



Spring 2011

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.

**2011 Earth Day Work Days
at Silver Lake Nature Center
Saturday, April 30th and Sunday May 1st
9am to 2pm**

Silver Lake Nature Center, in conjunction with Greenbelt Overhaul Alliance of Levittown (G.O.A.L.), Keep PA Beautiful, Bristol Rotary Club, Levittown-Fairless Hills Rotary Club, Bucks County Conservation District, Heritage Conservancy, and the Nature Conservancy invites the community to come out to celebrate the Earth by helping to clean her up!



We will be cleaning up our watershed, the Mill Creek-Otter Creek Watershed, by picking up litter and debris in and around Magnolia and Silver Lakes, as well as the channel between the two. This will be done by kayak, canoe, and on foot.

Those who volunteer four consecutive hours of time and service during one or both of our Earth Day Work Days will be provided with a free lunch.

Participants are strongly encouraged to wear closed-toe shoes, clothes that they do not mind getting wet and muddy, and to also bring a refillable water bottle.

We will meet at 9 am at Silver Lake Nature Center's Visitors' Building, located at 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA 19007.



For more information and to register for one or both Earth Day Work Days, please visit our website at www.silverlakenaturecenter.org or contact Jenn at 215-785-1177 ext 14 or jlbilger@co.bucks.pa.us.

Visit us on the Web!

Frog Slog, Concerts, Kayaking, Birding, Hiking, Volunteering, Summer Camp, Birthday Parties, Flea Market, and more...

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 pm - 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.

Annex Update

Excitement is building for this unique biotecture project! As of this printing, the site test and survey are complete, and the engineer is drawing up the plans. Keep your fingers crossed for a Spring groundbreaking! *

If you haven't already signed on to volunteer, please do so by contacting the Nature Center. This will be a wonderful hands-on opportunity to learn about sustainable architecture.



* pending county approval

Delaware River Sojourn



Silver Lake Nature Center will be participating in the 17th annual River Sojourn this year, June 18th - 25th. We are excited to be partnering with Delaware River Basin Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and other organizations and individuals who give of themselves to promote and protect this valuable resource. This year's theme is "River of Life."

More information can be found at delawareriversojourn.com

**Pond Tour 2011
Our Twentieth and Final Year!**

After twenty years of visiting the many wonderful ponds and gardens in Bucks County, the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center Board has decided that after this year, it will end the event while it is still on top. The committee is already working hard to make sure this year's event is as good, if not better, than all of the others.

The committee, each one a pond owner, has decided to make a major change—the dates! They know that the garden ponds look nicer earlier in the year, so they set the dates for the tour earlier. The first date will be Sunday, June 26th, and the second will be Sunday, July 10th. The times remain the same, 11 am to 5 pm each day. The price also does not change. People paying before June 22nd can benefit from significant savings, coming both weeks for the price of one.

Please let us know:

- if you want additional information about this "farewell" tour.
- if you want to serve on the committee. We would love to have some new faces to help share in the work and fun.
- if you know someone who has a pond, as this will be their last chance to show their pond as part of the Silver Lake Pond Tour.

We look forward to visiting some stunning ponds and gardens.
Do join us!

It Is All a Matter of Scale

by Robert Mercer, Director

In my last article, I explored my addiction to fossil fuels. So what? I am only one person. My behavior change cannot make a significant difference, can it?

I tested my carbon footprint, and even though I try hard to be conscientious, I still released about 11.89 metric tons of carbon each year. A metric ton is equivalent to 2,205 pounds of carbon, so I release over 26,000 pounds of carbon into the atmosphere annually. After all, I "need" my car to drive to work. I "need" to go on nice vacations to interesting parts of the world. I "need" my house to be warm (though not too warm) in the winter and warm (not hot) in the summer. I "need" this blasted computer, the television, the refrigerator, the stove, and all my worldly possessions. In other words, I cannot give up my addiction to carbon! While my 26,000 pounds of carbon is shocking, it is still only about half of what most Americans release and is on par with the average person in the other industrialized countries.

This is where *it is all a matter of scale* comes into play. How much is MY contribution to the carbon in the atmosphere? Most years, collectively, humans release 36.3 billion metric tons of carbon. My 12 metric tons is less than 0.00000004% of the total. To be honest, the answer to the question posed in the first paragraph is, "no." I cannot make a significant difference, as my contribution is so small. Is this a good reason for me not to conserve? Absolutely not! I was always taught that two wrongs never make a right.

Recently, while talking to a group about human-induced climate change, one of the participants challenged me with a question about scale. He said, "What about volcanoes?" This was his excuse for not making any effort, for he could not see how human beings could be more damaging than a volcano. A volcano does release huge quantities of carbon dioxide, as do vents and seeps on land and under the sea. How does this compare to the amount of human (or anthropogenic) released carbon? I was stumped, so I did a little research. According to the US Geological Service, all the volcanic sources collectively release an average of 130 million metric tons of carbon annually. Put into a different perspective, it would take 280 years for the volcanoes to release as much carbon as humans do in one year!

The more I understand the scale, the more I can easily believe that seven-plus billion people, each putting out a relatively miniscule amount of carbon, can contribute enough to the atmosphere to make a difference! Therefore, if each of us did something to reduce our release of carbon, we can have a positive impact. I have my carbon releases down lower than most, and we continue to look for ways to trim more carbon out of our waste stream. How about you?

(To see a version of this article which contains the details of my report and links to some of my sources, visit our website. While there, if you want to comment on this musing, please do!)



Trash Cans or Not?

The Silver Lake Nature Center grounds and trails are "Carry In, Carry Out" facilities. Visitors need to take all their trash out with them. Occasionally people suggest trash cans be placed on the trails, but the Center made a conscious decision not to clutter up the trails with trash cans. Several reasons justify this decision.

1. Trash cans need to be managed. Someone needs to empty them regularly. If they do not, the animals will do it for us, scattering trash all over. This can often be seen with the trash cans down by the lake. People throw their food wrappers into the cans and the raccoons, birds, etc. drag them out to get the food residue. The result is worse than if there had been no trash cans.
2. One of the Center's key messages is: take personal responsibility for your impact upon the environment. Trash has an impact! Thankfully there are only the infrequent, uncaring, selfish visitors who leave their trash or dog waste; the vast majority of our visitors do their best to keep the park looking clean. Many will even help clean up after the careless ones.

Therefore, the Center's policy of no trash cans on the trails will remain. Please do your part to keep our park looking great.

Scouts at Silver Lake

Scouts of all ages come to the Nature Center to perform many types of projects:

The Webelos Den of Pack 246 completed their Serve & Learn program by lining our lowland trails near the observation deck with wooden borders to protect our rare plants and animal habitats as well as help define the trails for visitors.

One new Girl Scout troop will be creating an outdoor turtle habitat and another Girl Scout troop will create a self-guided nature walk using themed backpacks!

Prospective Eagle Scouts are planning four very interesting projects, and two additional Boy Scouts have met with Director-Naturalist, Robert Mercer to decide on their projects. Watch these pages for details as each is completed.



Business Partners

Diamond Partner \$5000+

Dominion Foundation
 The Dow Chemical Company
 PA Department of Community
 & Economic Development

Platinum Partner \$3000+

Exelon Power
 The Grundy Foundation

Gold Partner \$1500+

Enterprise Rent-A-Car
 PECO

Silver Partner \$1000+

Bristol Township
 Crown Holdings, Inc.
 First Federal of Bucks County

Benefactor \$500+

Construction Business Materials (CBM)
 Delaware Valley Water Garden Society
 Harris Comfort
 PrintMasters
 Simon & Schuster, Inc.
 TEVA Pharmaceuticals

Patron \$250+

Begley, Carlin, and Mandio
 Bucks Co. Town & Country Living Magazine
 Gasper Landscapes, Inc.
 Kiss Electric
 Lilypons Water Gardens
 McHales Kitchens and Baths
 Senator Robert M. Tomlinson
 Waste Management of PA

Friend \$100+

Bath Fitter	The Hidden Reef
Bristol Amish Market	J. C. Heating
Bristol Fuels	Jones Apparel Group
Carter Funeral Home	Mark's Jewelers
Cesare's Ristorante	Marrazzo's Manor Lane Florist
CMS Geothermal	Martha Washington Garden Club
Exact Solar	McCaffrey's Market
Fairways Golf Course	Mignoni Jewelry
Fidelity Savings & Loan of Bristol	PA Rep. Tony Melio
The Fish Factory	Shady Brook Farm
Four Lanes End Garden Club	Synergy Realty Corporation
Garden Indoors of PA	Theo Chocolate
Green Energy Barrier	

Winners of SLNC Membership

December Micki Rice
 January Mary Wolbert
 February David Karasow

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 each month.*

Welcome New Members

New Members from November 1, 2010
 to January 31, 2011

Leona Dapp
 Annamarie Pileggi
 & Eric Grosso
 Kelley Krajewski
 Joelle Myers
 Charlott Wilkins
 RobinsonWilks



Honeybees are Back

Before the grounds of Silver Lake became a County Park, they were farmed. Corn, peaches, apples, and celery were some of the crops grown here. Farmers raised bees, too. Keeping bees meant you had honey, beeswax, and increased crop production through pollination. These wonderful creatures are responsible for one third of the food we eat.

A few years back, we had a wild swarm settle in the hollow of a tree. Staff and some observant visitors were fascinated by this colony with a clearly visible comb. A wonderful picture by local photographer and FOSL member Anthony Garwood hangs in our main office. The colony survived two years until a late Spring frost destroyed a crucial food supply.

Today bees are under stress from many directions: mites, fungi, viruses, lack of habitat, and pesticides. Beekeepers across the country report losses between 50% and 90%. The good news is that backyard beekeeping is on the rise. The Nature Center has joined those ranks. This spring there will be honeybees once again on the grounds. The hives will be located away from trails so as to prevent unwanted contact with visitors. The addition of bees will be beneficial not only for our gardens but for those within a three to five mile radius, as that is how far bees will travel for food.

If you'd like to learn more about honeybees, check out [Bucks County Beekeepers Association](#), [Penn State Cooperative](#), or [Backyard Beekeepers](#). All have web sites and are a wealth of information.

Thanks to Brushy Mountain Bee Farm for supplies!



The Ins and Outs of the Board

By the time you read this, we anticipate that we will be welcoming three new FOSL Board members. Each year, one third of the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center Board is up for election. The Constitution stipulates that Board members serve for three years. They can serve a second term, but after that, they must step down for at least one year.

Current Board members, Lloyd Davis, Environmental, Health, and Safety Manager, Bristol Facility for Dow Chemical; and Albert Sutter, District Director, PA State Senator "Tommy" Tomlinson's Office, both agreed to serve their second term.

New to the Board will be:

- Jackie Garber, Account Executive, WBCB
- Joseph Carlucci, Chief of Staff for PA State Representative Tina Davis
- Bruce Harris, General Manager, Harris Comfort, and former FOSLNC Board Member

These three are filling the vacancies created by Dan Johansson and Cissi Quattrocchi, two excellent Board members who served well for their six years before cycling off. A third Board member, Pam Duffy, who was up for reelection decided not to run again because her new job would prevent her from being an active participant.

The Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center Board members work hard to promote the Nature Center. Each serves on at least one committee as well as the Board. We greatly appreciate their commitment to making our organization better.

Join us!

Memberships

Individual	\$20
Family	\$30
Senior/Student	\$10
Senior Couple	\$15



Special Memberships

(provide funds for additional programs)

Grey Fox	\$ 50
Red Fox	\$ 100
Willow Oak	\$ 250
Pin Oak	\$ 500
Legacy Investor	\$1000

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.

Application for Membership

New Renewal Gift

Please Print

Name: _____

Ms./ Mr./ Mrs./ Dr. _____

(Circle one)

First

Last

Address _____

house number/street name

Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Hiking and Kayaking



2011 Kayak Season

If you enjoy kayaking as much as I do and have been missing your kayak since October, fear not! There are only a few more weeks until you and your kayak are reunited. We have many wonderful trips planned for the upcoming season—trips for kayakers of all levels.

Intro. to Kayaking - monthly, April thru October

Never been in a kayak? Or do you need to brush up on your skills? These classes are scheduled for Saturdays, 3 pm-5 pm, and include a how-to segment to get you paddling at your best.

Fee: \$15 member; \$20 non-member

Dates: April 16, May 7, June 4, July 16, August 6, September 17, October 1

Full Moon Paddle - monthly

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to paddle at night? We will paddle from Silver Lake to Magnolia Lake, and back. A campfire and marshmallows are included! These paddles go from 7 to 10 pm.

Note: Adults only.

Fee: \$20 member; \$25 non-member

Dates: Saturday, April 16; Tuesday, May 17; Tuesday, June 14; Tuesday, July 12; Tuesday, August 16; Tuesday, September 13; and Tuesday, October 11

Off-site Paddles

Want to enjoy a relaxing meander? We have plenty of easy and moderate off-site paddles for you. Or, maybe you have been kayaking for years and want to challenge yourself? Join us for one of our difficult or advanced paddles. Most paddles last from 8 am to 4 pm.

Fee: \$30 member; \$40 non-member

With your own kayak or canoe:

\$20 member: \$30 non-member

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Rating</u>
April 9	Pine Barrens	Difficult
April 23	Delaware River	Moderate
May 14	Spruce Run	Easy
May 28	Tohickon Creek	Advanced
June 11	Crosswicks Creek	Moderate
June 25	Assiscunk Creek	Difficult
July 9	Lake Nockamixon	Easy
July 30	Windward Beach	Difficult
Aug 13	Rancocas Creek	Moderate
Aug 20	Delaware River	Advanced
Aug 27	D & R Canal	Moderate
Sept 10	Lake Assunpink	Easy
Sept 24	Schuylkill River	Moderate
Oct 8	Pine Barrens	Difficult
Oct 15	Rancocas Creek	Moderate
Oct 22	Lake Nockamixon	Moderate

For more information on each trip, please visit our website: www.silverlakenaturecenter.org and click on *Things To Do*, **Activities/Workshops/Trips**, and then *Kayaking*.

Or, stop by the Nature Center to pick up a brochure.

Pre-registration and payment are required for ALL trips.



Spring Hiking

There are four hikes left – one each month – before we recess for the summer. The March 26th Hike is along the Wissahickon Creek on Forbidden Drive and is rated moderate. Located within Fairmount Park, this area has a rich history as well as many unique features. Plenty of stone work, from bridges to statues, line the trails and cross the creek. The area caters to outdoor enthusiasts with several amenities along the drive. While the Forbidden Drive is flat, we will have a chance to explore some of the unpaved upper trails. Check out last year's hike on the web site under *field trip blogs*.

April 24th's Hike is in Jenny Jump State Park in New Jersey. The dramatic terrain here was created by receding glaciers some 20,000 years ago. This is another moderate hike, but with elevation to some great views.

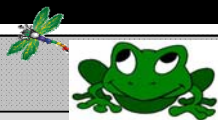
Our last two hikes are strenuous ones – Mount Mohican on May 21st and Sunfish Pond on June 18th. Rocky terrain and a good bit of elevation are involved. These hikes are in some of the wildest places you can get to within a day's drive. Black bear, rattlesnake, and beaver are some of the animals we'll have an opportunity to see or find signs of. Each hike will put us on the Appalachian Trail for a bit. If you've ever dreamed of being a "thru hiker," join our hike and experience a small taste of what it would be like!

Fee: \$11 member; \$14 non-member. Call Lorraine at 215 785-1177 for details and to register.



Summer Camps/ Fun for Kids

Summer Camps



Full and Half Day Camps

for 6 to 12 year olds!
July 5th to August 12th

Full Day Camp: 9 am - 4 pm

Weekly fee: \$180 member
\$200 for non-member
Discounts available for 2 or more children
OR for 2 or more weeks of registration

Also available: Before Care 8 - 9 am
and After Care 4 - 5:30 pm

Weekly Fee: \$30 for Before *or* After
\$50 for *both* Before and After Care

Half Day Camp: 9 am - 12 pm

Weekly fee: \$95 member
\$115 non-member

*Sign up for one week or all six!
Call or visit to register!*



Preschool Camp: 4 & 5 yr olds

July 18th - 22nd: 9 am - 12 pm
Weekly fee: \$95 member
\$115 non-member

Teen Adventure Camp: 13 -17 yr olds

July 11th - August 12th: 12 - 4 pm
Weekly fee: \$75 member
\$100 non-member

Teen Kayak Camp: 13 - 17 yr olds

August 15th - 19th: 12 - 4 pm
Weekly fee: \$75 member
\$100 non-member

Kayaking everyday!

Celebrate at Silver Lake Nature Center!



We offer a variety of options for children (of all ages) and grown-up birthday parties, bridal/baby showers, and other important events.

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

Fee for a regular two-hour birthday party:
\$9/child, member
\$12/child, non-member

Fee includes one free adult per child.

Minimum # of participants: 10

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

For more information and to schedule a party,
please contact PattiAnn at the Center
at palynn@co.bucks.pa.us or 215-785-1177 ext. 12.



Pinecone Pals

10 - 11 am



Three to five-year-olds and one of their favorite caregivers are invited to join us twice each month as we enjoy crafts, stories, activities, walks on our trails, and camaraderie! Each session features a different theme. Each program runs from 10am to 11am.

Fee per session, child w/adult: \$6 per member
\$9 non-member

Pre-registration is required to attend.

Please call PattiAnn at the Center at 215-785-1177 ext. 12
or email at palynn@co.bucks.pa.us.

Sign up for these dates:

Wednesday, March 9th
Saturday, March 19th
Wednesday, April 6th
Saturday, April 23rd
Wednesday, May 11th
Saturday, May 21st
Wednesday, June 1st
Saturday, June 11th



Volunteers

Volunteer Accomplishments!

Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition

2010 Millennium Club: A special thank you to **Don West** who put in over 1000 hours caring for the Pine Oak Grove!

2010 Century Club: Volunteers who put in over 100 hours — **Thank You!**

John McGrath	Bonnie O'Boyle
Mary O'Connor	Jeanne Stemmer
Hope Sauppe	Laura Sell
Katelyn Wholey	David Lynn
James Nixon	Jackie Cohen
Florence Stepenaskie	Brittany Anderson
Nick Stets	James Yohannan
Bobby Bloom	James Graham
Glenn Rodkey, Sr.	Stephen McKinney
Rae Hemingway	Frances Arnold
Lois Glasscock	Brian Harris
Marie Wojcik	Rosemary Parmigiani



Calling all volunteers!

Spring Volunteer Work Days

Saturday, April 2nd

Saturday, June 4th

Note: May's Volunteer Work Day and Waterway Cleanup are being replaced by our Earth Day Work Day event.

Details on front page.

Graphic Designer

We need a volunteer to help us develop and maintain our fliers, brochures, newsletter and website; around 1-4 hours per week.

Trail Maintenance

We need 2 or 3 regular volunteers to help us maintain our trails between work days.

Animal Ambulance Crew

This crew will provide transport to wildlife rehabilitation centers for locally- rescued wild animals.

Animal Sponsors Needed!

We are in need of Animal Sponsors who are willing to donate funds for our exhibit area and educational animals. These animals include two box turtles, two aquatic turtles, two snakes, and a pond tank 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.

Call Jenn at 215 785-1177!



Please call Jenn Bilger at 215 785-1177 x14 or email at jlbilger@co.bucks.pa.us for details on volunteer programs.

Earth Day Work Days

Saturday, April 30 & Sunday, May 1

9 am - 2 pm

(see front page for details)

Flea Market: June 18

We will need bakers and kitchen and parking lot volunteers for this event.

Pond Tour: June 26 & July 10

We will need bakers and volunteers to run the registration tables in the Nature Center's auditorium.

CIT's (Counselors-In-Training) Needed!

We are looking for high school or college students willing to help as volunteer counselors at our summer camp.

Serve & Learn Volunteer Program

For special interest groups that want to learn while volunteering.

One and one half to three hour program involving an educational component and a service project.

Choose from these programs:

Watershed Monitoring
Invasive Removal/Kayak Cleanup
Native Plantings/Rescue
Trail Adoption/Maintenance
Wetlands Restoration
Experiential/Teambuilding
Scavenger Hunt/Litter Removal
Fundraisers

Fees, including program development, staff supervision, planning time, and materials:

- ◆ \$90 for up to 20 participants
- ◆ \$180 for up to 40 participants

How You Can Help



“GoodSearching” with Our “Friends”

What if **Silver Lake Nature Center** earned a donation every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

Raise money for Silver Lake Nature Center by searching the Internet and/or by shopping through www.GoodSearch.com and choosing **Silver Lake Nature Center** as your charity. About a penny per search will be donated to your favorite charity, as will up to 30 percent of each online shopping purchase. Also, please friend us on facebook at facebook.com/silverlake.naturecenter (be sure to choose our “friend” page at facebook). Thanks so much!!

For more information, please contact PattiAnn at 215 785-1177 ext 12 or palynn@co.bucks.pa.us .

Endowment Fund Donations

- Esther Haywood, Parkway Seniors, Emeline Baldassarre, and Margaret Gore in memory of Mary Grace Flesch.
- Florence Stepenaskie & family in memory of Julia Tokonitz.
- Philomena Quattrocchi and Lou & Cissi Quattrocchi in memory of Mary Quaranta.
- Eileen Kelliher, James Sell, Robert Mercer, Cissi & Lou Quattrocchi, Rebecca Obert-Thorn, Dee Brown, Cindy Peto, Anne Titus, and Daniel Johansson in memory of Vedella Parmigiani.
- Jeanne Winerip in memory of Helen Goschke.
- Newport Fire Company #1; Robert Mercer; Mary & John Caldwell; Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Jackson; America Hose, Hook, & Ladder Company; Mr. & Mrs. Donald Roeder; Gregory Gordon, MD; Load Rite Trailers, Inc.; Marsha Mulewski; Penguin Industries, Inc.; and David & PattiAnn Lynn in memory of Charles T. Swank.

We offer our condolences to the families and friends of those who have passed. We also thank you for choosing the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center (FOSLNC) to honor your loved ones.

Gifts to our Endowment Fund can be made in memory of someone, in honor of someone, and can also be made to commemorate a special occasion, such as a wedding, anniversary, new baby, or birthday. Please also consider including a donation to the FOSLNC in your will. Please visit www.silverlakenaturecenter.org or call 215-785-1177 for details.

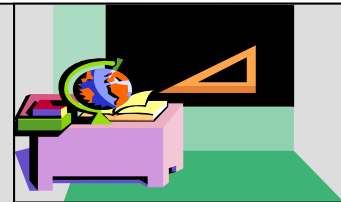
Thank you...

- To all the volunteers who helped with our Bird Seed Sales, especially Mary Beth Hartmann, David Lynn, Kevin Sauppe, Marie Wojcik, and Jeanne Stemmer. And thanks to everyone who bought bird seed!
- Pat Rossi for creating eye-catching posters for our events and keeping them up-to-date in the kiosk by the lake.
- Sandy Wah for coming in every week to proof our letters, fliers and newsletter.
- Clarence King for taking the photos, creating the 2011 SLNC calendars, and donating them to us to sell to everyone.
- Bill Ammon for working on our databases, trying to make them more user-friendly.
- Keith Effinger for donating food for our turtles and fish, and equipment to keep their tanks healthy.
- Linda Rowan and Mick Jeitner for the wonderful rainstick!
- All the volunteers who come out on the first Saturday of each month to help us maintain our grounds and trails.
- Hope & Kevin Sauppe, Florence Stepenaskie & Chris Besack, Mary Reitz, Rae Hemingway, and Jeanne Stemmer for responding so generously to our Giving Tree.
- Don West for continuing to care for our pine oak forest.
- Delta Community Center volunteers who water our plants and turtles and tidy up for us.
- West Chester University Harp Ensemble for playing at our Winter Solstice Celebration.
- Clarence King for your presentation at our Winter Solstice Celebration.
- Animal Caretakers who come in to care for our animals: John Gertslauer, Cara Blake, Bobby Bloom, Heather Neuman, Gavin Rook, Michaela White, Mary O'Connor, and Elizabeth White.
- Members of Focal Planes Foto Club for the 37th Annual Photo Contest and the Annual Silent Auction.
- Brushy Mountain Bee Farm for donating the beekeeping supplies for our new bee hive.
- Andy McAloon for maintenance projects volunteer.

Of Interest

The Teacher's Corner

by Lorraine Skala



Spring is here! The Nature Center has a lot going on!

The popular [WOW! Wonders of Wetlands](#) teacher workshop is back— May 7th, 9 am - noon. If you attend just one outdoor education workshop this spring, this is it. The half day, hands-on workshop will give you plenty of lessons to use in your classroom, as well as outdoors. Materials and refreshments are included.



We still have funding available for [high school kayak programs](#), courtesy of PA Fish and Boat Commission. The funds cover bus transportation and substitute teacher fees - two of the costs schools cite when explaining why field trips are cancelled. Bring your students and experience your local watershed and wetlands.

Many of our programs are available for your classroom. Often your school or PTO will cover the cost of these affordable and fun [In-Class programs](#).

Of course, the best way to experience the Nature Center is **at** the Nature Center. We have new programs as well as the standard favorites. Check out our selection [on-line](#) or give us a call. We will be happy to fill you in on what's been happening.

Silver Lake Nature Center is now a member of the [NSTA](#) - National Science Teachers Association. The *Bucks County Science Teachers Association* is another great organization that provides professional development locally for Bucks County teachers. If you'd like more information on BCSTA, contact Beverly at csta03@yahoo.com.

For more information on these and other programs, or if you'd like to join the Silver Lake Education Committee, please contact Lorraine. 215-785-1177 ext. #11 or liskala@co.bucks.pa.us

Birding Field Trips

by Robert A. Mercer, Director

By the time you read this, two of the annual birding trips will be history, and the report from each will be on our web site including some pictures. Future trips:

- On April 9th, the trip will be to the Delaware Bay area to look for waterfowl and early migrants.
- On May 7th, Cape May is the destination. We will be going earlier this year than we have in recent years, but this is a great time to find migratory species as well as some of the natives. We hope to locate at least 85 bird species as we visit a variety of habitats.
- On May 14th, Bob Mercer will head up a team to conduct a census of birds in our area. We will visit Silver Lake Park, Neshaminy State Park, and areas along the river. It is a very long day, but if you like birds and like collecting scientific data, this is fun.
- May is such a great month. We will take another, longer trip, this time north, on May 21st to the Delaware Water Gap area. It is a great place to find a large number of our local breeding species, including many of the stunning warblers. Late migrants are also a strong possibility. It is so good, participants may want to spend a couple days!
- Birds are not the only animals of interest! July 9th, is the date for the North American Butterfly Count. We will census the butterfly species found in our Park.

- On July 23rd, we will travel to Delaware, going to places like Bombay Hook in search of migratory shorebirds. At this time of the year, the adults are just arriving, fresh from leaving their progeny on the breeding grounds. Want to understand? Join us for the day.
- We return to the birding hot spots in Cape May for the weekend of September 10th and 11th. If the winds are right, the migration is spectacular!
- On November 19th, the plan is to visit the Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, a.k.a. Brigantine. It is a fabulous location to see birds close and well. It is a great place to start the hobby of birding, but it never fails to thrill even the most seasoned birder.
- In December, on the 17th, a Silver Lake team will gather data contributing to the 64th Christmas Bird Count conducted in our portion of Bucks County. Our team will scour Neshaminy State Park, Silver Lake Park, and areas along the Delaware River.

Want more information about these trips? Check out the details provided on our website calendar or delve back into the past trip reports found on our newsletter and blog pages of our website to get a taste of what the trip may entail.

Mark Your Calendar

Spring Equinox Walk and Campfire

Friday, March 18th

7 - 8:30 pm

Celebrate the arrival of spring with an evening stroll under the Crow Moon and toasting marshmallows over a roaring campfire. Bring a mug and we'll fill it with warm cider.



Fee: \$5 member
\$8 non-member
Please pre-register.



Delaware Valley Fly Fishers

present

Fly Fishing Clinic

Saturday, March 26th
10 am - 4 pm

Spend the day learning all about fly fishing, then you'll have a chance to practice with a rod & reel out on the lawn.

For details and to register, call Jerry at 215 245-0677 or 215 828-0351.



West Chester University
Harp Ensemble
presents

Celtic Concert Saturday, March 26th 7:30 - 9:30 pm.

Enjoy the West Chester University Harp Ensemble as they perform traditional Celtic music.

Fee: \$5 per person
payable at the door

North American Bird Count Saturday, May 14th

5:30 am - 5:30 pm

Help us with this national bird census. We will meet at the Center at 5:30 am and will bird until about 5:30 pm, birding areas including Silver Lake Park, Delhaas Woods, Neshaminy State Park and along the river. If you'd like to help, call Bob Mercer at 215 785-1177 for details!



Frog Slog

April 20th 7 - 8:30 pm

Learn about PA frogs and their calls, and then we'll try to catch some! Bring a flashlight and wear boots. Fun for everyone!

Must register and pay in advance.
Fee: \$7 member; \$10 non-member



Concert in the Woods with

Charlie Zahm

Saturday, May 14th

7:30 - 9:30 pm

Charlie Zahm, known up and down the Eastern Seaboard for his popular Scottish, Irish, and maritime music performances, will bring to Silver Lake Nature Center a delightful collection of songs celebrating nature, the earth, and the great outdoors. Join him at our beautiful outdoor amphitheater (indoors if inclement weather). Come early to enjoy the trails and exhibits, then relax and enjoy the concert.

Tickets: \$10/person

For tickets and information, call 215-785-1177 or email: palynn@co.bucks.pa.us.

Visit Charlie's website at <http://www.charliezahm.com>

Free

Spring Birding at the Nature Center Saturdays 7:30 - 9 am

Want to learn more about birds? Come birding with us each Saturday morning, from March 5th through the end of May. For everyone, novice to seasoned birder. Bring binoculars, if you have them!

Sunday Stroll

2 - 3 pm

Every Sunday, year 'round take a walk with a naturalist. There is always something to discover!

Come alone, or bring your friends and family.

It's free!

Flea Market in the Park Saturday, June 18th

8 am - 2 pm

Rain or Shine. No Refunds.

Clean out your junk drawers, closets, attic, and garage, and sell all your wonderful *stuff* at our annual Flea Market.

We set up on the grounds around the Nature Center, with generous 6-foot spaces in shade and/or sun. Bring your own table and chairs.

Single space: \$10 member
\$15 non-member

Double: \$15 member
\$20 non-member

Car space: \$25 member
\$30 non-member

Indoor space, about 6 feet, includes a table: \$25 member
\$30 non-member

Please stop in to reserve your space. All spaces are assigned: first come, first served. Payment and registration are due in advance.

Refreshments will be sold by the Nature Center.

Coming Events



Summer Camp! Beginning July 5th



From preschooler thru teen, your children will gain an appreciation of Nature by walking the trails, exploring the water, hunting for insects, going fishing, playing outdoors, and making discoveries!

They will make new friends, too!



Sign up for one week or several!
See page 7 for details.



20th - and Final - Pond Tour

Sundays, June 26th and July 10th, 11 am - 5 pm

Discover an array of wonderful water gardens right here in Lower Bucks!

Chat with pond owners about fish, plants, what worked and what didn't, and how to get started!



Help us go out with a splash!

See page 2 for details.

Want to help? Call Bob Mercer at 215 785-1177!

Gone Green?

Let potential customers know!



Vendors wanted.

October 1, 2011

Silver Lake Green Fest

Register by Sept. 15th for
Early Bird Special!

Contact the Nature Center:

215-785-1177

silverlakenaturecenter@co.bucks.pa.us

Visit:

www.silverlakenaturecenter.org



Please share this newsletter with a friend. Thanks!

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