



Fall 2015

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.

We're on the web:
silverlakenaturecenter.org

Like us facebook.

Follow us on Twitter.

Camp Fires

Kids & Nature

Delhaas Woods

Launch of Earthship

Robert A. Mercer
Director and Naturalist
Silver Lake Nature Center
Years of Service: 1975-2015

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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Jennifer Bilger	Volunteer Coordinator/ Camp Director
PattiAnn Lynn	Environmental Educator/ PR-Marketing Manager
Peg Mongillo	Bookkeeper

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, noon - 5 pm
Closed Monday

**Photographs by local Photographers*

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

Educational Income Tax Credit (EITC)

Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center is now recognized as an Education Improvement Organization by the Department of Community and Economic Development.

What is an Education Improvement Organization?

An organization that has been recognized and approved by the DCED as providing 'innovative educational programs'.

What is EITC?

A program unique to Pennsylvania. Tax credits equal to 75 percent of an eligible business' contribution up to a maximum of \$750,000 per taxable year. Can be increased to 90 percent of the contribution, if business agrees to provide same amount for two consecutive tax years.

Why should a business participate?

Beyond reducing their tax liability, businesses support their local communities and generate good will.

Which businesses are eligible?

Businesses authorized to do business in Pennsylvania who are subject to one or more of the following taxes:

- Corporate Net Income Tax
- Capital Stock Franchise Tax
- Bank and Trust Company Shares Tax
- Title Insurance Companies Shares Tax
- Insurance Premiums Tax
- Mutual Thrift Institution Tax
- Insurance Company Law of 1921
- Personal Income Tax of S corporation shareholders or Partnership partners

How to apply?

For a business application guide and a link to the electronic application, visit the PA Department of Community and Economic Development's [web page](#).

**2016 Silver Lake Nature Center
Calendars Coming Soon!!**

These beautiful, popular calendars sell out quickly, so please be sure to order yours soon! Enjoy stunning pictures of Silver Lake Nature Center & Park through all seasons! These Calendars make lovely gifts and keepsakes for any occasion.

Photography and design are by Resident Historian & Photographer, Clarence King, as well as by members of the Focal Planes Foto Club. Calendars cost \$15 each. All proceeds benefit the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center.

If you have not heard, here is the news. After more than forty years as the Director-Naturalist at the Silver Lake Nature Center, I set my retirement date for early January 2016. I hope all of our members can come and celebrate with me. We set the date for a celebration for Thursday, November 19, 2015. Details like the location and agenda still need to be firmed up. Everyone should receive an invitation.

In this, my penultimate musing, I wish to focus on why I think the organization is ready for my departure. In my final musing for the winter newsletter, I will dwell on the changes. After forty years of dedication, I want the Silver Lake Nature Center to thrive. It will be a different place under new leadership, but it will remain a wonderful location for people who want to enjoy a special place. We preserved almost every piece of undeveloped space contiguous to the Center. The trails, while always needing some maintenance, look good and are in great shape. The 235 acres of land completely hemmed in by development serves as an oasis for over 40 plant species considered rare, threatened or endangered in Pennsylvania. With the help of outside resources and volunteers, we keep these plants safe from invaders and destruction by development. The system is functioning and in place. The future staff just needs to keep

working on it.

The Friends of Silver Lake Board transitioned from a following board to a leading board. They no longer depend upon me to provide the background, to pick their members, to set their goals. Through active committees and a regular strategic planning process, they produce a lot of value to the Center. The board, through sound management, nurtured the organization through some financial struggles and built a reserve that can shelter the organization from variations in the markets. The Board stands ready to work with whoever earns the right to manage the Center in the future.

The staff also is ready. I know I will be missed, but they are all very competent and skilled in what they do. More importantly, the staff works well together, helping each other out. Furthermore, they all can fill in for each other during times of need. I know they can keep the Center performing at a high level regardless of the leadership.

For these reasons, I made the decision that the Silver Lake Nature Center is ready for my departure. It will be bitter sweet. I have so many friends who I enjoy seeing regularly. Eileen and I plan to do a lot of travelling and hopefully spend time in parks and refuges volunteering, sharing the skills I developed over the years.

Earthship

By the time you read this, the Fall Fling, our annual party and fund raising event will be history. This year we celebrated the opening of the Earthship. This building took over three years to complete, but when one thinks about how volunteers performed almost all of the tasks, it is remarkable the building is done.

The building now becomes the staging area for our school watershed programs as it is more convenient to the lake.

School buses will drop students off by the Earthship and it is only a short walk to the lake.

We truly hope that many outside organizations choose to hold their meetings in the Earthship. Deliberately small, the building can house about 30 people sitting at tables. Let us know if you or someone you know is interested.

Business Partners

Diamond Partner \$5000+

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

Platinum Partner \$3000+

National Environmental
 Education Foundation (NEEF)
 The West Foundation

Gold Partner \$1500+

Construction Building Materials (CBM)
 Lower Bucks Hospital
 Natural Awakenings, BuxMont

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Bristol Township
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Martha Washington Garden Club
 Mazzanti's Market
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 Pa Representative Tina Davis
 The Pines Tavern
 Rittenhouse Foundation
 Simon and Shuster
 Sims Metal Management
 Southern Bucks Garden Club

Please support our business partners whenever you can!

Join us!

Application for Membership

Memberships

Individual \$25
 Household \$35
 'Household' includes all at same
 address.

With \$10 Senior discount:
 Sr. Individual \$15
 Sr. Household \$25

Special Memberships
 provide funds for additional pro-
 grams

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



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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".

Activities for Everyone

Programs for Preschoolers

Some of the Preschool programs we offer include: *Hibernation Happens*, *Forest Friends' Life in a Log*, *Fancy Feet Feats*, *Ponds & Puddles*, *Frog Friends*, *Bugs & Beasties*, *Five Senses*, *Winter Wonders*, and *Spring Discovery*.

For more information on our Early Childhood Education programs and/or to schedule a program, please visit our website at www.silverlakenaturecenter.org and/or contact PattiAnn at palynn@buckscounty.org or 215-785-1177 EXT 5022.

Calling All Scouts!!

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

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

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 program offerings, please visit our website at www.silverlakenaturecenter.org or contact PattiAnn at the Center at palynn@buckscounty.org or 267-880-5022.

Consider Silver Lake Nature Center for Your Next Birthday Party or Other Special Event!

SLNC offers a variety of options for children (of all ages), as well as grownup birthday parties, bridal/baby showers, anniversaries, other special events, and meetings.

Different types of parties we offer include Day-time Parties, Night Hikes, Campfires, and Kayak trips. We'll work with you to find the right program for your event. Fees vary according to program.

Some of our themes are: Butterflies & Moths; Itsy Bitsy Spiders; The Frog Prince; Insect Inspection; Damsels & Dragons; Dinosaurs & Cousins; and Tracks & Scat. If there is a nature-related theme that you'd like, but it is not listed, please let us know, and we'll work with you to make that happen, too!! J

For pricing and additional info, visit www.silverlakenaturecenter.org or contact PattiAnn at 267-880-5022 or palynn@buckscounty.org.



Scouts Volunteering at Silver Lake

The Center thrives on volunteers. From past experience, we know that Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts make excellent volunteers. So far this year, two major projects have been completed.

Boy Scout Project Update: Boy Scout, Robert Clark, removed a variety of invasive plant species in an area near the parking lot as his Eagle Scout project. The vines had gotten so bad they killed several trees. The area is now open again, and these annoying plants will not be spreading seeds.

Girl Scout Project Update: Hannah Leszcynski is completing her Silver Award by adding new features to our Kids Play Area including a bird nest, reading nook, & nature library box. Monica Weikel & Alyssa Takach will be completing their Silver Awards by refurbishing our Kids Crawl Trail & adding animal footprints on the Kids Play Area bridge. Kim Kish and a group of five young ladies from Troop 268 completed their Bronze Award by refurbishing our outdoor turtle habitat. Alexis Jones has installed a solitary bee habitat by our Butterfly Garden. Finally, Shannon Brown is completing her Silver Award by creating a Kids Play Area mural on our garage wall.

Volunteers

Volunteer Accomplishments

Our wonderful volunteers have helped in too many ways to count.

The Watershed Monitoring group continues to chemically test the Mill Creek-Otter Creek watershed for pollutants and have been able to catch several infractions that have since been corrected. Our greeters do a great job of welcoming visitors on the phone and in person and help us with many varied tasks. Our mailing volunteers continue to help us get our publications out to our membership. Garret Ford helps us by weedwacking our marsh boardwalk to make it possible for us all to enjoy the trail in the fast growing season, and Bob Pearson takes care of our meadow trail and stone circle. Our animals are re-acclimated to their new enclosures at the Center with the help of Garrett Ford, Miranda Cento, Heather Neuman, Sue Grayeski, Bailey Stone, Olivia Gutierrez, Gwendolyn Reckus, and Adam Ziegler as animal caregivers who feed, water and clean the tanks of our turtles, snakes, and fish. Our Earthship building project continues to bring out some hard working volunteers who put their sweat equity into this exciting new exhibit. All of our volunteers make it possible for us to do so many amazing things here, THANK YOU!

Summer Camp Volunteers: Guest Naturalists and Counselors-in-Training (CIT's)

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

Thank you to all of our Counselors-In-Training (CIT's), who volunteered to help our camp: Adam Ziegler, Aidan Meister, John & Lydia Yates, Dana Markham, Aubrey Hunt, David Fletcher, Nick & Mike Boehi, Kaitlyn Berkelbach, Elizabeth McGoldrick, Jessica Tokarczyk,

and Samantha Brooks, as well as special helpers Justin Kerner, Mark Kogan & Ryan Neuman for coming out several days to help when needed, and finally, thank you to Patricia Merkel for being our CIT trainer! Thank you to all of our Summer Camp Guest Naturalists who volunteered their time to come out and give our campers an unforgettably great summer of specialized programming: Clarence King, Southern Bucks Garden Club-(Lois Glasscock), Eileen "Cinders" Swank, Margaret McGinnis, Delaware River Fishermen's Association-(Samuel Shiels, Matthew Kicinski, Rich Bryant, Rick Morrison, Pete Marcoleno, Frank Beck, Ron Sodo), Nancy Wicker, Stacy Smith, Karen Flanigan, Mary Ellen Noonan, Artists of Bristol-(Gail Bracegirdle, Marty Shively, Linda Reboh), West Chester Harp Ensemble-(Gloria Galante), Dave Chalfant, Tom, Sandy Guzikowski, Bristol Cub Pack 212, and Bristol Township Fire Marshall, Kevin Dippolito.

Farewell and good luck to our summer seasonal staff: Karen Wilwol, Alexandra Sarno, and Melissa Heller.

Preschool Camp

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 & scientists, hand painting, making new friends, and much more!

For more information on Preschool Camp and/or all of our events/programs, call 215-785-1177, visit www.silverlakenaturecenter.org or email palynn@buckscounty.org.

Volunteer Events Coming Soon...

Volunteer Work Days - First Saturday of every month from 9 am to 2 pm Sept 5, Oct 3 (Waterway Cleanup event, see below), Nov 7, Dec 5

Waterway Cleanup: October 3 from 9 am to 2 pm - Help us remove the litter from our local waterways! Please pre-register.

Flea Market: September 19 from 8 am to 2 pm - Bakers & SLNC Sales Table Volunteers needed.

If you're interested in volunteering,
contact Jenn Bilger:
267.880.5024 or jlbilger@buckscounty.org

Calling all volunteers!

Greeter(s)

We are searching for volunteer(s) to be the first face of the Center: greeting visitors; answering phones; and running the cash register.

PA Master Naturalist Training

The PA Master Naturalist training will again be held at SLNC this Fall; check out our website for more details on how to register.

Volunteer of the Quarter: Sue Grayeski

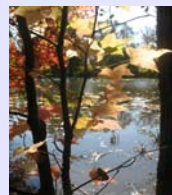
Sue helps us at the monthly volunteer work days doing a number of various projects on the building and the grounds, but she doesn't stop there. She comes out all the time on her own and proactively tackles projects that help the preserve be more accessible and maintained. We often laugh knowingly when we see something broken has been fixed, or a new part of the trail has been cleaned up and trimmed, or some natural landscaping has been done, because we know it must have been Sue! She also helps every Saturday by cleaning the animal enclosures and feeding and handling the animals, as well as cleaning and tidying up around our Center. Sue periodically donates items to us for use in our summer camp programs as well as the new log feature in our Pine Bull snake's hideout. Sue is always ready to lend a helping hand whenever asked, and with her wonderful positive attitude she is a joy to have here!
THANK YOU, Sue!

Thank you...

- Mo Awad for the animal labels.
- Sue Grayeski for the VCR, Pine Bull snake feature, and healthy snacks.
- Mark Kogan for the kids movies.
- Nancy Bartle for the turtle food.
- Bob Pearson for the meadow trail and stone circle weedwacking.
- Dori Schiefer for fruit cups and tee shirts.
- Maggie Strucker for TV & DVD.

A GREAT BIG Thank You to all of our Volunteer Greeters: Jeanne Stemmer, Eileen "Cinders" Swank, John McGrath, Arden Williams, Charlotte Doan, and Re'gula Sheehan.

And, finally, welcome Re'gula Sheehan, our new Greeter at the Front Desk!



Giving Tree Is Coming Soon

We hope you'll visit our "Giving Tree" this Holiday Season. Our Tree will be on display in the entrance area of the Nature Center Visitors' Building. Hanging from the Tree will be our Wish List in the form of ornaments.

Visitors may take an ornament with them if they would like to donate that item.

Here is a sampling of items on our Wish List:

Marshmallows
Trash grabbers
Volunteer Work Day Lunch Sponsor
Gift Cards to Craft and/or Grocery Stores

Please call us at 215-785-1177 or visit our website at www.silverlakenaturecenter.org for more information, and/or to take a peek at our "Giving Tree." Thank you!

Kids & Nature Event

**Tuesday, December 29th & Wednesday,
December 30th, 9am to 4pm**

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, so please dress for the weather. Light snacks will be provided, but please be sure to bring a lunch.

Sign up for one or both days! **Fee per day per child:**
\$35 member; \$40 non-member

For more information and/or to register, please call 215-785-1177, email palynn@buckscounty.org or visit www.silverlakenaturecenter.org.

Registration and payment are due by December 22nd.

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

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Permit #302

Address service requested.

Upcoming Events

Charlie Zahm & Tad Marks Concert

Saturday, November 14, 2015, 7:30pm

A Tribute to John Denver & the
Great Folk Music of the 1960's

Concert will be held inside our newly
renovated Visitors' Building.

- ◆ Tickets: \$12/person in advance (by 11/13/15) or \$15/person at the door. (Prices are the same for all ages.)
- ◆ Please call, email, or visit the Nature Center for reservations and payment.
- ◆ Proceeds benefit Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center. No refunds/exchanges.

Bird Seed Sales



It's that time again! Time to mark your calendar and order your seed for the fall.

We have four sales:

order by	for pick-up on
September 25	October 3
November 27	December 5
January 29	February 6
March 25	April 2

Choose from oil sunflower in 25 lb and 40 lb bags; SL mix and conservation mix in 25 lb and 50 lb bags; thistle in 8 lb bags; sunflower chips and peanut hearts in 5 lb bags and suet in 10 oz cakes.

We accept cash, check, Discover, Visa, and MasterCard. Phone orders are welcome, stop in, or go to our website to place your order:
www.silverlakenaturecenter.org

Please share this newsletter with a friend. Thanks!