



Fall 2014

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.*

Renovation Update

The renovations of the Silver Lake Nature Center building are moving along rapidly. If all goes well, the project will be drawing to a close about the time you receive this newsletter. The new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system is installed, is very comfortable and shows a big drop in cost already! Of course, some of that reduced demand can be attributed to the abnormally pleasant summer.

In July, the staff moved to their new quarters. Each person has their own work space. The new phone system took some getting used to. The staff have their own phone numbers, which includes their extensions. All of the information is transmitted digitally, a system called Voice Over Internet Protocol. It also links us to the County's phone system which is purchased in bulk and will save money. The staff works really hard to make it so you still can talk to a person as opposed to a machine.

Once the building construction is complete, the change will be dramatic. Those of you who are familiar with the old arrangement will notice immediately the building is more open, brighter and airier because we took down walls and added windows to bring in more light. We wanted to update our display area, so we invited our members, volunteers, the local community, staff and visitors to make suggestions.

The result is an attractive and informative display that will draw visitors in and encourage them to stay awhile.

Ready or not, on November 20, 2014, we will celebrate the official grand opening. More details on that event can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.



Visit us on the Web!
www.silverlakenaturecenter.org

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

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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Silver Lake Nature Center
1306 Bath Road
Bristol, Pa 19007
215 785-1177
fax: 215 785-3228
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.

Brick by Brick—Building a Sustainable Future

The Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center's Earthship is a zero carbon footprint building using rainwater for water, solar energy for electricity, and thermal mass for heating and cooling. Purchase a brick or two to help make this model project a reality. Your name and/or message will be carved in brick for everyone to see. The bricks will be prominently placed in the Earthship's entryway.

Be creative. Let your imagination run wild. Use this opportunity to:

- Show your passion for the Silver Lake Nature Center and your support for our programs
- Honor a family member, friend, teacher, school, colleague, or a pet
- Promote your business
- Commemorate a loved one or a special memory
- Celebrate a significant event like a birthday, wedding, birth, or other memorable event
- Make a permanent gift for someone who has everything
- Send a message to the future (We reserve the right to edit messages for appropriateness.)
- Create an educational brick about one of the Center's species of special concern

Every time you visit, you will be able to see with pride that you made a difference.

The 4" X 8" (cost is \$100 per brick) bricks match the flooring, an autumn red, and you can have up to 3 lines of black text with 14 characters per line. The 8" X 8" (cost is \$250 per brick) bricks will be gray, visually popping out from all of the others. They can have six lines of black text with 14 characters per line. You also have the option of enhancing your brick with a special symbol (for an additional \$15 per brick). The symbol will reduce the number of characters on that line by four.



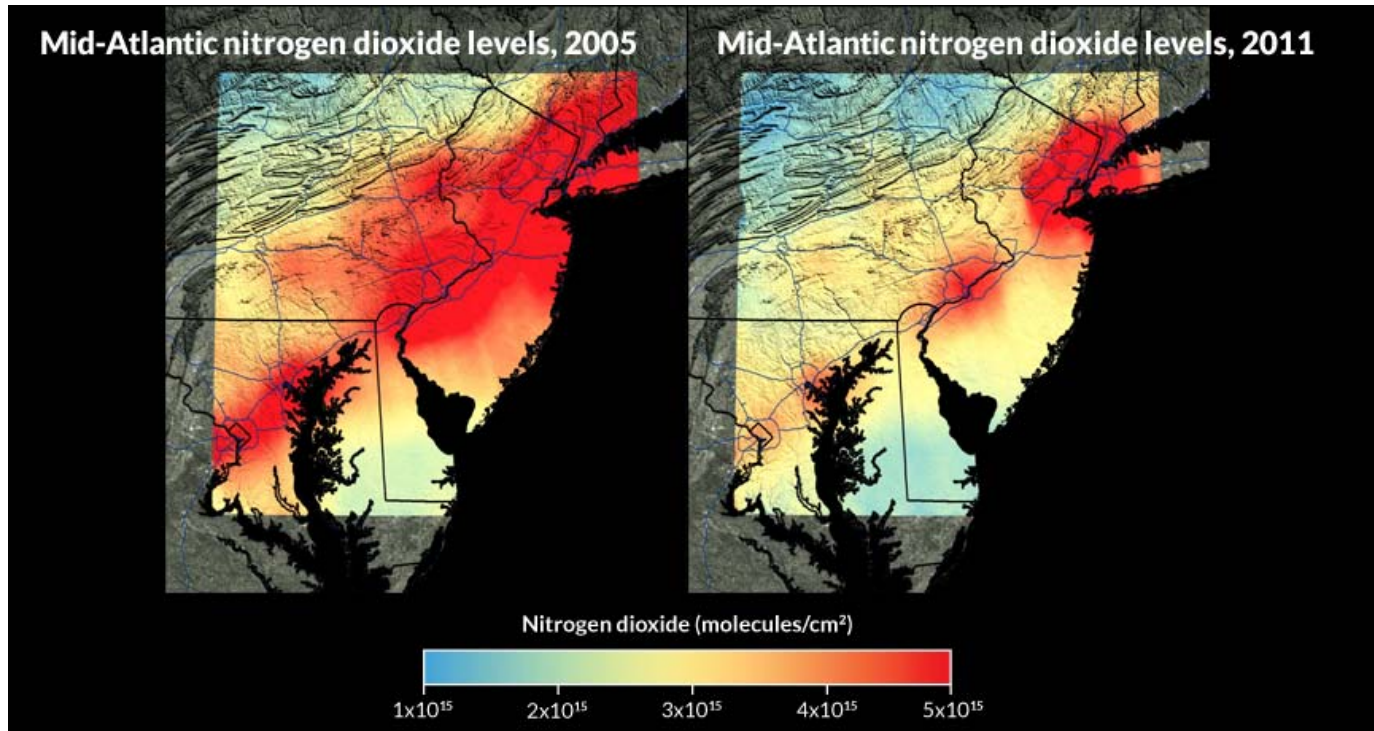
Contact the Nature Center if you have questions or wish to make a larger donation in return for a more prominent brick.

Mercer's Musings

The Only Constant—Change

by Robert Mercer

Below is a map made available by NASA Goddard Space Center, which highlights the reduction of Nitrogen Dioxide in our region over the last few years.



According to the EPA, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) “forms quickly from emissions from cars, trucks and buses, power plants, and off-road equipment. In addition to contributing to the formation of ground-level ozone and fine particle pollution, NO₂ is linked with a number of adverse effects on the respiratory system.” This is one of the pollutants you and I release every time we drive somewhere.

The pollutant NO₂ is a major component of ground based ozone. It is breathed in with each breath and can be traced back to causing a host of lung ailments. EPA states, “NO_x react with ammonia, moisture, and other compounds to form small particles. These small particles penetrate deeply into sensitive parts of the lungs and can cause or worsen respiratory diseases, such as emphysema and bronchitis, and can aggravate existing heart disease, leading to increased hospital admissions and premature death.” The closer to a major road you live or work, the more exposure you experience. The deeper you go into an open area like the Silver Lake Nature Center, the cleaner the air becomes.

A quick glance at the maps reveals how much cleaner the air has gotten. Why? The major reason is the laws passed regulating the pollutants emitted by vehicles and the mandated pollution control inspections on cars and trucks. As a result, our air is cleaner and healthier. Many people fought the regulations when they were proposed, but thanks to the far-sighted work of the EPA and those who approved the laws, you can breathe easier. Who says we cannot make a difference! Someday, maybe in our lifetime, the red will disappear from the map completely—if we continue to support the efforts to clean our air!

Business Partners

Diamond Partner \$5000+

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

Platinum Partner \$3000+

The West Foundation

Gold Partner \$1500+

The Heritage Conservancy
Lower Bucks Hospital
National Environmental Education
Foundation (NEEF)
Natural Awakenings of BuxMont

Silver Partner \$1000+

Bristol Township
Construction Business Materials (CBM)
Crown Holdings, Inc.
First Federal of Bucks County
Rotary Club of Bristol



Benefactor \$500+

Allied Electronics, Inc.
Bucks County Bank
Harris Comfort
Leck Waste Services
Lucisano Bros.
Metal Finishing Corporation

Patron \$250+

Allied Waste
Begley, Carlin, and Mandio
Cesare's Ristorante
J.R. Goodgion Co., Inc.
Jones Apparel Group
McCaffrey's Markets
Milestone Bank

Friend \$100+

Artists of Bristol	King George II Inn
Bayard Pump & Tank Co.	Kiss Electric
Borough Pub	Martha Washington
Café Bombay	Garden Club
J.A. Carosi Heating & Air	Mazzanti's Market
Carter Funeral Home	Mountain Laurel Spirit
Delaware Valley Model	The Pines Tavern
Boat Club	Rittenhouse Foundation
Four Lanes End	Simon & Shuster, Inc.
Garden Club	Sims Metal Management



Thank you for supporting Silver Lake Nature Center!



Join today!

Memberships

Individual \$25
Household \$35

'Household' includes all at same address.

Senior - Individual \$15
Senior - Household \$25

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

"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."

Volunteers



Calling all volunteers!

Volunteer Work Days from 9 am to 2 pm

October 4th , November 1st , December 6th.

Be sure to let Jenn know that you can help!
Wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty or
wet and bring a refillable water bottle.
Give us four hours and we'll give you lunch!

Our Shopkeepers and AnimalCare Crew are on hiatus during our renovations. Once the dust settles and we are back to full operation, we will need to add to the ranks of dedicated volunteers.

If you think you would like to help us with animal care, teaching, greeting, mailings, or some other way, please call Jenn at 215 785-1177 or e-mail her at jlbilger@co.bucks.pa.us.

Thank you!

Contact us at 215 785-1177 or silverlakenaturecenter.org

Summer Camp 2014

This year's summer camps were a huge success! Jenn Bilger, Stephanie Sinkiewicz, and Ally Sarno led the summer campers through outdoor adventures, experiments, games, nature exploration, and crafts with the help of all of our Guest Naturalists and 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 a lifetime.

Farewell and good luck to our summer seasonal staff:

Stephanie Sinkiewicz, Ally Sarno, and Mike Keefe.

Thank you for all your hard work!



Volunteers of the Quarter: Summer Camp Volunteers

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

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

Adam Ziegler	Julia Price
Aidan Meister	Justin Kerner
Asha Lee	Madeline Bobst
Carli Goodgion	Mark Kogan
Christopher Schilling	Michelle Deodati
Elizabeth McGoldrick	Nina Ruhe
Holly Hewchuk	Samantha Brooks
Jessica Tokarczyk	Torrin Williams
Joe Long	

A special thank you to all of our **Guest Naturalists** who gave our campers a great summer of programs on a variety of nature-related topics:

Clarence King
Jeanne Bray
Eileen "Cinders" Swank
Margaret McGinnis
Marc Long
Nancy Wicker
Stacy Smith
Karen Flanigan
Mary Ellen Noonan
Jeanine Mitchell
Angelique Riling
Patti Burd
Becky Obert-Thorn
Dori Schiefer
Maggie Strucker
Pat Coleman

Lois Glasscock of the
Southern Bucks Garden Club

Samuel Shiels, Matthew Kicinski, Rich Bryant, Rick Morrison, Frank Beck, Pete Marcoleno, and Ron Sodo of the
Delaware River Fisherman's Association

Gail Bracegirdle, Marty Shively, Rose Marie Strippoli, Linda Reboh, of the
Artists of Bristol on the Delaware

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: a 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 themes like, Butterflies & Moths; Itsy Bitsy Spiders; The Frog Prince; 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 contact PattiAnn at palynn@co.bucks.pa.us or call her at 215 785-1177.



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 also 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 programs, please visit our website at

www.silverlakenaturecenter.org

Contact PattiAnn at palynn@co.bucks.pa.us or 215-785-1177.

Book early! Dates fill up quickly!

Kids & Nature

**Tuesday, December 30th
and Wednesday, December 31st
9 am - 4 pm**

Due to popular demand, our extended
Kids & Nature days are returning!

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!

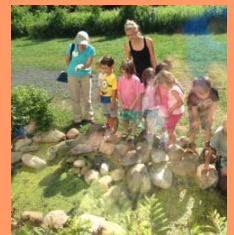
Registration and payment are due by December 23rd.

For more information and to register,
contact PattiAnn at

palynn@co.bucks.pa.us

or 215-785-1177

Preschool Camp 2014



Thank you to all of our Preschool Campers and their families for another fantastic summer!

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, creating their own games, being artists, going on hikes, being nature detectives, 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, email PattiAnn at palynn@co.bucks.pa.us, or call her at 215-785-1177.



Upcoming Events

Fall Fling and Grand Opening of our Exhibits, Office & Gift Shop

**Thursday, November 20th
6 - 8 pm**

Plan on joining us for this very special event!

Come and tour our new facilities —
exhibit area, office, and gift shop.

Try the hors d'oeuvres and wine,
mingle with friends,
and enjoy the music of a piano soloist.
We hope to see you there!

Donation: \$40 pp member
\$50 non-member

Please RSVP by November 12th.

**Saturday, November 15
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: \$15 member; \$19 non-member

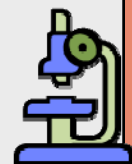


Educators' Corner

**Biology Keystone Workshop
January 22, 2015**

SLNC's Education Committee is developing a workshop aimed at the high school level that will assist local school districts in preparing their students for the upcoming Keystone Biology Exams.

Registration is required and ACT 48 hours are available. Space is limited. Please contact Lorraine Skala lkskala@co.bucks.pa.us for more information or call the Nature Center at 215-785-1177 to register.



Thank you!

- Earthship volunteers: Jim Skala, Hope Sauppe, Bob Pearson, Jim Kristofic, Tony Garwood, and Betsy Micir. You are great!
- 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.
- Everyone who has donated food for our hungry volunteers on our Volunteer Work Days.
- Sandy Wah for proofing our articles, letters, and newsletters. You help us do it right!
- Everyone who has helped with our mailings, including Mary Ida Reitz, Diana Bullard, Marie Wojcik, Elaine Gramlich, Margaret McGinnis, Joan Foley, Glenn Rodkey, John McGrath, , and Jeanne Stemmer.
- Eileen Swank, a.k.a. "Cinders" for donating The Face of Nature by Susan Limone to the SLNC, and for all the Scout campfires you do !
- Everyone who helped with our September Flea Market and Craft Fair, everyone who rented a space, and everyone who came out and shopped!
- Moses DeHart (Harmonica Moose) and Zachary Simmons for providing fun music at our Flea Market!
- Members of Asylum Wind for entertaining us at the Flea Market and Craft Fair.

Earthship Update

Through the hard work of many volunteers and much community support, we are getting closer to the completion of our building, also known affectionately as the Earthship. As many of you know, the design is based on Michael Reynold's Global Model. What you may not know is that Earthship Biotecture is coming to Philadelphia and has asked Silver Lake Nature Center to speak about our unique public building. The presentation will be held at the Ethical Society – off Rittenhouse Square – September 29, 6 pm. More details can be found at <http://earthship.com/philadelphia>

Also in the works for October is an Earthship Biotecture workshop to be held at our site. We will focus on a particular component of Earthships. Stay tuned for details...





Silver Lake Nature Center
1306 Bath Road
Bristol, PA 19007

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Permit #302

Address service requested.

Of Interest...

Winter Solstice Celebration

Saturday, December 20
7 - 8:30 pm

Join us for this unique celebration of the return of winter. The music of the West Chester University Harp Ensemble alone is reason enough to attend!

Clarence King will fill us in on local history, and then we will enjoy a candlelit stroll through the woods to a roaring campfire. Story-telling, songs, hot cider, and homemade cookies will complete the evening.

We hope to see you there!

Must register and pay in advance.

Fee: \$10 member; \$15 non-member



Please Visit Our Giving Tree



The Giving Tree will be on display in the lobby during the holidays.

You will find our wish list decorating the tree in the form of ornaments. Visitors may take an ornament with them if they would like to donate that item. Items on the list range from a bag of marshmallows to equipment to lunch for our volunteers. Stop in to take a peek at our Giving Tree or visit our website. Thank you!



2015 SLNC Calendars

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

Cost: \$15 each

Call 215 785-1177 or e-mail palynn@co.bucks.pa.us to order.

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