



SUMMER 2012

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

GREEN FEST

October 6, 2012 11 am – 4 pm

- Meet with vendors who provide "green" products you can use in your home or business!
- Learn how you can conserve energy and save money!
- See live animal shows!
- Passport Prize activity and prizes for the whole family!
- Refreshments will be sold!
- Basket Raffle!
- Free Admission! Free Parking! Live Music!

Come see our
NEW
One-Room
School House
made with
recycled
materials!



**Calling All
"Green" Vendors!**

*For More Information, contact SLNC at (215)785-1177
or visit our web site at
www.silverlakenaturecenter.org

The **FROGHORN**

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for the Silver Lake Nature Center,
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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, 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.*

Welcome Summer Interns!

Sydney Stutzman

I am a college sophomore currently enrolled in Drexel University's 5-year Environmental Science Program. I'll be interning at Silver Lake Nature Center for six months starting in April. Last summer I worked with two PhD candidates studying Diamondback Terrapin turtles in Barnegat Bay, NJ. I would love to participate in more fieldwork here at SLNC and also to learn more about the surrounding vegetation. I grew up in Lycoming County (Central PA) and am a lover of all animals! I have two dogs back home, a mastiff and a pit bull mix. I support fair trade, organic local produce, and sustainability. I would love to study abroad one day.

Melissa Eldridge

Hi! My name is Melissa Eldridge. I am from Northeast Philadelphia, and I am currently a sophomore at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania. I am majoring in Outdoor Recreation and minoring in Biology and Environmental Studies. I enjoy bike riding, hiking, camping, fishing, kayaking, nature photography, gardening, and spending time in nature with family and friends. I am looking forward to working at Silver Lake Nature Center this summer, and I believe that the experience will prepare me for my anticipated career as an environmental/outdoor educator and interpreter.

Vail Ryan

My name is Vail Ryan. I am the new Watershed Monitoring Education Manager. We will be monitoring the Mill Creek-Otter Creek Watershed with regular chemical, biological, and physical testing. Our goal is to protect this small part of the greater Delaware River watershed and educate the community about how their actions impact the environment. I also work as an educator at Churchville Nature Center's Lenape village, and I am a watershed educator at Brandywine Valley Association. I am pursuing my BS in Environmental Science at the University of Oregon.

Two New Naturalist Aides Join a Uniquely Qualified Group

A large part of our mission here is hosting school field trips, and we could not do this without the help of a dedicated group of educators. So, twice a year, we hold training sessions to teach people how to lead school students through a variety of outdoor environmental programs. This is not for everyone. It takes a special set of skills to be able to greet anywhere from 30 to 130 students, in all kinds of weather, ensure that they enjoy their time here, and teach them something besides! It's a challenging job – although rewarding. Many have tried; a few stay. Sometimes we can go through several training courses with no graduates. We were very fortunate this Spring to have *two* new educators begin teaching with us: Maggie Strucker and Eileen Mercer. We are thrilled to have Maggie and Eileen join us. Along with Lois Glascock and Barb Campbell, they comprise the competent group of educators that we call Naturalist Aides.

Grants Update

Robert Mercer, Director

The Silver Lake Nature Center is able to accomplish everything we do because we seek many sources of support. The largest is the generosity of the Bucks County taxpayers. A driving tenet of the Center is that if the community wants a nature center, it will support a nature center. The support through our annual appeal and membership is critical to our survival. Along the same line of thinking, if our programs and services are good enough, people will be happy to pay for them. We greatly appreciate the many people and groups who attend our programs, and we strive to have educational and entertaining programs and activities. Also important to our existence is the “soft” money, funding from foundations and agencies that support specific projects at the Center. The following is a list of the larger grants we have received that are still active.

- The largest is a grant to the County from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for two projects. One is to make the building more energy efficient. The other is to replace our displays built in 1993 with something new and up-to-date. In an effort to stretch the dollars, the County has applied for an Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant for matching funds, thereby increasing the amount available. We await word about this.

- The Foundations Community Partnership provided money to fund afterschool and weekend activities for teens and pre-teens during the first half of the year. Enterprise Holdings Foundation has provided funding to continue teen programming until the end of the year. This will help us engage young teens, mentoring them and nurturing their interest in nature and the environment.



Kayaking with the After School Nature Club

- We are also partnering with the Heritage Conservancy to provide education in the Bristol Marsh, teaching about this unique feature.

All these projects move the Center forward, creating more opportunities for community involvement and making the Center a valuable resource for people like you.

Your support of our annual appeal and as a member is incredibly important as it demonstrates to these other funders that the Silver Lake Nature Center is viable and valued.



Inside exhibit, built in 1993.

- We are working to get the Watershed Education Building project finished. This zero carbon footprint structure would be the first like it in the area and has received funding from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and a local anonymous foundation.
- A grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is supporting intern Vail Ryan as he develops a watershed-monitoring program for the Mill Creek-Otter Creek Watershed.



One of the water monitoring sites: Silver Lake Dam

Children's Activities

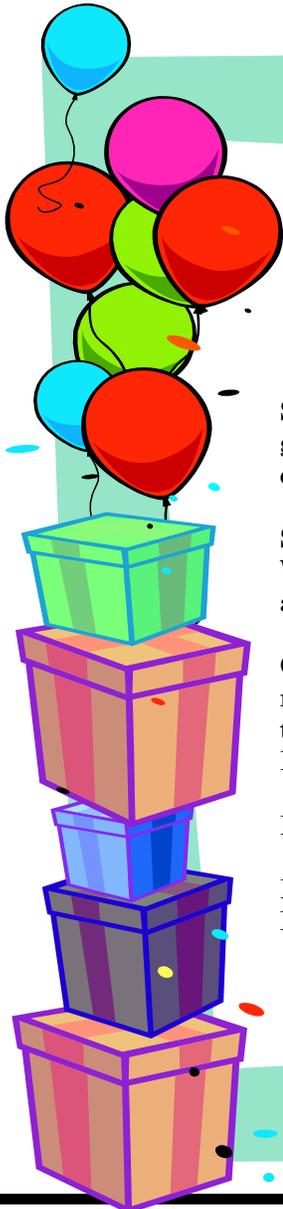
There is still time to sign up for our Preschool Camp!



Our Preschool Camp, led by PattiAnn Lynn, offers 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 will also get to play nature games, be artists, go on hikes, conduct experiments, have their faces/hands painted, make friends, and much more!

Preschool Camp will be offered from 9 am until 12 pm, July 9th through the 13th and again from August 6th through the 10th. Space is very limited, so please register early.

Weekly fee, per child: \$95 member; \$115 non-member



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 showers, baby showers, other special events, and meetings.

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.

Our regular two-hour party includes: one theme-related party craft; nature walk; use of building, auditorium or pavilion, kitchen, restrooms, tables, and chairs; indoor activities in case of inclement weather. For a regular two-hour birthday party, the fee, per child, is:
\$9 member; \$12 non-member

Fee includes one free adult per child. Minimum # of participants: 10

For pricing info, visit www.silverlakenaturecenter.org or contact PattiAnn at 215 785-1177- ext 12 or palynn@co.bucks.pa.us.



Summer Camps

Hop into Summer!



Summer Camp



Full and Half Day Camps for 6 to 12 year olds!

June 25th to August 17th

Sign up for one week, or all eight! Call or visit to register!

Full Day: 9am-4pm

Weekly fee, per child: \$180 member; \$200 non-member

Half Day: 9am-12pm

Weekly fee, per child: \$95 member; \$115 non-member

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

(\$50 per week extra charge for *both* Before and After Care,
\$30 per week for one or the other)

You're invited to a summer of fun!



- Outdoor Games
- Building Forts
- Healthy Food Art
- Pond Studies
- Waterfall Explorations
- Learn to Fish
- Marsh Meander
- Recreation and Crafts

Preschool Camp: 4 & 5 yr olds

July 9-13 and August 6-10

9am to 12noon

Weekly fee, per child: \$95 member

\$115 non-member

Teen Camp: 13-17 yr olds

July 9-13: Nature CSI

July 23-27: Outdoor Survival

August 13-17: Kayaking

12noon to 4pm

Weekly fee, per child: \$95 member

\$115 non-member

Discounts available for 2 or more children

OR for 2 or more weeks of registration

Note: Discounts are for Full Day Camp only.

For more information

call 215 785-1177 or visit our website www.silverlakenaturecenter.org

1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA. 19007

Volunteer Page

Volunteer Opportunities Coming Soon...

Volunteer Work Days from 9 am to 2 pm

Saturday July 7th, August 4th, and September 1st
Must register in advance. Give us four hours and we'll give you lunch!

Waterway Cleanup- Sept. 29 from 9 am to 2 pm

Help us remove the litter from our local waterways!

Green Fest- October 6 from 11 am to 4 pm

We will need pre-assigned parking lot and info table volunteers, bakers and kitchen staff for this event.

Please pre-register.

Volunteer Recognition—Thank You!

In 2011, 1048 volunteers put in 9,854 hours of volunteer service, worth an estimated \$71,438! Thank you to all of our donors for the Volunteer Recognition and Annual Meeting Event:

Applebees, Cesares, Georgine's JR's, Golden Eagle, Romano's Macaroni Grill, Under the Pier, Radcliffe Café, King George II Inn, Carraba's Italian Grill, Uno's Chicago Grill, Outback Steakhouse, Bonefish Grill, Joe's Pizza, Fink's Flowers & Gifts, Levittown Floral Boutique, Schmidt's Flowers, Steins at Sunset Florist, Flowers by David Heller, Just Because...Flowers, Pinelands Nursery, FOSLNC Board members, McCaffrey's Market, and Christa Bain, who created the beautiful Fraktur.

2012 Earth Day Work Day Event Statistics:

There were 105+ recorded volunteers for the April 21 Earth Day Work Day event and we all cleaned up & removed .58 of a ton or 1,160 pounds of recyclables, and 1.61 tons or 3, 220 pounds of trash!

Thank you to all who participated!

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER- Tony Garwood

Tony has been an active member of the Nature Center and has already put in almost 100 hours this year. Tony is our "Mr. Fix It", and we call on him for all kinds of miscellaneous projects. He has fixed up our animal tanks and our woodshed, he assembled our bee hives, he sanded and painted our butterfly garden benches, he fixed our bulletin boards, and he helps out at our monthly volunteer work days among the many other things he's done here! We can throw any odd job at Tony, and he will figure it out and fix it for us. He is a tremendous asset to the Center, and we thank him for all he is doing to help us out!

Calling all volunteers!

Contact Jenn at 215 785-1177 if you can help:

Storekeeper

We are searching for a volunteer to work in our gift-shop greeting visitors, answering phones, and running the cash register. Open shift: every other Sunday from 12 to 5 pm.

Trail Maintenance

We are looking for regular volunteer(s) to help us maintain our trails between monthly Volunteer Work Days.

Animal Care

We are looking for volunteers to come once a week for about an hour to feed our exhibit animals and clean their tanks. Open shifts: Saturdays and Sundays.

Animal Ambulance Crew

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

Adopt-An-Animal

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

CIT's (Counselors-In-Training) Needed

We are looking for high school or college students willing to help as volunteer counselors for our summer camp. Sign up for a minimum of two weeks.

Summer Camp Sponsorship

We are searching for Summer Camp sponsor(s) to help with the cost of purchasing Silver Lake logo T-shirts for our campers to tie dye as a memory and a gift.

Summer Camp Guest Naturalists Wanted

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

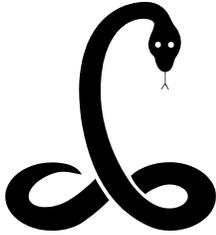
**If you're interested in volunteering,
contact Jenn Bilger:**

215 785-1177 ext 14 or jlbilger@co.bucks.pa.us

Of Interest

Serve & Learn Volunteer Program

Are you a special interest group that wants to learn while volunteering?
The Serve & Learn program is a 1.5 to 3 hour program involving an educational component followed by a service project.



Choose from these programs:
Watershed Monitoring
Invasive Removal/Kayak Cleanup
Native Plantings
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

Scout Update: Currently, we have two Girl Scouts working on their Silver Awards. Anna Yates is creating a natural background for our Pine-Bull snake tank and Kelly Young is creating a butterfly nursery and will have a Monarch tagging event in the summer.

Find out what your group can accomplish with us!

Boy Scout Projects

We enjoy working with Scouts! Each year, the staff generates a list of projects we would like to see done and put it out there for scouts to view and adopt. Already in 2012, two young men working on their Eagle rank have agreed to take on projects:

- Dylan Brown is solving a problem pointed out by the Bucks County Fire Marshal - our compost pile is too close to the building. Dylan will be dismantling the existing pile, cleaning out the good soil, rebuilding the compost system in a safer location, and refreshing the compost.
- Ryan Foran is going to build a hibernaculum for snakes. We feel that last year's flooding by Irene and Lee inundated the historic location for our snakes to hibernate. This year, a number of Garter Snakes used the stone wall by the pond, but if this had been a severe winter, they may not have gotten in deep enough to be protected from the frost. Ryan's design will provide a safe location to encourage survival.

Scouts interested in doing projects should contact Robert Mercer or Jenn Bilger to discuss ideas and options.



What's Buzzin' in the Hive

It's been a year since we installed a beehive at the Nature Center, and it was with anxious anticipation that we awaited the arrival of Spring to see whether our colony survived.

On April 21, the day before Earth Day, we picked up a package of bees. Inside the package is a queen in her own separate cage. The weather was cooperating so as soon as we arrived back at the Nature Center, we installed the bees. The bees are probably the easiest to handle at this point, as they have no home or honey to protect. Because the queen is not from this group of bees, however, she has to be introduced. This process takes several days. A successful introduction means the bees will accept her and take care of her and her eggs. Sometimes even the best introduction fails and the queen may fly off. So, after shaking the bees out of their box into a hive, the queen, still in her cage, was placed in. The bees were then given several days to get to know her. Also jars of sugar water were put in place to feed the bees until they start storing their own food. After five days all looked well, so the cork on one end of the cage was removed and the queen walked out. A recent hive inspection showed that she is laying eggs and the bees are busy making honey and raising the young.

So what of the first hive? Their numbers were reduced, but they did make it and with stores of honey to spare! Now, thanks to a generous donor, we have a bee yard!



Water Monitoring

Water Monitoring Project at Silver Lake

by Vail Ryan

The Silver Lake Watershed Monitoring Project is up and running. We have teams of volunteers going into their second month of chemical testing at four key sites in the watershed. In April we discovered a sewage leak in Mill Creek off of Yellowood Drive, and the responsible authorities have since repaired it.

We are now putting together our macroinvertebrate sampling team. This team will capture and count these small creatures to get a better idea of the quality of the water. We are planning this summer to conduct classes in identifying these creatures and understanding just what their presence or absence says about the state of our watershed.

Fresh water is a crucial resource for life with ever increasing demands placed upon it. If you enjoy kayaking, fishing, or simply enjoy stream or lake views, then you should appreciate clean water. Our little watershed is heavily populated and drains directly into the Delaware River – our drinking water. How we manage our roads, lawns, and lands adjacent to waterways directly affects the quality of the water in our streams, lakes, and ponds.

While our monitoring effort is off to a great start, there are still several sites we need to monitor, but we don't yet have enough volunteers. Would you like to join us? We sure could use your help. Please e-mail Vail at vailbass@msn.com or call the Nature Center!



Kayaking

Kayak Intro Learn basic kayak strokes and how to handle a kayak, first on land, and then we will practice our new skills on the water. Classes are two hours long and fill up fast, so please register early.

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

Dates: July 7, August 4, September 5, and October 6

Full Moon Paddles We head out on the water to watch the sun set, enjoy toasted marshmallows and campfire stories and paddle back by moonlight.

Fee: \$20 member; \$25 non-member **Adults only.**

Dates: July 3, August 1, August 31, and October 1

Off-Site Day Trips Pack a lunch and lots of water and join us for three to six hours of paddling with plenty of breaks. We meet at 8 am for most trips.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Rating</u>
June 30	Crosswicks Creek	Moderate
July 8	New Jersey Shore	Moderate
July 14	Spruce Run	Easy
July 21	Windward Beach	Moderate
July 28	Assiscunk Creek	Moderate
Aug. 11 - 12	**overnight trip**	Moderate
Aug. 18	Rancocas Creek	Difficult

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

With your own craft: \$20 member; \$30 non-member

Note: Pre-registration and payment are required for ALL trips.

Adopt an Animal

New Feature on Our Website

At the Silver Lake Nature Center, we have a few animals on display. These animals are there for the expressed purpose of teaching people about animals. Our aquatic turtles teach people the difference between the PA threatened species, Red-bellied Turtle, and the non-native, invasive species, Red-eared Slider. Our two snakes introduce many visitors to snakes, helping to dispel fears and build appreciation. Our Box Turtles introduce people to the variation in these turtles, now considered threatened in Pennsylvania. Finally, our aquarium shows some of the fish and aquatic creatures that live in the park.

Our goal is to have healthy display animals, and you can help! Each year, the animals need to eat, visit the vet for an annual checkup, as well as the occasional need for medical attention.

On our website is an opportunity to "adopt" one or more of our display animals. Your donation will ensure they receive the best care and attention.



On the Horizon



Flea Market in the Park June 16th 8 am to 2 pm

Rain or shine. Bring your own table and chairs.
All spaces are assigned: First come, first served.

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

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

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

Indoor space, about 6 feet, **includes table:**

\$25 member; \$30 non-member

Stop in at the Center to reserve your space!

Refreshments will be sold by the Nature Center.



18th Annual Delaware River Sojourn June 24 - 30, 2012

The Sojourn is a seven-day guided paddling trip on the wild and scenic Delaware River. It is for novice to experienced paddlers of all ages. Sign up for one day or all seven. For more information call the Nature Center or <http://www.delawariversojourn.org>.



Annual Butterfly Count Saturday, July 14th 10 am - 4 pm

This survey is done to add data to the Annual Fourth of July Butterfly Count hosted by the North American Butterfly Association.

If you wish to help record the butterfly species in the park, contact Bob Mercer at 215 785-1177.

Fee: \$5



Campfire Gathering & Flag Retirement Ceremony Friday, July 20th 7:30 - 9 pm

Enjoy some of the simple pleasures of life as we gather 'round the campfire for singing, storytelling, roasting marshmallows, and a flag retirement ceremony.

Please call 215 785-1177 to register by July 18th.

Fee: \$5 member; \$8 non-member



Shorebird Identification Trip Saturday, July 28th 6:30 am - 5 pm

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.

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



Step II presents "Charlie Brown"

Friday, August 3rd
7 pm

Come and enjoy this fun production put on by local talent!

Tickets: \$5 per person available at the door



American Red Cross Annual Blood Drive August 25th 10 am - 3 pm

Give the gift of life!

Call us to make an appointment or walk in.

215 785-1177

www.pleasegiveblood.org



Concert in the Woods with The Chuck Schaeffer Band

September 15th
7:30 - 9:30 pm

Join us for this wonderful open-air event!
(Will be held indoors if inclement weather.)

Tickets purchased by 5 pm Sept. 14th:
\$10 per person
Purchased after Sept. 14th: \$15 per person

Thank you...

- Pat Rossi for creating posters for our events and keeping them current in the kiosk at the lake.
- Marie Wojcik and Rae Hemingway for taking our display to Senator Tomlinson's Children's Expo.
- Al & Nancy Bilheimer for donating the standard and metric socket set.
- Tony Garwood for building a tree for our Pine-Bull snake and building lids for the butterfly tanks.
- Glenn Rodkey for donating mailing supplies; three fishing pole sets for our Summer Camp; and for repairing the calculator!
- Florence McFadden and *Anonymous* for donating to the care of our animals.
- Jim Ritter for framing and donating his 2012 SLNC Award-winning photo of a green heron.
- Carol Long of Bristol, for donating bird nests, shells, and natural craft material.
- Jan Ruano for donating the reference book, The Plants of Pennsylvania, by Ann Rhoads and Timothy Black.
- Jeanne Stemmer and Hope Sauppe for providing bread, salad, brownies, and cakes as needed for Volunteer Work Day each month.
- Sandy Wah for proofing our articles and letters.
- Jim Skala for helping with the bees, delivering and planting trees, etc.
- David Lynn for helping with our campfire programs.
- Keith Effinger for donating turtle and fish food.
- Peggy Hambrecht for donating tree seedlings.
- "Cinders" (a.k.a. Eileen Swank) for doing the campfire part of our sleepovers and night hikes by making the fire, telling stories, and teaching songs to everyone.
- Don West for his ongoing trail maintenance.
- Carol Flood for continuing to work on improving our website.
- Everyone who helped with our mailings, including Mary Reitz, Diana Bullard, Walt Lorchak, Gene Aliberto, Mary Lou Boyer, and Glenn Rodkey.
- To our naturalist aides for teaching the many happy school groups this spring, including Lois Glasscock, Barbara Campbell, Eileen Mercer, Maggie Strucker, Sydney Stutzman, Melissa Eldridge, and Mary O'Connor.
- Everyone who helped with our Flea Market, and everyone who rented space and/or came out to shop!

Please share this newsletter with a friend. Thanks!

Address service requested.

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