted at our location or at your local Preschool.

For more information on our Early Childhood Education programs and/or to schedule a program, please contact PattiAnn Cutter at palynn@buckscounty.org or 267-880-5022 www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org

Celebrate at Silver Lake!!

The Nature Center offers child and grown-up birthday parties, bridal/baby showers, anniversaries, meetings and other special events. We can host nature themed Day-time Parties, Night Hikes and Campfires.

We'll work with you to find the right program for your event. Fees vary according to program.

Contact PattiAnn Cutter at 267-880-5022 , palynn@buckscounty.org or www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org

Kids & Nature Days

Thursday, March 24th & Friday, March 25th

9am to 4pm

Registration and payment are due by March 17th.

Fee per day per child: \$35 member; \$40 non-member.

Ages 6 to 12 Join us as we explore the trails, play games, do crafts, and visit with our animals! Activities take place outdoors and indoors: please dress for the weather. Light snack provided, Please bring a lunch.

Contact PattiAnn palynn@buckscounty.org

215-785-1177 www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org



Silver Lake Nature Center
1306 Bath Road Bristol, Pa 19007

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Address service requested.

On The Horizon



Silver Lake Nature Center is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year
Look for special 50th anniversary events and opportunities throughout the year to show your support and share your favorite things about the Nature Center!

On April 30, 2016, we will kick off our anniversary season with the popular Fine Spirits and Fare on the Delaware event:

Fine Spirits and Fare on the Delaware

Saturday, April 30, 2016 5 - 7 pm
Enjoy a wonderful evening on the Delaware!

Join us for an evening of fine wine and food Pairings and craft beers at the beautiful home of Cissi and Louis Quattrocchi, 800 Radcliffe Street in the historic town of Bristol Borough.

Tickets: \$55 per person, \$100 per couple

For more information please contact
Silver Lake Nature Center, 215 785 1177

All proceeds benefit the Silver Lake Nature Center.

Coming in May 2016...

Intro to Kayaking

Saturdays from 9 to 11am-

May 21st, June 25th, July 16th,
August 20th, & September 10th

Please visit www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org
for details and payment/registration info

Stay tuned for Full Moon Kayaking!
Dates coming soon...