



Winter2012

THE FROGHORN

~ SILVER LAKE NATURE CENTER ~

Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center Mission Statement

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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.

.....

It's Maple Syrup Time!



For *one week* in February, we will be demonstrating the old-fashioned process of collecting sap from trees and boiling it down to make maple syrup. Participants will learn the history, legends, early collection, and modern production of this sweet, nutritious treat.

Come out and join the fun!

February 19th - 22nd is reserved for groups.
February 24th is open to the public.

Call the Nature Center for details and to register:
 215 785-1177 or check out our website
www.silverlakenaturecenter.org.

Visit us on the Web!
www.silverlakenaturecenter.org

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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Florence M. McFadden
August 26, 1916 — November 30, 2012

We are saddened by the recent loss of Florence McFadden, who has been our steady Friday morning shopkeeper since 1991.

Helping with our annual Pond Tours, Flea Markets, and Green Fest, Florence always impressed visitors with her friendliness and her joy of living. Over the years, she has formed many special friendships at the Nature Center.

It was through Florence’s perseverance that the auditorium window was finally installed — after more than four years of waiting for it to happen. She requested the window installation on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday. What a gift to the Nature Center!

We feel grateful for having had the opportunity to call Florence our friend. She will be missed.

Fall Fling 2012

Our annual Fall Fling, held at the Nature Center on October 10th, was an especially festive occasion. New and longtime members, volunteers, board members, and staff all gathered together to share their interest in the Nature Center and see what might be on the horizon. Senator “Tommy” Tomlinson and PA Representative Tina Davis read a proclamation to honor our 40th year of fulltime operation.

Architect Michael Jonn spoke about the Earthship – from concept and design to actually seeing this self-contained green building take shape over the last few months. He especially thanked everyone who has supported the Earthship with enthusiasm, labor, supplies, and funds, and asked that we continue to do so. There is a lot more work to do before we can cut the ribbon at the grand opening in the spring!

Rounding out the evening were the music and refreshments. The students of Colin Marshal’s Culinary Arts class at the Bucks County Technical High School prepared and served a wonderful selection of hor d’oeuvres while pianist Joseph Lizzi played a medley of background music.

If you weren’t at the Fling this year, plan on being there next year. It is always a fun time with a lot of interesting, nature-loving people. We hope to see you there!



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.

Limited Supply of Silver Lake 2013 Calendars are Still Available!!

Enjoy beautiful pictures of Silver Lake Nature Center and Park through all seasons! These calendars make lovely gifts for any occasion.

Photography and design by resident historian and photographer, Clarence King, as well as by members of the Focal Planes Foto Club.

Calendars cost \$15 each.

All proceeds benefit the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center.

Supplies are very limited, so please call 215 785-1177 or e-mail palynn@co.bucks.pa.us soon to make your purchase!



Mercer's Musings

Gas from Air and Water?

by Robert Mercer

On October 19, 2012, while driving to work, I heard a news announcement that a British firm created petrol (gasoline) from air and water. According to Reuters, the engineers at Air Fuel Synthesis (AFS) created a whopping 5 liters (just over 1.3 gallons). They proclaimed the process could be scaled up to commercial operation within the next fifteen years. I checked out the web to make sure it was not a hoax. Apparently not.

Wow! Who ever heard of anything so wild! Creating energy from air and water! Then I thought, "wait a minute, isn't that what plants have been doing for millions of years, making energy from air and water?" Of course, plants do not make gasoline to power their systems, but make sugars and starch instead. Animals, and even some plants, then consume that plant energy to meet their energy needs.

But, then again, after the plant material has baked deep down in

the earth for millions of years, it can become coal, oil, or natural gas. This company recognized that the basic ingredients for oil are the common molecules of hydrogen and carbon dioxide bonded into a hydrocarbon.

Anyone who has followed my articles knows that I constantly advocate that we need to learn to mimic nature and learn the lessons on how to use the raw material of our planet wisely so that everything can be reused or recycled. We need to get off our addiction to fossil fuels and use more renewable energy. I will be the first to admit, I did not see this announcement coming—recycling air and water into gasoline. So we can continue to feed our addiction! Now there is a philosophical conundrum. Is this a good thing? Can we mimic Mother Nature without getting into trouble? What do you think?

Read more at my blog, "Mercer's Musings," on our website.

A Visit from Sandy!

by Robert Mercer

Hurricane Sandy roared through the Center as it did for just about everyone reading this. By now, life is back to normal, but when you visit the Nature Center, the change to our habitats should jump out at you. Forty five volunteers descended on Saturday, November 3, 2012, and worked hard to remove as many of the fallen trees from the trails as they could, so people can once again enjoy a walk. We want you to enjoy the peaceful trails and the study of nature, so we removed the portions of the fallen trees creating obstacles to trail use. The dead carcasses of the fallen trees left to return back into soil also act as a visual reminder of Sandy's wrath. Over the years, watch the old logs rot away, slowly creating homes for a host of new life.



Our forest stood relatively stable until Sandy visited.

Now the forest canopy contains large openings. Sunlight, once blocked by the heavy cover, now reaches the forest floor, starting a mad race which will take decades to complete. For years, the trees sprinkled seeds down on the floor, but the darkness prevented germination, or if the trees did grow, they never got more than a couple feet high. Once the seeds germinate this spring, little seedlings will pop up by the hundreds if not thousands. Their roots, spreading out to grab as much water as possible, and their branches, reaching for as much sun as possible, intertwine with their neighbors, and the race, wherein the combatants wrestle their way to the finish line, begins.

The objective for the tree—survive to produce seeds. To reach this objective it must steal as much water and light as possible to grow taller and faster than its competitors. During the first year, the race may progress a couple feet, and numerous losers die along the way. In the first decade, the racers progress probably less than 30 feet, and the competitors fighting for the precious resources become fewer. After about 50 years, there may be a clear winner or, at most, just a few competitors left standing. Most of us will not see this race from start to finish, but in my 37 years here at the Silver Lake Nature Center, I consider myself lucky to recognize the signs of earlier races.

We will miss one tree in particular. In Delhaas, we proudly displayed a large Willow Oak, *Quercus phellos*, one of the largest in the Commonwealth. It now lays as rubble on the ground.

Weakened by age and insect damage, it could not withstand the tremendous forces of Sandy's winds.

The loss of the trees, while sad, should not be seen as a disaster, but recognized for what it is, normal change. The few trees that died could not stand up to Sandy's fury. Those that did are stronger. New trees, flowers, shrubs, insects, birds, and mammals may find these changes to their liking while others will undoubtedly disappear. We know that Sandy has given us a lot of change to marvel at, to watch, to enjoy, and to use as a teaching tool.

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Please support our Business Partners whenever you can!



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Winners of a free FOSL Membership:

September	Bob Neill
October	Lynn Kalix
November	Ciera Cooke

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

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Welcome New Members

New Members from July 16 thru October 31, 2012

Amy Amodei, Michael Barnett, Thomas Brady, Michael & Kathleen Buchheit, Pattie Buck, Taylor Builee, Joe & Gina Carosi, Maria & John Carsley, Michelle Crosby, Jerry & Rose DeMarchis, Chris Devereaus, Melissa El-dridge, Susan Farist Butler, Darlene Gluyas, Otto Grupp, Bob & Melissa Heller, Colin Hitchman, Yvette Katz, Katherine Magin, Virginia McGrath, Anthony Messina, Kevin Miller, Andrew Ortiz, Robert Pearson, Steven Pennelli, Frank Peters, Cindy & John Posluszny, Rosemary Ravell, Pat Riffe, Darius Rogers, Donna Scalzo, Bethanne Schultz, Alan Stoneback, Sydney Stutzman, Eloise Tatro, Joslyn Moon Werkheiser, and Kathy & Dave White

We hope to see you often!

Earthships and Beyond

by Lorraine Skala

Most of you know by now that the Nature Center, with the help of many community partners and individual volunteers, is building a unique structure based on Michael Reynolds' *Earthship* designs. What you may not know is that, besides being designed to operate off-grid, it is also designed to resist hurricanes, which is exactly what it did this past October when Hurricane Sandy hit the East Coast.

As I lit candles and felt the heat slipping out of my house during the storm, I'm sure I was not alone in wishing that I lived in a similar design. An Earthship will heat and cool itself with no fuel, supply water from a rain collection system, and with its connected greenhouse, provide food and fresh air. With a couple of solar panels, you've got energy for the essentials.

Whether or not you think climate change is anthropogenic (caused by humans) or just a cyclical occurrence, there's no doubt that our weather is changing. These changes will bring positive *and* negative consequences. If you're a gardener you have already noticed this. The growing season is longer, but also plagued by more insects. We as humans can adapt. 'How quickly?' is the crucial question.

Adapting means change, and that can be challenging for us, which is why designs like Earthships are slow to catch on in some areas. But if you 'google' Earthship and Haiti, you'll find lots of examples of how that earthquake-challenged area is building sustainable shelters from the rubble. Change comes slower to my neighborhood. It seems we change when we are forced to. For example, every time I lose power at my house, I think of some changes I can implement to make those times easier. Then the power comes back on, life picks up speed again, and the urgent need has passed. Even so, I have managed to keep my camp stove fueled and maintain enough non-perishable food, candles, water, etc., to temporarily sustain our household in the event of the next power outage.

Earthships are more than a temporary fix. They are a 'ship to sail on the Earth of tomorrow': an Earth that sees increasing droughts, storms, floods, and the accompanying resource shortages. These structures decrease fossil fuel consumption and reduce waste as they shelter us. Can you imagine if all houses were designed to do these things?

Of course Earthships aren't perfect. They are not the complete nor the only answer. They are, however, most definitely a step in the right direction. Do we need to wait until the next 'perfect storm' before we begin to implement sustainable changes? Apparently not. Nature Center friends and neighbors have wholeheartedly supported the Earthship concept and are learning along with everyone involved in the build. Soon we will be offering the lessons learned in a series of sustainability lectures and hands-on classes. Stay tuned for times and dates.

In the meantime, Earthship manuals are available in our gift shop, and there is still more to be done at the build. Join us in implementing tomorrow's solutions.



Volunteers

VOLUNTEER ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

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

We had a small hardworking crew here for our Waterway Cleanup, and they were able to remove several tons of litter from our local waterways, thanks to our partnerships with International Coastal Cleanup, Keep PA Beautiful, National Public Lands Day, and the DOW Chemical Company as well as donations from Republic Services, Gigi's Pizza Restaurant, and Joe's Pizza. The new Watershed Monitoring group continues to chemically test the Mill Creek-Otter Creek watershed for pollutants. Our 5th Annual Green Fest was a big success thanks to the help of all our volunteers, especially the Green Fest Committee with Hope Sauppe, Jeanne Bray, and Darius Rogers leading the way. Without you we couldn't host such wonderful events. Our display staff, Rae Hemingway, Marie Wojcik, Madeline Bobst, Linda Blum, Hope Sauppe, Mary Beth Hartmann, and Joan Foley, continue to represent us at offsite events expanding our support and reach. Our shopkeepers welcome visitors on the phone and in person and help us with many varied tasks. Sandy Wah helps all staff by editing all of our newsletters and any correspondence with the public, and I am sure all of you appreciate that! Don West is our trail maintenance man and doing a great job. Heather Neuman, Elaine Panuccio, Wayne Moore, Justin and Anthony Pratt, and Jeanette Henrie continue to feed, water and clean the tanks of our turtles, snakes, and fish, who are very thankful for their wonderful care. Ryan Neuman helps with our Afterschool Nature Club. Our Earthship building project continues to bring out some of the hardest working volunteers who put their sweat equity into the carbon zero building.

So join up with us and see what amazing things you can do while you're here!



(Please contact Jenn Bilger to pre-register)

Volunteer Work Days from 9 am-2 pm

Saturday, January 5th

Saturday, February 2nd

Saturday, March 2nd



Volunteer Holiday Potluck

Thursday, December 13th from 5:30 to 7 pm

(RSVP by December 12th)

Holiday cheer, good friends, homemade recipes and a night to share the giving spirit that makes Silver Lake Nature Center's volunteer program so special!

Volunteer Recognition and Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 9th from 11 am to 1 pm

(RSVP by March 2nd)

Join us for this special event as we recognize the hard working efforts of an ever-growing family of volunteers, without whom we could never do the extraordinary things we do!

Earth Day Work Day will be held on April 20, 2013

(Look for more details in the Spring Newsletter)



Calling all volunteers!

Storekeeper

We are in need of volunteers to work in our gift shop greeting visitors, answering phones, and running the cash register. Open shifts: Fridays from 10 to 1 pm; every other Sunday from 12 to 5 pm.

Trails Crew

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

Animal Care

We are in need of volunteers to come one time per week for about an hour to feed our exhibit animals and clean their tanks. Open Shift: Wednesdays.

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.

Contact Jenn Bilger at 215 785.1177 ext 14 or jlbilger@co.bucks.pa.us

Thank you, Volunteers - and Happy Holidays!

Sean Abell	Amber Griffieth	Nicolas Nicoletti	Nick & Stasia Stets
Bryan Allen	Bernie Griga	Todd Nixon	Dianna Strauss
Nancy Ambler	Elaine Hagey	Mary Ellen Noonan	Andrew Strauss
Dave Atkinson	Tom Hankerson	Becky Obert-Thorn	Sydney Stutzman
Rachelynn Atkinson	Robert Haraburda	Bonnie O'Boyle	Dana Sullivan
William Atkinson III	Bruce Harris	Kyle Offenbecher	Albert Sutter
Rita Balestrieri	Mary Beth Hartmann	Elaine Panuccio	David Sutterly
Donna Barringer	Sean Hayduck	Rosemary Parmigiani	Marlee Sutterly
Kerry Birnbaum	Rae Hemingway	Michael J. Pastorok	Eileen Swank
Karianne Blum	Reed Hennessy	Robert Pearson	Melanie Synol
Linda Blum	Jeanette Henrie	Steven Pearson	Anne Titus
Madeline Bobst	Ryan Herrmann	Jack Person	Jessica Tokarczyk
Cynthia M. Bobst	Joe Hibbs	Cindy Peto	Katie Tower
Mark Bortman	Katelyn Hickman	Jean Petryszak	Elyse Turner
Mary Lou Boyer	Yvonne Hoffmann	Ridhima Phukan	Robert Turner
Gail Bracegirdle	Justin Hunt	Nathan Polk	Cody Turner
Jeanne Bray	Emily Job	Pratt Family	James Tuttle
Marie Brophy	Dan Johansson	Holly Priestly	Sal Urso
Delores Brown	Lois Katz	Cissi Quattrocchi	Terry Van Praet
Brittany Brown	Carly & Tim Kearney	Francesca Quinones	Trevor Vickers
Diana Bullard	Eileen Kelliher	Antonio Randazzo	Mark & Michele Wade
Neil & Patricia Burd	Kelly Family	Cathy Raupp	Sondra Wah
Erik Burg	Matthew Kicinski	Dave Reed	Carrie & Larry Walinsky
Ben Burge	Clarence King	Mary Ida Reitz	Cameron Watt
Barbara Campbell	Jim Klemick	Tim R. Rukauf	Webb Family
Theo Caputi	Jim & Christina	Janice Rhodes	Beverly Weinstein
Mark Carter	Kristofic	Libby Riley	Donald West
Anna Cassidy	Michelle Leighton	Brittany Rodgers	Nancy Wicker
Tristan Chadwick	Ryan Leighton	Glenn Rodkey, Sr.	Jeanne Winerip
Hayley Charles	Bonnie Levine	Darius Rogers	Marie Wojcik
Wm. Roger Clark	Walter Lorchak	Vincent Rosadillo	JoAnne Wolke
Jackie Cohen	Kyle Loucks	Bob & Patricia Rossi	Kelly Young
Joann Cosgrove	Kenneth Luchsinger	Vail Ryan	
Dave Davis	Chuck Lufkin	Shawn Sabourin	<u>Organizations that Volunteer</u>
Lloyd & Trish Davis	Patricia Lufkin	Kevin & Hope Sauppe	Artists of Bristol
Lauren DeSilva	Anne Lynn	Dori Schiefer	Bristol Twp Police—Youth Aid Panel
Michael DiChristofaro	David Lynn	Christopher Schilling	Bucks County Technical High School
Dana Dudek	Stacey Mace	Ashley Scott	Delaware Valley Fly Fishers
Howie Dunn	Patricia McClain	James & Kelly Sell	Delta Community Center
Keith & Karen	Edward McDonald	Tim Shaw	Earthship Volunteers
Effinger	Florence McFadden	Samuel Shiels	Focal Planes Foto Club
Gregory Egan	Margaret McGinnis	Janice Rhodes &	Girl Scout & Boy Scout Troops
Chris Egnoto	Elizabeth McGoldrick	Marty Shively	Greenbelt Overhaul Alliance
Mike Engelmann	John McGrath	Jim Skala	of Levittown (GOAL)
Karen Flanigan	Stephen McKinney	Mike Skala	Green Jobs Club/ Bucks County
Carol Flood	George Melecio	Kali Smalley	Community College
Julie Florek	Eileen Mercer	William Smith	Libertae
Joan Foley	Betsy Micir	Julia Sontani	One Brick Philly
Dale Frazier	Ellen Miller	Donna Spada	Penndel Mental Health Center
Savannah French	Nicole Moonan	Nick Spada	Southern Bucks Garden Club
Bill Gallagher	Wayne Moore	Laura Squicimara	West Chester University —
Jackie Garber	Jennifer Mosley	Tyler Stancil	Harp Ensemble
Anthony Garwood	Brittany Murphy	Jeanne Stemmer	United Christian Church
Peter Gevaras	Henry Nagel II	Florence Stepenaskie	Veridian Energy employees
Edward Girardi	Dakota Napierkowski	Stephens Family	Yoga
Lois Glasscock	Ryan Neuman	Nick Stern	
Carli Goodgion	Heather Neuman		

Special Volunteers and Special Programs

Volunteers of the Quarter

Justin and Anthony Pratt

Justin and Anthony started volunteering together to care for our exhibit area animals. They are hard workers who care very much for our animals, and they are responsible and reliable volunteers. The two brothers come in every Sunday to feed our two snakes, five turtles, and the animals in our two pond tanks and clean their habitats. The boys go above and beyond, they handle the animals every time, they interact with visitors, and they are always willing and eager to learn and take on more responsibility. Thank you both, from us and our animals!



Calling All Scouts!!

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

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

Scouts can also enjoy our night-time 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!

For more information on these and all of our Scout program offerings, please visit our website at www.silverlakenaturecenter.org or contact PattiAnn at palyann@co.bucks.pa.us or 215 785-1177 ext 12.

Serve & Learn Volunteer Program

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

Choose from these programs:

- Invasive Removal/Kayak Cleanup
- Native Plantings/Rescue
- Trail Adoption/Maintenance
- Wetlands Restoration
- Experiential/Teambuilding
- Scavenger Hunt/Litter Removal
- Fundraisers
- Scout Projects

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

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

Thank you...

- Joanne Kyle and Florence McFadden for donating monthly to the care of our Silver Lake animals.
- Bonnie O'Boyle for keeping our Gift Shop well-stocked, and for taking items from the Gift Shop to Bristol Day!
- Hope Sauppe, Margaret McGinnis, Mary Beth Hartmann, and Joan Joley for helping at our table at Bristol Day.
- Marie Wojcik and Rae Hemingway for taking our display to Senator McIlhinney's Kid Fest at Morrisville High School.
- Don West for caring for our trails.
- Ron & Pat Eklund for donating office supplies. Happy retirement, Ron!
- Pat Rossi for creating posters for our events and for keeping the kiosk at the lake up-to-date.
- Sandy Wah for proofing all of our letters, fliers, and newsletters for us.
- Peggy Pawling for donating all things duck, including a signed painting and book, coffee table books, and a hand-carved duck.
- Everyone who has helped with the Bird Seed sales: Jeanne Stemmer, Mary Beth Hartmann, Henry Schaffer, and Mason Yost, and everyone who has purchased seed!
- Marilyn Bauers for donating birding notes and data from the 1920's.
- Eileen Swank, a.k.a. "Cinders," for making our campfire programs special.
- Pastor Dave Dunlap ("Doc") for donating a collection of nature-related books.
- Glenn Rodkey for office supplies.
- "Cinders" (a.k.a. Eileen Swank) for making your improvements to our Gift Shop.
- Tracey Glaser-Gonzalez for two duck prints, framed and numbered and signed by the artist.
- Yvette Ehring/Weblos Pack #992 for donating a *working* DVD player. It will come in handy for sleepovers and other programs.
- Dana Sullivan for donating a book on rocks and minerals.
- Everyone who has helped with our Fall Fling invitations, program schedules and newsletter mailings: Diana Bullard, Margaret McGinnis, Mary Ida Reitz, Jeanne Winerip, Judy Winerip, Walt Lorchak, Marie Wojcik, Elaine Gramlich, Mary Lou Boyer, Jeanne Stemmer, Glenn Rodkey, John McGrath, Joan Foley, and Gene Aliberto.
- Jim Skala, Chuck Lufkin, Bob Pearson, and Tony Garwood, plus Evan Baker and John Sellen and their students from the Bucks County Technical High School for working on the Earthship, doing whatever needs to be done. (We're getting there!)
- Everyone who has donated to our Bottle Campaign for the Earthship.
- Everyone who donated glass bottles for the Bottle Wall at the Earthship. (Please, no more! You have been very generous!)



Join us!

Memberships

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



**Silver
Lake
Nature
Center**

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./Mr. & Mrs./Dr. _____

(Circle one)

First

Last

Address

_____ house number/street name Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Fun Activities for All

Kids & Nature Event Thursday, December 27th – 9am to 12noon

Six to ten-year-olds are invited to join in our **Kids & Nature Event!** Participants will have the opportunity to explore our trails, play games, make a craft, visit with our animals, and make friends! SLNC will also provide a light snack.

**Fee: \$10 member
\$15 non-member**

Registration and payment are due by December 22nd.

For more information and to register, please email

Preschool News

So far this year, Silver Lake Nature Center has presented Early Childhood Education programs for about 30 Preschools and Parent/Child Groups!

These programs, designed to educate children and increase their awareness about our natural world, can be conducted at our location or at the Preschools.

Our newest program, *Life in a Log*, has been enjoyed by many Preschoolers this fall! What fun it is to crawl through a giant “log” and learn all about what happens to a tree when it falls to the ground!

One of our popular winter programs is *Hibernation Happens*. During this program, children get to discover what it’s like to be in the “Groundhog’s Home” and learn what animals do during winter.



Ready for the “Life in a Log” puppet show!



Hibernation Hut—Come and visit!

Some of our other fun and educational program themes include: *Fancy Feet Feats, Ponds & Puddles, Frog Friends, Bugs & Beasts, Five Senses, Winter Wonders, and Discovery.*

For more information on our Early Childhood Education programs and/or to schedule a program, please visit our website at www.silverlakenaturecenter.org and/or contact PattiAnn at palyann@co.bucks.pa.us or 215 785-1177 ext. 12.

Come Celebrate at Silver Lake!



We offer a variety of options for children of all ages and grown-up birthday parties, bridal showers, baby showers, anniversaries, meetings, 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 per child: \$9 member
\$12 non-member
Fee includes one free adult per child. Minimum: 10

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



Upcoming Events

Winter Solstice Celebration Saturday, December 15 7 - 8:30 pm

Join us as we welcome the winter season with the music of the **West Chester University Harp Ensemble**, learn the history of Native Americans in this area, and take a candlelit stroll through the woods to a roaring campfire.

Must register and pay in advance.
Fee: \$10 member; \$15 non-member

Winter Birding

Note: Destinations may be adjusted due to storm damage at the shore.

Saturday, January 12- Barnegat Bay, 8 am - 5 pm

Saturday, February 9 - New Jersey's North Shore, 8 am - 5 pm

**Fee: \$15 member
\$19 non-member**

Please register and pay at least three days prior to the trip date.

For details, call Bob Mercer at 215 785-1177.



Naturalist Aide Training Fridays, February 8, 15, & 22 and March 1, 8, & 15 10 am - noon

If you have a few hours to spend and enjoy the outdoors and people, then this may be for you. We will train you to help us teach the programs we offer.

Call Lorraine at 215 785-1177
for details and to register.

Annual Meeting and

Volunteer Recognition Lunch Saturday, March 9, 2013 11 am - 1 pm

Join us as we recognize our volunteers' hard work and thank everyone for sharing their time, talent and friendship this year. We hope to see you all there!

RSVP to Jenn by Friday, March 1st at jlbilger@co.bucks.pa.us or 215 785-1177 ext. 14.

Additional Bird Seed Sale

Each year, we offer high quality bird seed for sale in October, December, and February. This year, we are adding another sale in April!

Order your sunflower seed, Silver Lake mix, conservation mix, thistle, peanut hearts, sunflower chips and suet by:

January 23rd for pick up February 2nd
April 3rd for pick up April 13th

Order online, by phone, or in person.
We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

Note: After April, our next Sale will be in October!



Every Sunday, year 'round,
join our naturalist
for a **Sunday Stroll**

at 2 pm.
It's free.

Bring yourself, bring the kids,
bring a friend.



Symbionts -

Clubs that meet at the Nature Center:

New members welcome - and needed!

West Chester University Harp Ensemble -

Rehearses on third Monday at 6 pm. Come & listen.
For info: Gloria Galante, 215 342-9397

Focal Planes Foto Club -

Meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:30 pm.
For info: Steve Waite at 215 736-1834

S. Bucks Garden Club -

Meets on the first Tuesday at 7 pm.
Call Ellen Miller at 215 788-0651 for information.



Artists of Bristol -

Meet on the second Wednesday at 6:30 pm.
Contact: John Styner at 215 595-8295 or by e-mail at johnstyner@verizon.net

Delaware Valley Fly Fishers -

Meet on the fourth Wednesday at 7 pm.
For information: Wayne Radel at 215 280-7198

Yoga - Meets every Thursday at 7:30 pm.

This is a class for all ages and abilities.
For information call Deb & Joe at 267 808-1071.



Silver Lake Nature Center
1306 Bath Road
Bristol, PA 19007

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Levittown, PA 19055
Permit #302

Address service requested.

Mark Your Calendar

Come and see Rosco's Giving Tree

Enjoy the beautifully decorated tree and, while you're here,
"Be an angel: Take an angel."



On the back of each
angel gift tag
is a gift suggestion.
Please find a gift that
you'd like to give,
take that angel tag
with you,
and return
with the gift
to put under the
tree!

Note: Rosco's Giving Tree will be up 'til the first Saturday in January!

Fine Wine and Fare on the Delaware
Saturday, April 6, 2013
5 - 7 pm

*Join us for an evening of fine wine
and food pairings
at the beautiful home
of Cissi and Louis Quattrocchi,
800 Radcliffe Street in the quaint town
of Bristol Borough.
Enjoy a wonderful evening on the Delaware!*

*Tickets: \$50 per person
\$90 per couple
All proceeds benefit the Silver Lake Nature Center.*

Coming soon:

SLNC's Summer Camp!

We offer 8 weeks of full and half day camp,
Monday thru Friday, beginning June 24th.
Plus special weeks for preschoolers and for teens!
Sign the kids up for one week — or all of them!

Call Jenn for details at 215 788-1177.

Please share this newsletter with a friend. Thanks!