



SUMMER 2013

# 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](http://silverlakenaturecenter.org)

## Fine Event!

On April 6, 2013, the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center held a new event called "Fine Wine and Fare on the Delaware." Cissi and Lou Quattrocchi opened their magnificent home overlooking the Delaware River in Bristol for this event. A committee composed of Becky Obert-Thorn, Jim Sell, Donna Scalzo, Eileen Kelliher, and Cissi Quattrocchi worked long and hard to make the event special. They asked for and received donations of food from the following Bristol eateries: Borough Pub, Café Bombay, Cesare's Ristorante, King George Inn, Mazzanti's Market, and the Pine's Tavern. The food from each of these locations was fantastic. We highly recommend them!

Herman Mihalich from Mountain Laurel Spirits provided a tasting of two flavors of Dad's Hat Rye, which is distilled in Bristol. Wines were purchased from Washington Crossing Vineyards, and Jayne McPherson-Young of "Got Wine?" in Bristol provided and served wines from the Buckingham Valley Winery. Additional support was provided by Bristol Rotary, Mr. & Mrs. Jay Berger, Bucks County Bank, CBM of Delaware Valley, Monica and Ralph DiGiuseppe, Jr., Great ID's by Anne, Bob Gerstley of Money Mailers, Pam Morris, Edward Obert-Thorn, Cissi and Lou Quattrocchi, and Jim and Kelly Sell.

Over one hundred people came, ate, drank, and socialized on a perfectly beautiful early spring day. They enjoyed the view, the food, the variety of drinks, and the many raffle baskets the committee put together. A few even took advantage of Jim's cigar bar set up out on the porch. Already the committee is thinking about what we can do next year! If you missed it this year, make sure you put it on your schedule for next year—it is the event of the season!

## Project Update

Many very exciting projects are moving forward simultaneously! It is very important to understand that it is the support of those who become members and who donate to the Annual Appeal which makes all of these projects happen. The grants come because we can show how much the community supports the Nature Center! Thank you to all who give as members, donors, and volunteers.

We have a few scout projects planned for this summer. One will replace the boardwalk broken by Hurricane Sandy, and the other will install trail liners to help better define the trails.

The Earthship, while moving slowly, is on its way to becoming a reality. To stay within the metaphor, the winter weather had it dead in the water for a couple months, but now that summer has come, movement is building. As the summer progresses, change will happen fast! We plan to celebrate its opening in October!

The design firm, Content Design Collaborative, has completed the concept plan for the new exhibit space, and it is exciting. Sometime this fall, we will be completely revamping the front entryway, exhibit room, offices and store. The building will be more open and even friendlier.

By the onset of winter we hope to have a new heating system to replace the inefficient system we currently use. The engineers are at work designing this.

A small change which will not be obvious to anyone other than staff will be a new membership database, one that was professionally designed and will offer more resources for staff to use in maintaining membership, donor, volunteer, and program participant records.

Review the report on volunteers to learn all of the wonderful things our volunteers do!

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.

### **Bucks County Commissioners**

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### **Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center Board of Directors**

Eileen Kelliher, President  
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Brian Allen, Jackie Garber, Bruce Harris,  
Pam Morris, Donna Scalzo, Albert Sutter

### **Staff**

Robert Mercer	Director/Naturalist
Lorraine Skala	Assistant Naturalist
Carolyn Girgenti	Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Bilger	Volunteer Coordinator/ Camp Director
PattiAnn Lynn	Environmental Educator/ PR-Marketing Coordinator
Peg Mongillo	Bookkeeper

**Silver Lake Nature Center**  
**1306 Bath Road, Bristol, Pa 19007**  
**215 785-1177 Fax 215 785-3228**  
**[www.silverlakenaturecenter.org](http://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.*

## **In Memorium Jean Carmichael**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of longtime staff member and friend, Jean Carmichael.

Jean's relationship with Silver Lake Nature Center started at the beginning, when George, her husband, became the Nature Center's first naturalist in 1966. In the 1970's, when the Nature Center went fulltime, Jean volunteered with the children's clubs and many fundraisers. With the founding of the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center in 1979, Jean served as secretary on the first Board. In 1981, she became the first employee of the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center, serving as Administrative Assistant until she retired in 2001. Since then, she has kept involved as a volunteer as much as possible.

Jean was always calm and pleasant no matter how many jobs she was juggling. We are forever grateful to her for her quiet intelligence, gentle humor, and organizational skills that kept us moving in the right direction over the years. She will be missed.

## **Welcome Summer Interns!**

### **Daniel Reynolds - General Intern**

My name is Dan Reynolds, and I am a junior at Kutztown University studying psychology with a minor in philosophy. I have a love for the outdoors and music, and I dream of entering the environmental psychology field on the postgraduate level after graduation. I'm very excited to be working with the Silver Lake Nature Center this summer, learning about community-environmental relationships and management.

### **Avery Martin - General Intern**

I've got crazy curly hair, and I love wearing my hiking boots! My name is Avery Martin, and I come from the land of Philadelphia. I am an Environmental Studies major at Eckerd College, and when I'm not busy with hugging trees, I'm out in the art studio creating something new. I can't stress enough how excited I am to be out of the classroom and working directly with and in the natural environment.

### **Gailen Davis - General Intern**

Greetings! My name is Gailen Davis, and I just completed my freshman year at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. I live in Cinnaminson, NJ. At Rutgers, I am majoring in Environmental Policy and minoring in History in the pursuit of becoming an Environmental Attorney. I don't know exactly what I will work on this summer as a Silver Lake intern, but I want to help where needed most.

## Asian Tiger Mosquito

by Robert A. Mercer

Remember the good old days when you used to go outside all day long and never worried about getting bit by a mosquito because they only came out at dawn and dusk? Those days are long gone, destroyed by the careless introduction of a new species into our fauna list, the Asian Tiger Mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*. Now, whenever I step out into my yard during the summer months, these pests swarm, stick, and suck. According to the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet # FS845, this species of mosquito, first reported in North America in 1985 as a small population discovered in Houston, TX, spread to Maryland by 1987 at an astonishingly rapid pace. This blitzkrieg ground to a halt, presumably by cold temperatures, until in August 1995 when a Monmouth County, New Jersey, mosquito trap captured a single female for the first time. Now established well into New York State, this pest is a vector for diseases as varied as West Nile and dengue fever and is spreading ever farther north. Some speculate this may be one of the climate change curses we face.

The Asian Tiger Mosquito received its common name not from its voracious appetite (which it has) or its predilection for human blood (which it has, along with that of birds and mammals), but from the distinctive pattern of black and white bands on its legs and body. This pest's distinctive habits of diurnal feeding and striped look make it easy to identify. Thankfully, a mosquito repellent with DEET keeps them at bay. Because of my stubborn loathing of slathering on sticky creams, quite a number of mosquitoes feast on my blood most days that I am in the yard.

Being a healthy adult, West Nile does not concern me. The Asian Tiger Mosquito is not a strong vector for this particular disease. Furthermore, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), only about 1% of the people bitten get seriously ill, while 80% of the people infected with West

Nile Disease show no symptoms. Once infected, the presence of antibodies creates immunity to West Nile Virus, presumably for life. For those who never even got sick, the presence of the antibodies is the only evidence of infection. Generally, only the elderly or very young are prone to serious repercussions. To me, West Nile virus is a disease one should get early—I am there.

Without a doubt, mosquitoes are annoying. Should this creature drive us back into the house, denying us the pleasure of the finer natural wonders? NO! I vow that every effort needs to be made to remove every potential breeding site from my yard, a substantial challenge as the Asian Tiger Mosquito's other common name is the Container Mosquito. It frequently uses the shallow puddles of water found in the plates under pots, the knotholes in trees, and shallow depressions that hold for just days as little as a teaspoon of water—a damp spot created by a dripping faucet or air conditioner condenser. The mosquitoes plaguing us are weak fliers that rarely travel more than 200 yards from the place of birth. Therefore, they most likely come from our own yards or from a nearby neighbor.

What can you do so you are not the problem? Drain any standing water to which mosquitoes could have access—empty the flowerpot saucers after every rain; remove all water collectors like tires, bottles, buckets, and pots from the yard; and clean the gutters several times during the season. This also helps keep the nocturnal species of mosquitoes at bay, since their life cycle includes about ten days living as eggs, larva and pupa in standing water. Even with all this effort, Asian Tiger Mosquito control can be a challenge! Since the Asian Tiger Mosquito only needs moisture, diligence in keeping your yard free of standing water is critical. Still having a problem? You will need to use a repellent with DEET. You may want to read on our website about the proper use of insect repellent before you do.

### 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
Life Investor	\$1000

Join us before the fees increase!



Silver  
Lake  
Nature  
Center

### Application for Membership

New  Renewal  Gift

#### Please Print

Name:

Mr./ Ms./ Mrs./ Mr. & Mrs./ Dr. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Circle one) First Last

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
house number/street name Apt.

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Business Partners

## Diamond Partner \$5000+

The Dow Chemical Company  
 Fairless Energy, LLC  
 National Environmental Education  
 Foundation (NEEF)  
 PA Department of Community  
 & Economic Development (DCED)  
 PA Department of Conservation and  
 Natural Resources (DCNR)  
 PA Department of Environmental  
 Protection (DEP)

## Platinum Partner \$3000+

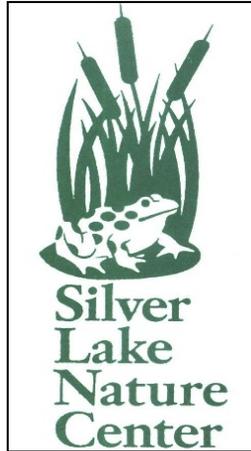
County of Bucks  
 Foundations Community Partnership

## Gold Partner \$1500+

Enterprise Holdings  
 The Grundy Foundation  
 Natural Awakenings, BuxMont

## Silver Partner \$1000+

Allied Electronics, Inc.  
 Bristol Township  
 Crown Holdings, Inc.  
 Exelon Power



## Benefactor \$500+

Construction Building Materials (CBM)  
 Harris Comfort  
 Metal Finishing Corporation

## Patron \$250+

Allied Waste/Republic Services  
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Exact Solar	Pa Representative Tina Davis
Fidelity Savings & Loan of	RT Power
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Four Lanes End Garden Club	

*Please support our business partners whenever you can!*

Winners of a free FOSL Membership! Congratulations!

March	Michael Broscius
April	Lee Weiler
May	Howard White

Fill out a form in the lobby and drop it in the "birdhouse." You may win a Free Individual Membership!  
 One free membership drawn each month.

## Welcome New Members

New Members from February 1 thru April 30, 2013

Meghan & Eric Baratta, Juliane & Christopher Barreto, Diane Beck, Lisa Boyer, Kimberly Crockett Yanss, Tina Davis, Rick Eisenacher, Virginia Fairweather, Thelma Harcum, Rick Hasney, Norb & Erin Kuznicki, Michael McShane, Lisa Polk, Marie Roarty, Elizabeth Schroeder, Edith Sedli-Clawson, Bradley Stein, Pat Stephenson, Maureen Swiss, Kristy Urban, Maryellen Zitzler

*Thanks for joining us. We hope to see you often!*

# Activities for Everyone

## Preschool Camp!

Our Preschool Camp, led by PattiAnn Lynn, offers 4 and 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 is offered from 9 am until 12 noon, July 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

Space is very limited, so please register early.



## Kayaking

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

**Fee:** \$20 member; \$25 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 22, August 20, and September 19

**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 the lake at 8 am.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Rating</u>
June 19	D & R Canal	Easy
July 13	Del. River/Whitewater	Advanced
July 20	Lake Galena	Easy
August 3	Schuylkill River	Moderate
August 10	New Jersey Shore	Difficult
August 17	Assiscunk Creek	Moderate
August 24	Green Lane Reservoir	Easy
August 31	Crosswicks Creek	Moderate

*Additional paddles are scheduled through the end of September.*

**Fee:** \$35 member; \$45 non-member

**With your own craft:** \$25 member; \$35 non-member

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

## Celebrate at Silver Lake!

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

Special party 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 the program selected.

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.

Fee: \$9 member

\$12 non-member

Fee includes one free adult per child.

Minimum # of participants: 10



Step II presents excerpts from "Aladdin, Jr." musical

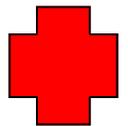


**Friday, August 2nd**  
7 - 8 pm

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 17th  
10 am - 3 pm



Give the gift of life!

Call us to make an appointment or walk in.



215 785-1177

[www.pleasegiveblood.org](http://www.pleasegiveblood.org)

# Volunteers

## **Volunteer Opportunities Coming Soon...**

### **Volunteer Work Days from 9 am to 2 pm**

Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup> and August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Must pre-register.  
Give us four hours and we'll give you lunch!

### **Waterway Cleanup- September 7 9 am to 2 pm**

Help us remove the litter from our local waterways!  
Please pre-register.

### **Silver Lake Nature Fest - October 12 11 am - 4 pm**

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

## **Volunteer Accomplishments...**

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

**2013 Earth Day Work Day Event Statistics:** There were 160+ volunteers for the April 20th Earth Day Work Day event, and we cleaned up and removed over seven tons of trash and recyclables! Thank you to all who participated, and thanks to our sponsors and partners: The DOW Chemical Company, Keep PA Beautiful, G.O.A.L, the Heritage Conservancy, and Green Mountain Energy!

## **Serve & Learn Volunteer Program**

The Serve & Learn program is a 1.5 to 3 hour program involving an educational component followed by a service project. **Programs include:** Watershed Monitoring; Invasive Removal/Kayak Cleanup; Native Plantings/Rescue; Trail Adoption/Maintenance; Wetlands Restoration; Experiential/Teambuilding; Scavenger Hunt/Litter Removal; Fundraisers

**Fees:** \$90 for up to 20 participants  
\$180 for up to 40 participants

# Calling all volunteers!

### **Storekeeper**

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

### **Animal Ambulance Crew**

This crew will provide transport to wildlife rehabilitation centers for injured or orphaned wild animals. This service is desperately needed, especially in the spring.

### **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](mailto:jlbilger@co.bucks.pa.us)**

## **Volunteers of the Quarter: Ryan Neuman and Dave Chalfant**

**Ryan Neuman** has volunteered at SLNC for over two years. In that time, he has put in over 300 hours! Ryan started out as a summer camp CIT (Counselor-in-Training) and moved on to help out with our Afterschool Nature Club. The children love having him as a CIT and we have come to rely on his help with our seasonal youth education programs. Thank you, Ryan!

**Dave Chalfant** started volunteering in 2012 when our Watershed Monitoring Program started. Dave is a regular member of our water monitor team, but he goes way above and beyond his volunteer role. Dave has taken charge of making sure our watershed monitoring program continues to provide the quality data it did in its first year, that our equipment is accurate and our materials are refilled, and that the data is entered into our system to look for trends and signs of pollution in our local waterways. He has also personally taken on the testing of several sites to make sure they are regularly checked. Thank you, Dave!

## Thank you...

- To our animal caretakers, Heather Neuman, Elaine Panuccio, Justin & Anthony Pratt, Wayne Moore, and Jeanette Henrie for coming in regularly to care for our fish, snakes, and turtles.
- Keith Effinger, Glenn Rodkey, Sr., Justin and Anthony Pratt, and everyone who has donated food for our critters!
- Jack Person for the push broom for our garage.
- Pat Rossi for creating posters for our events and keeping them current in the kiosk at the lake.
- Marie Wojcik and Madeline Bobst for taking our display to Senator Tomlinson's Children's Expo.
- Gail Bracegirdle for donating a large supply of tempera paint for our summer camps.
- Pauline White, Emma DeWilde, Glenn Rodkey, Sr., Donna Cayford, John McGrath, Jeanne Winerip, Sharon Durham and everyone who donated to our white elephant table for the Flea Market.
- Tony Garwood for building new doors for the sand-box and a platform feeder for the birds.
- Jeanne Stemmer and Hope Sauppe for providing bread, salad, brownies, and cakes as needed for our Volunteer Work Day each month.
- Sandy Wah for proofing our articles and letters, helping to make us look our best.
- Jim Skala, Bob Pearson, Dan Reynolds, Brian Coppola, Robert Mercer, and Michael Skala for helping with the Earthship as it continues to take shape.
- Mary Ida Reitz for donating [The Crossley ID Guide for Eastern Birds](#) to SLNC.
- JoAnne Kyle for donating every month to the care of our animals.
- Everyone who helped with our mailings, including Diana Bullard, Mary Ida Reitz, Glenn Rodkey, Sr., Jeanne Stemmer, Joan Foley, Elaine Gramlich, and interns Avery Martin and Daniel Reynolds.
- Lois Glasscock for advising and working with the Girl Scouts of Troop #2531, led by Beth Gutierrez, and thank you for all your work on this garden project!
- Pat Rossi for putting SLNC on display at the Levittown Library for the month of June!
- Glenn Rodkey, Sr. for donating bug boxes for our school programs and a new broom to keep us tidy.
- Everyone who helped with our Flea Market, everyone who rented space, and everyone who came out to shop!
- John Gamel for donating one cord of maple logs, and for taking the time to put them, by the wheelbarrowful, in the woodshed for us.

## Six Years of Growth Precipitates Change

It is amazing to reflect on all the changes that have taken place at Silver Lake Nature Center in the past six years thanks to the generosity of the community, especially our members! Our eye-catching mural draws more visitors every year. Our fleet of kayaks provides new opportunities for residents to enjoy our waterways. There are concerts and events at our beautiful outdoor amphitheater. Visitors flock to our trails and the handsome deck overlooking the lake.

This fall we will open our Watershed Education Building, also known as the "Earthship." It is the only public education space on the east coast made entirely of recycled material. We expect visitors to come from far and near to learn from it. What's more, with the help of a state grant we have undertaken a major renovation and upgrade of our exhibit space.

We have not, however, modified our membership rates during all this time. This is beginning to catch up with us. With more to manage and plans to do more for the community, we need to raise more support. On September 1, 2013, the cost of a "Single" membership will increase to \$25 from \$20. "Household" memberships will increase to \$35 from \$30. This notice gives everyone several months to renew before the rates go up. We changed the group membership designation to "Household" from "Family" to recognize the diversity

of modern families. We have eliminated the "Senior" membership designation, but will offer a \$10 discount to seniors who request it. At the same time, we are providing for a range of generosity in a portion of the other memberships to allow supporters to increase their gifts if they are so inclined. Our popular "Gray Fox" membership, formerly \$50, will extend from \$50 through \$99. Our "Red Fox" membership will extend from "\$100" through "\$249."

In an effort to increase our membership by enticing lapsed members to return, we will be mailing program brochures and newsletters to **all** homes. Members who gave us their e-mail address will continue to receive e-mail materials. We encourage you to let us know if e-mail is sufficient and that you would like us to save money by stopping post office delivery of hard copies to your home.

We value your support as a member of the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center. It pays for staff and programs and all the extras that help to transform a beautiful county park into a place where individuals of all ages can learn about natural habitats and sustainable environmental management. We hope you will stay with us and invite your friends to join as well.

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

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Levittown, PA 19055  
Permit #302

Address service requested.

## Coming Events

# Silver Lake Nature Fest

## Saturday, October 12th

11 am - 4 pm

Come, join the fun!  
Bring the family and enjoy fun activities  
all day long! Live music, raffle baskets,  
"Passport" game for kids,  
fascinating info on living green,  
and much more!

**Free Admission Free Parking**

**Renew your membership NOW,  
before the rates increase!**

Renew at the current levels and annual fees:

Individual	\$20
Family	\$30
Sr. Citizen	\$10
Student	\$10
Sr. Couple	\$15

We encourage you to pay for more than one year  
of membership, so you'll save even more!

On Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, we will simplify the levels and increase the  
annual fee as follows:

Individual	\$25 (includes "Sr." and "student")
Household	\$35 (includes all at the same address)

For \$10 Sr. Citizen discount, check here \_\_\_\_\_

As always, your membership helps us to meet our mission  
statement "to create 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."

Please share this newsletter with a friend. Thanks!