



Fall 2013

# THE FROGHORN

~ SILVER LAKE NATURE CENTER ~

## Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center Mission Statement

*The Silver Lake Nature Center creates opportunities for the natural habitats of Silver Lake to inspire students of all ages and abilities with the wonder and beauty of this living treasure. Through education, recreation, research and advocacy, we attract new friends to Silver Lake and its watershed, and together preserve this priceless heritage for generations to come.*

## Project Update

The Silver Lake Nature Center has many very exciting projects moving forward simultaneously! The best news to the Bucks County taxpayer is that grants are paying for all of the costs. Grants do not miraculously appear; they require preparation and hard work. One of the ways we can be so successful is that we can show how much the community supports the Nature Center through our program participants, members, donors, and volunteers — YOU.

The Watershed Education Building, also known as the “Earthship”, is on its way to becoming a reality. To stay within the ship metaphor, the winter weather had it dead in the water for a couple months, but now it is steaming ahead. One of the challenges has been securing the skilled volunteers to do all the work as there is no paid labor being used to build this unique structure. As I write this, the roof has been installed and the windows are being ordered to enclose the building. Change will happen fast! Come see how we are advancing during our Nature Fest on October 12, 2013!

Another grant provided funds for the replacement of the exhibits within the Nature Center building. Initially installed in 1993, the exhibits, while still attractive, need to be updated. When we asked the community what they wanted, the resounding response indicated a more open, friendly place where visitors will want to hang around and get involved. The design firm, Content Design Collaborative, has completed the concept plan for the new exhibit space, and it is exciting. It shrinks our retail space and opens up three new large windows so visitors can gaze outside, enticing them to walk our 4.5 miles of trails. The design includes new plans for the few animals we keep to display and a number of interactive features. The drawings are done, and the project went out to bid in September.

A third project, one that visitors will not see but certainly can feel, is the replacement of our heating and air conditioning system. The old heat pumps installed in 1991 need to be replaced with highly efficient units before they die.

A small change which will not be obvious to anyone other than staff will be a new membership database, one that was professionally designed and will offer more resources for staff to use in maintaining membership, donor, volunteer and program participant records.

Within the next year, all of these projects will be completed and visitors will be encouraged to come and see the wonderful improvements. Until that time, the building is open and the trails are open every day from sunrise to sunset. Learn more by visiting our website [www.silverlakenaturecenter.org](http://www.silverlakenaturecenter.org) or join the 1,200+ people who liked our facebook page.

Visit us on the Web!  
[www.silverlakenaturecenter.org](http://www.silverlakenaturecenter.org)

***Our building, trails, observation platform — and, soon, the Earthship — are handicapped-accessible. Come see for yourself!***

## FOSL Staff and Board Members

The **FROGHORN**  
is published quarterly  
for the Silver Lake Nature Center,  
a facility of the Bucks County  
Department of Parks & Recreation,  
by the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center.

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Lorraine Skala..... Assistant Naturalist  
Carolyn Girgenti.... Administrative Assistant  
Jennifer Bilger..... Volunteer Coordinator/  
Camp Director  
PattiAnn Lynn..... Environmental Educator/  
PR-Marketing Coordinator  
Peg Mongillo..... Bookkeeper



**Silver Lake Nature Center**  
1306 Bath Road  
Bristol, Pa 19007  
215 785-1177  
fax: 215 785-3228  
[www.silverlakenaturecenter.org](http://www.silverlakenaturecenter.org)  
Open: Tuesday - Saturday  
10 am - 5 pm  
Sunday, 12 noon - 5 pm  
Closed Monday

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

## Special People

### **Rae Hemingway** 1950 - 2012

We are saddened by the loss of Rae Hemingway on June 18, 2013, a loyal and longtime volunteer. Rae has been helping us for years with traveling displays, the White Elephant table at our Flea Markets, and seasonal displays. She taught craft classes, and did whatever needed to be done.

Rae happily collected articles from local newspapers to put in our archives. She prepared crafts and activities to hand out to kids at local events, organized our files, and got her employer to support our events. She made sure the Christmas tree was up and decorated, encouraged us to have a Giving Tree, and was always spreading the word about Silver Lake Nature Center.

Rae was a good friend and we miss her loyalty, tenacity, and generosity.

### **Thank you, and Good Luck!**

**Gailen Davis** My internship at Silver Lake involved many tasks that I honestly didn't expect to complete, from designing posters for the Earthship to sorting through books to old fashioned yard work. By far my favorite and most tiring task was helping out with Summer Camp. I learned so much about the crazy critters the campers were so skilled at finding, as well as how to command attention of over forty campers at one time. Along the way, I was able to do things I never thought I would do, such as walk thigh high in a marsh! This summer definitely propelled my education for the environment and sustainable living. I will continue this education at Rutgers University, double majoring in Environmental Policy, Institutions, and Behavior and History.

**Stephanie Sinkiwiecz** My first summer at Silver Lake Nature Center has brought many new and fun experiences! I have explored the "shallow" side of the marsh, learned most of the trails, recited a poison ivy rhyme at each three-leafed/hairy-vined plant, and flipped many rocks in the waterfall exploration. I enjoyed our midweek story learning; it gave me an opportunity to bring a little bit of my school fun to camp! Each story was read during snack, followed by an exciting art activity. I also loved researching various insects that were discovered during the day, so that I could report back to the camp with my findings! I look forward to bringing my newly invigorated love for the environment back to my classroom. In September, I will begin my seventh year teaching Pre-K at Kids R First Preschool in Trenton, NJ. I will be back during the year to visit and navigate the trails!



It's a boy!

**Ryan David Bilger**

Born: 4 am on August 15, 2013  
Weight: 7 lbs. 2 oz.

Our Summer Camp director, Jenn, led seven weeks and three days of our eight-week Camp, then went home and had a baby!

He is beautiful!

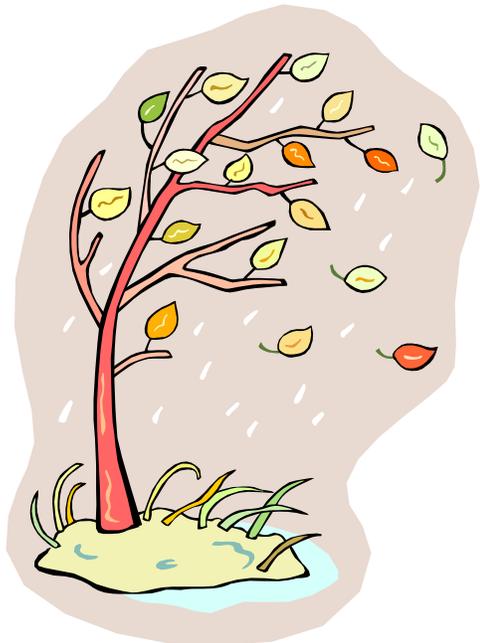
Congratulations, Jenn and David!

# Mercer's Musings

## The Only Constant—Change

by Robert Mercer

Now into my 39<sup>th</sup> year at the Nature Center, change is all I see. I have changed from a spirited, naïve, kid to a mature man. I have watched the trees grow, the habitats evolve, and the job grow more challenging. One of the things that makes it easy for me to accept all of this is being one who studies nature. Each day is different. Each season is different. Each year is different. Every day brings something new and interesting. Let me give you some examples:



- One day and only on one day, the kids in the nature camps noticed several moths hanging around the picnic pavilion. We took some pictures and looked them up and we had two Io Moths and a beautiful Clymene Moth—two species I had not seen or keyed out here before.
- The next day, the insects were gone and have not been seen since. The Hickory Horned Devil caterpillar they found grew larger and then disappeared, presumably to pupate somewhere.
- Suckers, tiny new branches that pop out of the trunk of a tree, cover the trees that were blown down by Hurricane Sandy, each tree struggling to survive. Meanwhile the sunlight penetrating to the forest floor stimulated a myriad of seeds to sprout, and the normally brown floor clusters in green.
- The crustose lichens, once a rare sighting, now festoon most trees at the Center indicating a healthier air quality!
- The pine trees planted by Don West as little tiny saplings tower over the trail.
- Many of our older trees crashed to the ground during the hurricane force winds of Sandy, wind speeds that were new to many of these trees and the last thing they experienced. This has created a haven for bark boring beetles and other insects.

Most of us resist change. Change is uncomfortable. Change can be as slow as the aging process or as fast as a car accident, but change is inevitable. I, too, resist change (read my first sentence again), but I try very hard to recognize when I am being headstrong and push myself to embrace the new world, to work hard not to keep things as they are, but to make it better or at least different. Big changes are happening at the Silver Lake Nature Center. Support our efforts to make the Nature Center even better by participating in our programs, maintaining your membership, and supporting our annual appeal. Learn more in my project update article on the front page. Stay abreast of the rapid changes by becoming a facebook friend.

### Join today!

#### Memberships

Individual \$25

Household \$35

\*Household\* includes all at same address.

Check here for \$10 Senior discount

#### Special Memberships

provide funds for additional programs

Grey Fox \$ 50 - \$99

Red Fox \$ 100 - \$249

Willow Oak \$ 250 - \$499

Pin Oak \$ 500 - \$999

Legacy Investor \$ 1000



#### Application for Membership

New  Renewal  Gift

#### Please Print

Name:

First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street name/house number \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

All contributions and dues are tax deductible as 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](http://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."*

# Business Partners

## Diamond Partner \$5000+

County of Bucks  
 The Dow Chemical Company  
 Fairless Energy, LLC  
 Foundations Community Partnership  
 National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)  
 PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR)

## Gold Partner \$1500+

Enterprise Holdings  
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 Natural Awakenings of BuxMont

## Silver Partner \$1000+

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 Bristol Township  
 Crown Holdings, Inc.  
 Exelon Power  
 Rittenhouse Foundation



## Benefactor \$500+

Construction Business Materials (CBM)  
 Metal Finishing Corporation

## Patron \$250+

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 Begley, Carlin, and Mandio  
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 Lucisano Bros.  
 Milestone Bank  
 PA Senator Robert "Tommy" Tomlinson

## Friend \$100+

Artists of Bristol	Fun Foods, LLC
Borough Pub	A Green Living Wall
Café Bombay	Jones Apparel Group
J.A. Carosi Heating & Air	King George II Inn
Carter Funeral Home	Lentzcaping, Inc.
Delaware Valley Fly Fishers	Martha Washington Garden Club
Delaware Valley Model Boat Club	Mazzanti's Market
D. DeMarchis & Sons, Inc.	Mountain Laurel Spirits
Exact Solar	P. J. Fitzpatrick, Inc.
Fidelity Savings & Loan of Bucks County	The Pines Tavern
Four Lanes End Garden Club	Representative Tina Davis
	RT Power

*Please support our Business Partners whenever you can!*



## Winners of a free FOSL Membership!

June	Jessica Petro
July	Noah Kilgore
August	Amanda Roos

## Congratulations!

Fill out a form in the lobby and drop it in the 'birdhouse.' You may win a Free, one-year Individual Membership!

*One free membership drawn for each month*

## Welcome New Members

New Members from May 1 thru July 31, 2013

Janet Adkins	Ginette Grafton	Christine Patton
Bryan & Melissa Allen	Deborah Groh	Fred Perkins
Vickie Barreira	Joshua Heebner	Tim Pierson
Elizabeth Boruch	Loretta Henry	Robert Riegen
Michael Brocius	Keith & Theresa Kemp	Adrienne Rigney
Erin Bruehl	William Kerner	Kelly Rodriguez
Tom & Fred Calkins	Patricia McKay	Katie Rubenstein
Mary Carton	Shane Marchok	Bob & Debi Schiefer
Jack Dence	Travis Marchok	Dana Sullivan
Patricia Doss	Penny Martin	Marianne Tramontana
Sharon & Jeffrey Fang	Yvonne & Pat Mazzanti	Dale Vansant
Carolyn Foley	Colleen McCullion	Lisa Vegas
Jocelena Fox	Lisa Miller	Ronald Walker
Donna Gestite	Karen Miller	Lee Weiler
John Goodgion	Janice Nixon	Howard White
Sandra Gould	Chris Ott	Anne Williams

*We hope to see you often!*

# Volunteers



**Volunteer Work Days from 9 am to 2 pm**  
November 2<sup>nd</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup>, January 4<sup>th</sup>

**Nature Fest- October 12 from 11 am to 4 pm**  
We will need pre-assigned parking lot and info table volunteers, bakers and kitchen staff for this event.

Contact us at 215 785-1177 or [silverlakenaturecenter.org](http://silverlakenaturecenter.org)

## Storekeeper

We are searching for a volunteer to work in our gift shop greeting visitors, answering phones, and running the cash register. Open shift is on Saturday afternoons.

## Animal Ambulance Crew

This crew will provide transport to wildlife rehabilitation centers for locally rescued injured or orphaned wild animals.

## Trail Maintenance

We are looking for regular volunteer(s) to help us maintain our trails.

## Adopt-an-Animal

We need people who are willing to donate funds for our educational animals. These animals include three box turtles, two aquatic turtles, two snakes, and two pond tanks full of fish, snails, clams, and crayfish. We would like to have regular donations made to contribute to their food, filters, tank maintenance, habitat improvement, and regular veterinary check-ups.

## Summer Camp 2013

This year's summer camps were a huge success with the return of full day camps and a partnership with United Way of Bucks County. Jenn Bilger and Stephanie Sinkiewicz, with the help of interns Gailen Davis and Daniel Reynolds and the SLNC staff, led the summer campers through outdoor adventures, nature exploration, experiments, games, and crafts with the help of all of our CIT's. The counselors and campers had a fun-filled summer and developed a special connection with Silver Lake and each other that will last for a lifetime.



## Volunteers of the Quarter: Summer Camp Counselors-in-Training (CIT's)

Thank you to all of our Counselors-In-Training (CIT's), who volunteered their time to help run our camp:

Jessica Tokarczyk	Mark Kogan
Ryan Neuman	Eric Diaz
Nicolas Nicoletti	Karina Knapp
Elizabeth McGoldrick	Elisabeth DeRosa
Carli Goodgion	Justin Kerner
Samantha Brooks	Aidan Meister
Madeline Bobst	Torrin Williams
Julia Price	Michelle Salmastrelli
Shannon Dixon	Maggie Strucker

We couldn't have had such a great Summer Camp without you! Thank you! We'll see you next year!

We extend a special thank you to all of our Summer Camp **Guest Naturalists** and **Guest Speakers** who volunteered their time to give our campers a great summer of specialized programs on a variety of nature-related topics:

Clarence King	Mary Ellen Noonan
Lois Glasscock	Kyle Loucks
Jeanne Bray	Gail Bracegirdle
Eileen "Cinders" Swank	Marty Shively
Margaret McGinnis	Rose Marie Strippoli
Samuel Shiels	Michael Johnson
Matthew Kicinski	Angelique Riling
Rich Bryan	Becky Obert-Thorn
Rob Hubner	Dori Schiefer
Marc & Joseph Long	Pam Hansell
Nancy Wicker	Eileen Mercer
Shara	Avery Martin
Karen Flanigan	Linda Reboh

# Fun Activities for All

## Come Celebrate at Silver Lake!

We offer a variety of options for children of all ages, as well as grownup birthday parties, bridal showers, baby showers, anniversaries, special events, and meetings.

Our regular two-hour party includes: one theme-related party craft; nature walk; and use of building, auditorium or pavilion, kitchen, restrooms, tables, and chairs. There will be indoor activities in case of inclement weather.

Fee per child for a regular two-hour birthday party:

\$9 member

\$12 non-member

Fee includes one free adult per child.

Minimum # of participants: 10

(Choose from themes like, Bugs & Beasts, Tracks & Scat, Insect Inspection, Dinosaurs & Cousins, or your favorite animal!)

Some options include night hikes, campfires, and kayak trips. We'll work with you to find the right program for your event.

Fees vary according to program.

For details, visit [www.silverlakenaturecenter.org](http://www.silverlakenaturecenter.org) contact PattiAnn at 215-785-1177 ext. 12 or

## Calling All Scouts!!



Silver Lake Nature Center offers a variety of Girl Scout and Boy Scout programs!

We cover all kinds of Scout programs including Flag Retirement Ceremonies, Badges, Journeys, Service and Volunteer Projects, and more!

Scouts can also enjoy evening programs, such as Night Hikes and Sleepovers! Both of these programs include an indoor presentation focusing on nocturnal life, a walk on the trails (without flashlights), a campfire, marshmallow roast, storytelling, and a sing-along.

We will work with you to suit the needs of your group with such options as fire-building, fire safety, skits, and awards.

For more information on these and all of our Scout program, please visit our website at [www.silverlakenaturecenter.org](http://www.silverlakenaturecenter.org) contact [palynn@co.bucks.pa.us](mailto:palynn@co.bucks.pa.us) or 215-785-1177 ext. 12.



Book early! Dates fill up quickly!



## Kids & Nature Thursday, December 26th and Friday, December 27th 9 am - 4 noon

Due to popular demand, we are extending our **Kids & Nature Event** this year!

Spend some of your winter break with us! Six to ten-year-olds are invited to join us as we explore the trails, play games, make a craft, and visit with our animals!

Activities will be held both outdoors and indoors.

Light snacks will be provided, but please be sure to bring a lunch.

Fee, per day: \$35 member  
\$40 non-member

Sign up for one or both days!

Registration and payment are due by December 21<sup>st</sup>.

For more information and to register, contact PattiAnn at [palynn@co.bucks.pa.us](mailto:palynn@co.bucks.pa.us) or 215-785-1177 ext. 12.



## Preschool Camp



For the fourth year in a row, our Preschool Camp was a great success!!

The Preschool Camp, led by Ms. PattiAnn, offered Preschoolers (4-5 year olds) opportunities to enjoy all kinds of nature exploration - from the wonderful woods to the precious ponds, and everything in between! Children also had fun playing nature games, being artists, going on hikes, conducting experiments, face and hand painting, making friends, and much more!

Keep a lookout for details, as we may be offering our Preschool Camp for additional weeks next summer since BOTH of this summer's weeks sold out so quickly!

For more information on Preschool Camp and all of our events and programs, please visit [www.silverlakenaturecenter.org](http://www.silverlakenaturecenter.org), call 215-785-1177, or email [palynn@co.bucks.pa.us](mailto:palynn@co.bucks.pa.us).

## Upcoming Events

### Fall Fling

Thursday, October 10th  
5:30 - 7 pm

Plan on joining us for this special event: Meet guests of honor: Ed Malouf and Matt Kirchman of Content Design Collaborative, who have designed the plans for the renovation of our exhibit area, office, and gift shop. Taste the creations of local chefs, mingle with friends, and enjoy the lovely music of a piano soloist. We hope to see you there!

### Naturalist Aide Training

Fridays, 10 am - noon  
October 25, November 1, 8, 15, 22, & December 6

If you have a few hours to spend and enjoy the outdoors and people, then this may be for you. We will train you to help us teach the programs we offer.

Call Lorraine at 215 785-1177  
for details and to register.

### Fall Birding:

Saturday, November 16  
Birds of Brigantine  
7:30 am - 5 pm

Excellent for beginners through advanced birders, and photographers, providing access to a variety of large and showy birds.

Bring a lunch and plan on joining us for dinner afterwards.



Fee: \$14 member; \$18 non-member

Call 215 785-1177 for details and to register.

### Symbionts - Clubs that meet at the Nature Center:

*New members welcome - and needed!*  
*Call the Nature Center or check our website for details.*

**West Chester University Harp Ensemble - Rehearses on third Mondays at 6 pm. Come & listen.**

**Focal Planes Foto Club - Meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7 pm.**

**S. Bucks Garden Club - Meets on the first Tuesday at 7 pm.**

**Artists of Bristol - Meet on the second Wednesday at 7 pm.**

**Yoga - Meets every Thursday at 7:30 pm.**

## Thank you!

- Earthship volunteers: Jim Skala, Hope Sauppe, Bob Pearson, Jim Kristofic, Eric Chang, Terry VanPraet, Tony Garwood, and Betsy Micir. You are loyal and tireless!
- Dori Schiefer for collecting, washing, un-labeling, and cutting all the bottles for the Earthship's "bottle wall" - and for preparing the messages for the bottles!
- Pat Rossi for doing our seasonal fliers and for keeping the bulletin board at the lake up-to-date.
- Everyone who has come out and helped on Volunteer Work Days in June, July, August, and September.
- Marie Wojcik and Madeline Bobst for preparing and taking our display out to local events.
- All our water-monitoring volunteers, who come out monthly to test and record the water in our locale waterways: Hope Sauppe, Darius Rogers, Chris "Che" Egnoto, Elaine Gramlich, Roberta Turner, Neil Burd, Patti Burd, Dana Sullivan, Nancy Bilheimer, Albert Bilheimer, Theresa McCartin, and Susan Paulsworth.
- Dave Chalfant for keeping the water monitoring program going by collecting and inputting data, checking and ordering supplies, keeping the kits complete, and training and mentoring new volunteers.
- Joanne Kyle for contributing monthly to the care of our display animals.
- Florence Stepenaskie for donating crayons, paint and glue for our children's programs.
- Members of the Delaware Valley Model Boat Club, especially Ted Baugh, Fred Perkins, and Bryan Mullen, for repairing our electric tractor. You used your time and know-how and even built some parts from scratch, and you got the tractor working again! Yahoo!
- Sandy Wah for proofing our articles, letters, and newsletters. You make us look good!
- Everyone who has helped with our mailings, including Mary Ida Reitz, Walt Lorchak, Jeanne Winerip, Marie Wojcik, Elaine Gramlich, Margaret McGinnis, Joan Foley, Glenn Rodkey, John McGrath, Mary Lou Boyer, and Jeanne Stemmer.
- Everyone who has helped out with and/or participated in our Kayak paddles this season, by taking our Intro to Kayaking class, trying one or more of the Full Moon Paddles, or experiencing some of our off-site paddles. Thanks for a great season!
- Everyone who participated in our Summer Camp, including parents, grandparents, campers, volunteer guest naturalists, teen volunteers (Counselors-in-Training), and donors of craft supplies and snacks!



**Silver Lake Nature Center**  
**1306 Bath Road**  
**Bristol, PA 19007**

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PAID  
Levittown, PA 19055  
Permit #302

Address service requested.

## Of Interest...

*Join us!*

### Come to the **Silver Lake Nature Fest**



**October 12th**  
**11 am to 4 pm**

Enjoy **free**, fun activities all day long:

- Live music!
- Live native animal show!
- Come with us to discover pond life, try some birding, go on an insect hunt!
- Tour our nearly complete Earthship!
- Shop with crafters and vendors!
- Learn about healthy products and local foods!
- Learn how to live lighter on this earth, be healthier, and save money, too!
- Refreshments for sale. Basket raffle!



**Free Admission - Free Parking**  
**Free Kids' Activities - Free Concert**  
**Rain or shine!**

## **Winter Solstice Celebration**

**Saturday, December 21**  
**7 - 8:30 pm**

We will welcome the winter season with the music of the West Chester University Harp Ensemble, learn about the history of this area, and take a candlelit stroll through the woods to a roaring campfire.

Must register and pay in advance.  
Fee: \$10 member; \$15 non-member



### **2014 SLNC Calendars**

Once again we are offering calendars for the new year featuring photographs of Silver Lake's flora and fauna in all seasons. Most of the shots were meticulously taken by Clarence King, with some contributions from members of the Focal Planes Foto Club. These calendars make great gifts, but get your order in soon! Supplies are limited.

Cost: \$15 each

Available October 12, 2013

*~ Please share this newsletter with a friend. Thanks! ~*