



Spring 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.

Visit us on the Web!
silverlakenaturecenter.org

Renovation Expectation

by Robert Mercer

By the time you read this, the building should be in a shambles. In January, the major renovations were sent out to bid. If all went well, the Commissioners found an acceptable bid and approved a firm to do all of the construction for replacing our heating, air conditioning, and ventilation system, moving our offices and creating new exhibits. When it is finished, we will have a much more efficient heating and cooling system, saving money and protecting the environment. We will also have a much more exciting and engaging exhibit area. You will notice the difference when you walk into the building. The information desk will be front and center. There will be space for learning about the uniqueness of the Center, but also space to just sit down and relax and to engage with your fellow park visitors.

During the last six months, the staff, along with the design firms, have been working on planning. Now it will become a reality. We cannot wait to see how paper images morph into actual exhibits and room structures.

For the spring of 2014, we expect the construction to disrupt many facets of our operation, but we have every intention of maintaining all of our programs and activities. The groups that use the building will still be able to conduct their meetings or enjoy a program. Staff will still be available to answer your calls and questions, and we will still be able to receive visitors. The

big difference will be that the exhibit area and the store will be closed. The animals will be well cared for, kept in a safe, comfortable, temporary home, but they will not be where the public can visit. The trails will remain open from sunrise to sunset every day. The

restrooms will still be available during the hours the building is normally open.

Once we know the plans of the contractors, we will set a grand opening date and everyone will be invited to experience our new look! In the meantime, please be patient with our mess.



Join us for *Frog Slog, Kayaking, Birding, Summer Camp, Volunteering, 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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Carolyn Girgenti	Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Bilger	Volunteer Coordinator/ Camp Director
PattiAnn Lynn	Environmental Educator/ PR-Marketing Coordinator
Peg Mongillo	Bookkeeper

We need you!

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) at SLNC!

If you would love to find a source for locally grown produce that is good for your family and helps farmers stay in Bucks County, then this may be for you.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a wonderful way of getting a regular supply of locally-grown fruits and vegetables - and eggs, if you want - while providing farmers with a stable market. Members acknowledge the challenges of farming and accept the risks involved in producing good quality food for our tables.

The Guzikowski Farm of Yardley has set up a "dynamic CSA," meaning that they coordinate with other farms in the area to provide a wide range of products. Plants are grown organically or by using Integrated Pest Management.

This 20-week program will run June through October.

Choose from one of these share options:

1. **All Produce share** provides about eight (8) produce items each week.
2. **Produce Plus share** provides about six (6) produce items plus one dozen eggs each week.
3. **Produce Plus Half dozen share** provides about seven (7) produce items plus a half dozen eggs weekly.

These are estimates; there are no guarantees.

Pick up day is Wednesday, 3 pm - 6:30 pm at SLNC.

Full Share: \$500 includes pick up for 20 weeks
Half Share: \$265 includes pick up every other week for a total of 10 weeks

Payments are not refundable after the season begins. Go to our website or stop in for details and to register.

Please register by April 10th to secure your membership!

Power Interruption!

On Tuesday morning, February 4, we discovered that we had no power and no heat. Wow! Someone had systematically cut and stolen the copper cable from the electrical box outside of the Nature Center building!

Our staff did a lot of scrambling to contact volunteers, schools, and groups that were scheduled to be at SLNC for the next week or so. Some programs were rescheduled but others had to be cancelled. The building was closed to the public for ten days. Staff could not work and we lost revenue.

Finally, the repairs were made and we were able to open to the public again on Saturday, February 15th.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. Your support means so much to us!



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.

You are a Free Rider!

by Robert Mercer, Director

It never ceases to interest me that economy and ecology don't just share the same root word, but share the same characteristics. When one thinks in economic terms and applies all of the thinking to ecology, it is easy to see the similarities. I would like to talk about two common phrases: open access resources and free rider.

Open access resources are those items that can be accessed by anyone. Some examples are air, water, fish, and some might even say the internet. A person, animal, plant or corporation can make a living from extracting resources from the environment to convert them into food, shelter, or products we use, buy and throw away. If someone or something can get a resource for nothing making no payment, they become a free rider. Even worse is if an open access free resource is completely fouled or destroyed and is no longer available. Examples of free riders might be tax cheats, thieves, welfare cheats, polluters, or anyone who takes anything without paying. Taking could be a physical taking or it may be making something unavailable to others. Free riders do not need to be stealing; they could be paying a price that does not reflect the true costs.

One of the problems with our economic system is the price we pay for everything does not reflect the true cost. We are all free riders. Our history is filled with examples of environmental degradation for cheap products. To save even more money, we now export our problems to China where they currently build things

with no regard to the environmental impact. Who cares if they destroy their resources as long as it means jobs and cheap goods today! But, what is forgotten is that this punishes the future generation. There is no such thing as a free lunch. Someone pays the piper. Often it is either the health of the workers or the health of the planet.

When I look at human economic behavior from an ecological perspective, it is hard to be optimistic. Take for example the concept of a carbon tax. The concept behind a carbon tax is to place a price on the release of carbon into the atmosphere. Right now it is a free ride. Billions of people emit carbon on a personal level and through the products we buy. This costs us nothing. The idea is if you and I and everyone were no longer getting a free ride, but paid for every pound of carbon we are responsible for, either directly or indirectly, we would stop releasing so much carbon. This would clean the air and reduce greenhouse gases. But, most of us, like any other animal wanting to survive, would not voluntarily pay much higher prices for products and fuel. We would never vote to eliminate the free ride. We are happy to deny others the free ride, but not ourselves.

I try to think about this when I am considering my behavior. Are there ways I can reduce my impacts on the open access resources? Can I do my part, even as small as it is, to make the world a better place for my children's children's children?

A longer version of this musing can be found on our web site.



Focal Planes Foto Club's 40th Annual Photo Contest



On February 22, 2014, the Focal Planes Foto Club hosted the 40th Anniversary Silver Lake Nature Center Photography Contest. Began years ago with just a few entrants, today it has grown to over 370 images from 70 photographers from the area. The categories are based on a nature theme, the outdoors, and include the Bucks County Parks system.

Due to the recent vandalism at the Nature Center, the contest posed some trying problems for the club as it was right in the heart of collecting, sorting and setting up the contest. One evening club members braved 35° temperatures and worked in the dark to collect photographs from the public. And that was inside the Nature Center!

A highlight of the evening was a Proclamation presented by Bucks County Commissioner Diane Ellis-Marseglia honoring the Nature Center and the anniversary and declaring February 22, 2014, as Focal Planes Foto Club Day in Bucks County.

Focal Planes Foto Club has grown in recent years to 50 members who use all types of cameras and are willing to share their knowledge and experience with all who share their interest in photography.

Awards were presented in these divisions: Student, Amateur, Advanced Amateur, Black & White, and Special Awards.

First place winners for the various special awards are:

Bucks County Parks, b & w	Steve Waite
Bucks County Parks, color	Tim Hufnell
Focal Planes Foto Club	Barbara Pierce-Krusen
Silver Lake Nature Center	Clarence King
Best of Show, color	Joe Connett
Best of Show, b & w	Jan Ruano

Thank you to all who entered photographs this year, and please plan on participating next year!

Please feel free to join us at our regular meetings that are held at 7 pm at the Nature Center on the 2nd and 4th Monday each month.



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Diamond Partner \$5000+

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 Fairless Energy, LLC
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 & Natural Resources

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Our donors and supporters are the best!

Winners of SLNC Membership

December Lynne Wildey
 January Heather Speece
 February Christopher
 Robinson

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.

Join us!

Application for Membership

New Renewal Gift

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



Silver
 Lake
 Nature
 Center

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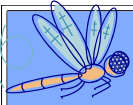
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All contributions and dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed
 by law - IRS code section 501 (c)(3). Checks should be made payable
 to:

FOSL (Friends of Silver Lake)
 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA 19007
 phone: 215 785-1177 fax: 215 785-3228

"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."

For the Kids



Preschool Update

We offer many programs that are designed to educate children and increase their awareness about our natural world. These programs can be conducted at our location or at the Preschools. Some of the Preschool programs we offer include: *Hibernation Happens*, *Life in a Log*, *Fancy Feet Feats*, *Ponds & Puddles*, *Frog Friends*, *Bugs & Beasties*, *Five Senses*, *Winter Wonders*, and *Spring Discovery*.



Calling All Scouts!!

Did you know that Silver Lake Nature Center offers a variety of Scout programs?



We cover all kinds of Girl Scout & Boy Scout Badge programs, including Brownie Try-its, Merit Badges, and Journeys.



Scouts can also enjoy our nighttime programs, such as Night Hikes and Sleepovers! Both programs include an indoor presentation focusing on nocturnal life, a walk on the trails (sans flashlights), and a campfire with a marshmallow roast and sing-a-long/storytelling!

SLNC will also work with your Scouts to complete Service Projects with our unique Serve & Learn program!

Celebrate at Silver Lake!



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

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!!

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

Fee per child w/one adult: \$9 member
\$12 non-member

Minimum # of participants: 10



For details on Preschool programs, Scout programs, and parties, contact PattiAnn at palynn@co.bucks.pa.us, or call her at 215-785-1177 ext. 12, or visit our website.

Thank you...

- Diana Bullard; Florence Stepenaskie; Heather Neuman; Hope and Kevin Sauppe; Glenn Rodkey; Margaret McGinnis; Andrea, John, and Michelle Deodati; Eileen "Cinders" Swank; Chris Besack; Pat and Patty Cutter; PattiAnn and David Lynn; Jeanne Stemmer; Marie Wojcik and Madeline Bobst; and an "Anonymous" donor for donating so generously to our Giving Tree.
- Pat Rossi for creating posters of our events for our bulletin boards in the Nature Center and at the lake.
- Sandy Wah for proofing our letters, fliers and the newsletter.
- Clarence King for the photography, design, and preliminary work to produce the 2014 SLNC calendars.
- JoAnne Kyle for donating every month to our animals' care.
- Don West for caring for our trails.
- Pat Rossi for putting Silver Lake Nature Center on display at the Lower Bucks County Library for all of February.
- Members of Focal Planes Foto Club for the 40th Annual Photo Contest and the Annual Silent Auction.
- Mary Beth Hartmann, Marie Wojcik, and Jeanne Stemmer who helped with our Bird Seed Sales, and thanks to everyone who bought bird seed!
- Hope Sauppe, Glenn Rodkey, Jeanne Stemmer, and Lou Zajewski for preparing and donating such delicious food for our volunteers for our monthly Volunteer Work Days.
- All of our animal care volunteers for being patient while our animals are displaced during renovations. We will need you when our critters return to their new displays!
- Christa Bain for creating the Fraktur of our 2013 Century Club volunteers.
- Senator "Tommy" Tomlinson for the certificates that were given to each Century Club member.
- State Representative Tina Davis for providing each our Century Club members with a special certificate.
- Schmidt's Flowers for donating a lovely bouquet for our Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition event.

Volunteers

Volunteers of the Year: *Jim Skala & Dave Chalfant*

Jim Skala - There are times all of us have encouraged our families and friends into service, but Jim has gone above and beyond. He has put in almost 700 hours of volunteer time just in the past 2 years while helping to build our Earthship. Jim, without you this wouldn't be possible; thank you for your tireless efforts!!

Dave Chalfant - Dave started volunteering here in 2012 as part of our Watershed Monitoring group. Since then he has put in over 200 hours of time! He went from monitoring to running our group recently, and he is here making sure the kits are stocked, new volunteers are trained, and he tests several sites in the bitter cold and snow as well as in the hot and humid summer. Dave, this program wouldn't have continued without your endless hours; thank you for your commitment!!

Volunteer Recognition and Annual Meeting

On Saturday, March 15, we recognized the hard-working efforts of our ever-growing family of volunteers, without whom we could never do the extraordinary things we do! In 2013, we had 1,214 volunteers who put in 8,523 hours of volunteer service, worth an estimated \$62,000!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

2013 Century Club

Thank you to all 26 of the volunteers who each put in over 100 hours of volunteer service last year:

Madeline Bobst	Justin Kerner	Michelle Salmastrelli	Jessica Tokarczyk
Samantha Brooks	Clarence King	Hope Sauppe	Carrie Walinsky
Donna Cayford	John McGrath	James Sell	Larry Walinsky
David Chalfant	Aidan Meister	Jim Skala	Donald West
Pat Coleman	Bonnie O'Boyle	Jeanne Stemmer	Marie Wojcik
Anthony Garwood	Julia Price	Florence Stepenaskie	
Lois Glasscock	Glenn Rodkey	Eileen Swank	



Calling all volunteers!

Summer Camp Sponsorship - We are searching for sponsors to help with the cost of purchasing Silver Lake logo tee shirts for our campers to tie dye as a memory and a gift.

Volunteer Opportunities Coming Soon...

Volunteer Work Days: 9 am to 2 pm
Saturdays, April 5th, May 3rd, and June 7th

Watershed Monitoring Workshop:
March 22nd - 9 am to 12 noon

Interested in what's going on in your local waters? Participants will have an opportunity to learn how to use testing equipment and interpret data. Learn about and help protect your local waterways. Fee: \$15.

Earth Day Work Day: April 19th - 9 am to 2 pm
Sponsored by the DOW Chemical Company.
We will be cleaning up our Mill Creek-Otter Creek Watershed, by picking up litter and debris in and around Magnolia and Silver Lakes.

Flea Market & Craft Fair: June 21st - 8 am - 2 pm
We will need bakers, set up, kitchen, parking lot, and clean up volunteers for this event.

Please pre-register for all volunteer opportunities.

Storekeeper - We are searching for volunteers to work in our gift shop greeting visitors, answering phones, and running the cash register. Open shifts are Saturdays, 1 to 4 pm, and every other Sunday, 1 to 4 pm.

Trail Maintenance - We are looking for volunteer(s) to help us maintain our trails between work days.

Animal Ambulance Crew - This crew will provide transport to wildlife rehabilitation centers for locally rescued injured or orphaned wild animals, especially important in the spring!

Animal Care - We have moved our animals temporarily so they will be safe during our renovations. We will need your help when all the renovations are done. Thanks!

CIT's (Counselors-In-Training) - We are looking for high school or college students willing to help as volunteer counselors for our summer camp.

Summer Camp Guest Naturalists - We are looking for people with a special skill, talent, or knowledge base who are willing to volunteer to lead mini-programs for our summer camps.

Mark Your Calendar

Recycle Craft Class Saturday, April 12 10 am - noon

Learn to create all kinds of neat things from items you would have thrown out! Call or e-mail us for a list of "trash" to bring.

Fee: \$5 member
\$6 non-member

Please pre-register.

Natural Egg-Dyeing Class Saturday, April 12 1 - 2 pm

Create beautiful eggs using natural dyes from common plants and vegetables.

Fee: \$7 member
\$9 non-member

Please pre-register.



Frog Slog Saturday, April 12th OR

Wednesday, April 23rd 7 - 8:30 pm

Learn about frogs and their calls, then carpool to the Frog Slog in the Bog. Bring a flashlight and come wading with us! Fun for all ages.

Fee: \$7 member
\$10 non-member

Must register & pay in advance.



Naturalist Skills Class Wednesday, April 16 - amphibians Wednesday, May 21 - spring plants 6 - 8 pm

Did you ever wish you could learn a little more about the plants and animals in this area? Come exploring with Director/Naturalist Bob Mercer! Must pre-register. Call for details. Fee, each class: \$6 member
\$8 non-member

Kids and Nature Thursday, April 17 Friday, April 18 9 am - 4 pm

Spend some of your spring break with us!

Six to ten-year olds will spend time outside and in as they explore the trails, play games, make a craft, and visit with our animals! Bring a lunch and a water bottle. Sign up for one or both days!

Daily fee, per person:
\$35 member
\$40 non-member

Registration and payment are due by April 12th.



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

Come birding with us each week from early March through the end of May. Bring binoculars, if you have them! It's free!

North American Bird Count Saturday, May 10th 5:30 am - 5:30 pm

We will identify and count birds at Silver Lake Park, Delhaas Woods, Neshaminy State Park, and along the river. If you can help with this national census, call Bob Mercer at 215 785-1177 for details.

Birding Cape May Saturday, May 17th 6:30 am - 5 pm

There are *always* birds in Cape May. Join us! At day's end, we will have dinner at a local restaurant (optional).

Fee for each field trip:
\$15 member; \$19 non-member

Must pre-register.

Fine Spirits and Fare on the Delaware Saturday, April 26th 5 - 7 pm

Come join us for an evening of fine spirits and food pairings in historic Bristol, PA, featuring local wines, beer, and other spirits. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants, live music, a basket raffle and a silent auction!

Note: Only 100 tickets available, so purchase your tickets now.

\$55 per person/\$100 per couple

Call 215 785-1177 for details.



Plant Watchers Walk Saturday, May 10th 2 - 3:30 pm

Join PA Master Naturalist candidate, Pat Coleman, for a seasonal walk to observe the stages of plant growth. We will be looking at late spring blooms along the forest trail. Come out and join us— it's **free!**

For details, please call us at 215 785-1177.

Flea Market and Craft Fair in the Park Saturday, June 21st 8 am - 2 pm *Rain or Shine. No Refunds.*

Our Flea Market is set up on the grounds around the building, with spaces in shade and sun. Bring your own table and chairs.

Single space: \$15 member; \$20 non-member

Double space: \$20 member; \$25 non-member

Car space: \$30 member; \$35 non-member

Indoor space (six feet, includes table): \$30 member; \$35 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.





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

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Coming Events

What about the Earthship?

We have spent two full years working on the Earthship, and we're not done yet! Winter, again, has slowed production, but with the promise of warmer weather, we can start getting things done again.

We will be completing the "Bottle Wall," installing plumbing, putting in electric, hanging doors, laying a floor, and doing all the finishing work. The only way we've been able to do all of this is with the unfaltering help of local businesses and our loyal, hard-working volunteers!

Our plan is to complete construction in the next few months. We will keep you informed and hope you will help us celebrate at the long awaited Grand Opening!



Now is the time to sign the kids up for **Summer Camp!**

for 6 - 12 year olds

Camp starts on June 23rd and goes 'til August 15th.



Full Days -
9 am to 4 pm

Half Days -
9 am to noon

Before Care (8 - 9 am) and After Care (4 - 5:30 pm)

Also -

Preschoolers Camp for 4 & 5 year olds
July 14 - 18 and August 11 - 15

And -

Teen Camp for 13 to 17 year olds
June 23 - 27; July 14 - 18; July 28 - August 1

Check our website, call, or stop in to register.

Please share this newsletter with a friend. Thanks!