



Spring 2017

THE FROGHORN

www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org

Silver Lake Nature Center Needs a Friend

The Silver Lake Nature Center itself is managed by Bucks County Parks and Recreation for the citizens of Bucks County and beyond. What most people don't know is that the vast majority of people who are seen gardening, educating and maintaining the Center are actually "Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center" staff and volunteers. The "Friends" are a **separate** non-profit organization. They work to raise funds through memberships, fundraisers and programs to support three additional staff positions. This is how Silver Lake is able to offer many of the wonderful programs and opportunities the community has come to expect and enjoy.

Silver Lake Nature Center is expanding its program offerings in 2017, and this will give more opportunities for the public to enjoy this beautiful natural wonder. The non profit organization "Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center" is also looking to grow as well. The Friends are looking for people to work with the Board of Directors on various committees to help create a vision for the future of Silver Lake. This is an opportunity for members of the community to volunteer and become closely involved with Silver Lake Nature Center and its future.

If you feel you have a skill and fresh ideas on Fundraising, Marketing, Membership, Finance, or Facilities, and would like to be a part of something exciting, you are encouraged to contact the Nature Center about becoming a committee member. In addition, we encourage you to consider supporting the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center by becoming a member. Join this dynamic group of citizens today and help ensure this Nature Center remains a spectacular place of natural fascination.

Did you know?

- Silver Lake Nature Center was opened in 1966

- The Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center, a non profit organization was formed in 1974

- The County and the Friends organization work together to offer educational and recreational opportunities for our community.

- The Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center are able to maintain Educational Staff through your memberships and donations.

Spring Nature Camp

Thursday, April 13th and/or Friday, April 14th
9am to 4pm

Spend some of your spring break with us! The seasoned Naturalists are ready to spend the day assisting your child in engaging with Nature in the outdoors. Easy drop off and pick up at the Nature Center and before and aftercare is available. All children ages 6 to 13 are welcome to attend this adventure.

Participants should dress for the weather, bring a snack, lunch, and water bottle with them, and leave their "electronics" at home.

Fee per Nature Camper per day: \$50 OR \$90 for BOTH days per Nature Camper

For more information, please call 215-785-1177 or email SilverLakeNatureCenter@buckscounty.org. *Registration and payment are due by April 12th.*

Baby & Me Nature Walks- Free!

When: First Wednesday of each month from 2 to 3 pm

Who: Parents and/or caregivers with their children

What: **Nature discovery and exercise walk on our trails.** After, bring your own snack and meet at our covered picnic pavilion/ kids play area or at our indoor Welcome Area

Where: Silver Lake Nature Center building,
1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA 19007

Come out and walk with us!

The Froghorn

This Newsletter is published quarterly by the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center for the Silver Lake Nature Center, a facility of the Bucks County Parks and Recreation Department.

CONTACT US

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

SilverLakeNatureCenter@buckscounty.org
www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org

NATURE CENTER HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday- 12 pm 5pm
Monday- Closed

Trails are open daily from Sunrise to Sunset

STAFF

Jerry Kozlansky, Director/Naturalist

PattiAnn Cutter, Assistant Director/
Environmental Educator

Jennifer Bilger, Environmental Educator/
Summer Camp Director

Arden Williams, Volunteer Coordinator/
Administrative Assistant

Danielle Morrissey, Office Manager/
Earthship Steward

The Bucks County Department of Parks
and Recreation does not discriminate on the basis of
disabilities in its programs, activities, and facilities.



Our Mission:

*The Silver Lake Nature Center
inspires connections with nature for
people of all ages, interests, and abilities
through education, recreation,
preservation, research, and advocacy.*

...In This Issue.....

- 3 Jerry's Journal
- 4 Calendar of Events
- 5 Business Partners and Donors
- 6 Calling All Volunteers!
- 7 Spring Programs and Activities

Giving Tree Donations

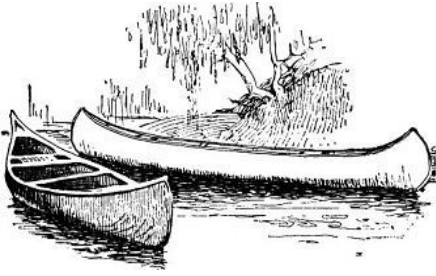
The Nature Center would like to thank the following people for their donations to the Giving Tree:

6-gallon shop vacuum donated by Ervin McFadden
Ream of paper for our office needs donated by Margaret McGinnis
Individual Friends of Silver Lake also donated to local toys for tots charities
Walmart gift cards donated by Marty Shively and Janice Rhodes.
2 buckets donated by Jeanne Winerip
5 bird identification field guides donated by Lee Roach
Wooden cutouts for Kids' Crafts programs donated by Patty & Pat Cutter
Several bags of marshmallows donated by Marion Walter
General Donations:
David Grusky donated a bird feeder and a bag of thistle seed.
Mr. Paul donated a potted Silver Maple tree.

Your generosity is deeply appreciated-

Thank you!





The canoes silently glided across Silver Lake with the light of the rising sun at our backs. The fog swirled off the water as our paddles dipped under the cool surface. My companion, a spunky girl at nine years of age, was remarking on how blue was the sky when what appeared to be an apple sized object, fell from a tree and landed with a hollow thud in the bottom of our canoe.

Upon further inspection of this object, it appeared to be an egg shaped black rock about six inches in length and covered in algae-type growth from the lake. To our astonishment a long snake like head popped out of one end and looked around! This was no rock; it was instead a Musk Turtle, otherwise known affectionately as a Stinkpot Turtle

Stinkpots are small black, brown or grayish turtles with domed shells and are often covered in algae. They only grow to be about five and a half inches long and weigh just over a pound. My young companion had never seen such a turtle and, due to this species behaviors, this fact was not surprising. Stinkpots are very aquatic turtles that stay mostly near the bottoms of slow moving shallow ponds, lakes, and canals. There they find the food they prefer such as insects, crayfish, clams, and snails. The reason they can stay under the water so long is that they have adapted a most amazing ability. They have a specially designed tongue that lets them breath underwater!

Other canoes from our group started to drift over to us and one inquisitive young boy asked, "How did it jump into your canoe?" I explained - the stinkpot turtle does something that no other turtle in Pennsylvania is known to do - it can climb trees! These turtles like to find partially submerged trees and logs that are sloped at an angle and hang over the waterway. They climb up the tree as high as six feet and will hide within the cover. When frightened they drop in to the water for safety. This little one however landed in the canoe.



Sternotherus odoratus, Eastern Musk Turtle

We released this awe - inspiring creature back into the waters of Silver Lake.

We all bid farewell to our new found friend. As we paddled with our group up to Magnolia Lake, it was my hope that this group was wondering how many of those very common but amazing reptiles were living just below us at that moment.

Silver Lake Nature Center offers reptile programs and has a collection of live reptiles that you are welcome to visit to expand your knowledge of their world. Be sure to celebrate World Turtle Day on May 23rd and keep an eye out for those fascinating Stinkpots!

Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center Board of Directors

Donna Scalzo, *President*
Pat Coleman, *Treasurer*
Scott Brown, *Secretary*
Bryan Allen
Robert Casselberry
Jackie Garber,
Theresa Giardine
Dave Gibbon
Bruce Harris
Ron McGuckin
Hope Sauppe
James Sell

Bucks County Commissioners

Charles H. Martin- *Chairman*
Robert G. Lougherty- *Vice-Chairman*
Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia- *LCSW*

Bucks County Department of Parks & Recreation

William M. Mitchell, CPRP-
Executive Director

Parks & Recreation Board

Todd Kowalski, *Chairman*
William Wert, *Vice Chairman*
Andrea Coaxum, *Secretary*
Craig Bowen
Gerald H. Crandley
Nelson E. Clements
Penrose Hallowell
Lowell Musselman
Charles Raudenbush, Jr.



An Announcement from the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center Board President:

I am pleased to announce that **PattiAnn Cutter** has been selected as the **new Assistant Director-Naturalist** of Silver Lake Nature Center. PattiAnn has been a dedicated staff member of the FOSLNC team for over ten years, and has always taken the extra step in supporting the board, her team, as well as the county staff. She has worked tirelessly in ensuring a positive experience for the many visitors and volunteers at SLNC.


We look forward to continuing to work with her and Jerry and wish her continued success in her career with the County of Bucks at Silver Lake Nature Center!

Donna Scalzo

Friends of Silver Lake Board President

Calendar of Events

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Baby & Me Nature Walk <i>Free!</i>	2 Yoga	3	4 Animal Tracks & Scat
5	6	7 Southern Bucks Garden Club	8 Artists of Bristol	9 Yoga	10	11 Family Friendly Birding/ Core Creek Birding 101, Spring Edition
12	13 Focal Planes Foto Club	14	15	16 Yoga	17	18 Volunteer Recognition
19	20 WCU Harp Ensemble	21	22	23 Yoga	24 Naturalist Aide Training, Spring	25 Birding/ John Heinz Signs of Spring Walk
26 Drum Making Workshop/ with Rainbows of Healing	27 Focal Planes Foto Club	28	29 Delaware River Fishermen's Assoc.	30 Nature Book Club Yoga	31 Naturalist Aide Training, Spring	

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Natural Egg Dying Class
2	3	4 Southern Bucks Garden Club	5	6 Yoga	7	8 Naturalist Skills: Five Mile Woods Nature Egg Hunt
9	10 Focal Planes Foto Club	11	12 Artists of Bristol	13 Yoga	14	15 Birding/ Bulls Island Mercer Cty Wildlife/ Live Animals
16	17 WCU Harp Ensemble	18	19	20 Naturalist Skills: Earthship to Artwork Yoga	21	22 Earth Day Work Day Earth Day Open House
23	24 Focal Planes Foto Club	25	26 Delaware River Fishermen's Assoc.	27 Nature Book Club Yoga	28	29 Birding/ Cape May Exercise Walk at the Park

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2 Southern Bucks Garden Club	3	4 Yoga	5	6 Volunteer Workday
7	8 Focal Planes Foto Club	9	10 Artists of Bristol	11 Yoga	12	13 Bird Migration Count
14	15 WCU Harp Ensemble	16	17	18 Yoga	19	20 Family Friendly Birding/ Stony Brook Millstone
21	22 Focal Planes Foto Club	23	24	25 Nature Book Club Yoga	26	27
28	29	30	31 Delaware River Fishermen's Assoc.	For more detailed information please go to www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org		

Business Partners

Friends of Silver Lake Business Partners and Donors 2016

We would like to thank to our Business Partners, Donors and Grant Funders for their support and generosity in 2016.

Diamond Partner

\$5000+

The Dow Chemical
Company
County of Bucks

Platinum Partner

\$3000+

CBM Construction
Building Materials

Silver Partner

\$1000+

Action Manufacturing
Company

Grant Funders

DEP, Coastal Zone Management
Parx Casino

Patron \$250+

Gestite Builders Group
Life Support International
Cesare's Ristorante
The Pines Tavern
Mill Street Cantina
The Borough Pub
King George II Inn

Streamline Payroll, LLC
Allied Electronics, Inc.
Harris Comfort, LLC
Stifel Investments

Friend \$100+

Bucks County Bank
Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.
Carter Funeral Home
Lower Bucks Hospital
Mazzanti's Market
McCafferty Auto Group
The Chiropractic & Injury Center, LLC
Begley Carlin & Mandio

New Members

Aishah Cook

Sandra Herman

Nancy Toth

Arturo Sequeira

Chris Shesney

Looking Ahead...

Bird Seed Sale 2017

April 8, 2017, orders due by March 31, 2017

Orders may be placed by phone, mail, online or in person.

Proceeds from the birdseed sale benefit the environmental education programs offered by Silver Lake Nature Center.

Home School Enrichment Series

Spring Session

Begins April 4, 2017 and will run every Tuesday through May 23, 2017.

PA Master Naturalist Program

Registration Deadline is May 15, 2017.

Applications and more information are available at pamasternaturalist.org.

Tuition: \$325, includes mandatory background check fee.

Please contact Ellyn Nolt, the Program Coordinator enolt@pamasternaturalist.org

Butterfly Count:

June 17th from 10am until 4pm

Join us in taking a census of the butterflies in the preserve for the North American Butterfly Association's annual count, no experience necessary!

For more information, please call us at 215-785-1177 or visit our website at www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org

Volunteer Opportunities:

Volunteer Work Days

Volunteer Work Days are the first Saturday of every month. The weather never puts a damper on our gathering. We dress appropriately for the day's weather and tackle the tasks ahead. Come out and join us!

9 am to 2 pm Lunch is provided.

March 4th, April 22nd, and May 6th

Volunteer Recognition Brunch,

Silver Lake Nature Center's Annual Meeting

Join us on Saturday March 18th from 10am -1pm. Find out what Silver Lake has been up to in 2016. We will meet new and current board members and honor our amazing volunteers who work so hard all year 'round to keep this Natural Treasure so beautiful.

Please RSVP with Arden Williams at 215 785 1177 or awilliams@buckscounty.org

Volunteer Accomplishments:

Volunteers Anthony Garwood, Barbara Campbell, and Robert Pearson combined their talents and efforts to add two new benches to our grounds. One is located outside of the Earthship and situated so visitors can look out over the meditation garden. The other bench is on the observation deck to provide a 360 degree sitting view of the landscape.

Part of our volunteer base are community service participants. Some are completing a court mandate, some are fulfilling educational requirements, and still others are working toward earning badges for civic organizations. No matter their reason for being here, they come out to join us with the spirit of working hard to earn their merit. Much of their work over the last three months has included mulching the trails, removing litter from Delhaas Woods, and joining me at other community sites to help like-minded organizations complete their volunteer work day tasks.

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

Volunteer of the Quarter:

Eileen Swank

Eileen Swank, aka "Cinders", is, among other things, a Greeter and Educational Program Assistant here at the Center. She got her nickname as a Girl Scout Leader. Cinders works with Patti Ann to lead the campfire portions of our programs for scouting groups, birthday parties and night hikes. Having spent years as a girl scout and then a Scout Leader herself, she has developed an incredible knowledge base to teach young scouts about campfire safety and is a vivid storyteller! Recently she has made a special effort to take time to handle our shy 7 foot long Pine-Bull snake; Pine-Bull has benefitted greatly from her gentle attention. Cinders is an avid quilter and had created several beautiful nature themed quilted banners that we use at events and for our programs. She genuinely cares for the visitors, animals, volunteers and staff here, and she is an integral part of our community. What really makes Eileen stand out is her willingness to be flexible and responsive to help the center where ever there is a need.

Thank you Cinders for being caring, adventurous and flexible!

Silver Lake Nature Center Intern Update

For Fall 2016, SLNC hosted a 5 star Intern, Tricia Taylor. Tricia came as general intern and quickly made herself a valuable team member. She was a pleasure to work with and went above and beyond expectations with a smile and enthusiastic attitude. Tricia worked to improve the habitats for our exhibit animals– including a major cleaning and overhaul of the aquatic turtle tank, complete with a Spa Day for the turtles while they waited for their tank to be cleaned. She also took the time to clean and organize the Intern Cottage while she was there. Additionally, Tricia did a tremendous amount of work on the grounds here, especially in the Kids Play Area. She also took the time to write us a wonderful thank you letter (shown below). Tricia– thank you for your hard work and wonderful smile! We wish you the best of luck on your future endeavors!

*"Hello Everyone! This Fall I was blessed to have had the opportunity to have worked with some of the most knowledgeable, kind, fun, dedicated and downright phenomenal people I have known in my life. I performed various hands on projects with this great staff at the Intern House, the Nature Center and surroundings, as well as research and completion of my Health Class Marketing Intern Project. The volunteers and staff took me under their wings happily, as if I had always been there, while sharing their minds and hearts. I will always be thankful for this learning opportunity and all the friends made at Silver Lake. I also will especially remember the fun times and your smiles. I pray that we meet again soon and wish you all the best life as to offer, as you all deserve nothing but the best. **With heartfelt sincerity, Tricia Taylor**"*

Spring Programs and Activities

For more details and full schedule please see the 2017 Spring Program or www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org

Birding Trips

\$15/ Members; \$19/ Non-members www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org or call 215-785-1177 for info/registration.

Core Creek Park

Intro to Birding

Saturday, March 11

8am - 10 am

Family friendly outing led by Dawn Denner & son Kavan. Are you interested in birding but haven't done it, or want to go on a birding trip but can't commit an entire day? Then this is the trip for you! Join Dawn and her son Kavan while they explore Core Creek park looking for early migrants. This trip is open to people of all ages.

Registration & payment due by March 4, 2017

John Heinz NWR

Saturday, March 25

7:30 am - 5pm

Led by Steve Boyle. We begin the day birding at John Heinz. With varied habitats there are hundreds of species to observe here. Lunch break at 11:30, at the refuge, bag lunch. We will continue on to Bartram's Gardens. Where the diverse habitats offer the best 40 acres of birding in Philly. Feel free to bird with us for all or half of the day.

Registration & payment due by March 18, 2017

Bulls Island/ D&R Canal

Saturday April 15

7:30 am - 5 pm

Led by Hope & Kevin Sauppe. Enjoy a scenic ride along the Delaware to Bull's Island. Search for migratory birds including Thrushes and Vireos along the river. We'll explore the Delaware Canal State Park where Cuckoos, Pileated Woodpeckers, and various Raptors. There is a moderate amount of walking but on easier trails. Bag lunch.

Registration & payment due by April 8, 2017

Cape May, NJ

Saturday April 29

6:30 am - 5 pm

Led by Steve Boyle. Head to where the birds are—Cape May. This is the destination for migrating birds. With an amazing variety of habitats this is a great place for spotting migrating hawks, seabirds, shorebirds, songbirds. Bring a lunch, we will have dinner out at around 5pm.

Registration & Payment due by April 22, 2017

Scouting Programs & Opportunities

We offer all kinds of Girl and Boy Scout programs, including Flag Retirement Ceremonies, Badges, Journeys, Service/Volunteer Projects, and more!

Scouts can also enjoy night-time programs, such as Night Hikes and Sleepovers! Both programs include an indoor presentation focusing on nocturnal life, a walk on the trails (without flashlights), a campfire, a marshmallow roast, storytelling, and a sing-a-long.

We will also work with you to suit the needs of your group with such options as fire building, fire safety, skits, and awards.

Fun for Preschoolers

We offer a variety of Preschool programs. Some of the topics include: *Hibernation Happens; Ponds & Puddles; Frog Friends; Bugs & Beasties; Five Senses; Winter Wonders; and Spring Discovery.*

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

Celebrate at Silver Lake!!

Silver Lake Nature Center offers many party options for children (of all ages), as well as grownup birthday parties, bridal/baby showers, anniversaries, other special events, and meetings.

Different types of parties we offer include Day-time Parties, 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; Insects; Spiders; Frogs; Rabbits; Squirrels; Worms; Dinosaurs & Cousins; Tracks & Scat; and more. 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!!

For more information on our Scouting, Preschool or Early Childhood Education programs and/or to schedule a program, please visit our website at www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org and/or contact PattiAnn Cutter at pacutter@buckscounty.org or 267-880-5022.



Silver Lake Nature Center

1306 Bath Road Bristol, Pa 19007

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

Address service requested.

On The Horizon



Let's revive the lost art of being a kid and playing outside!

Silver Lake Nature Center's Summer Nature Camp Open House

Sunday May 21 from 10am until 1pm

Our camps are a rare opportunity to find out how amazing and fun the simple act of unplugging and going outside can be! Our unique camp allows your child the chance to choose from new and varied activities that broaden their world and nurture their connection to nature. Experienced, college educated staff will guide and inspire your child while allowing them to be themselves. Here at Silver Lake your kids will be immersed in the outdoors, and they will come home tired and dirty, full of exciting stories about their firsthand experiences in nature.

Explore your Summer!

Calling All Preschoolers!!

SLNC's **Preschool Nature Camp** provides a half day of fun-filled outdoor play and exploration. Our Early Childhood Education Specialist, PattiAnn Cutter, designed this program to increase children's awareness of and connection to our Natural world.

4 – 5 Year Olds are invited to join us for TWO weeks this summer, from **July 10th to 14th** and **August 21st to 25th**, from 9am to 12pm.

Preschool Campers will get to engage in Nature exploration excursions, outdoor games, creative arts, free-play in our "Natural Play Area," science experiments, being Nature detectives, making new friends, and much more!

Fee per Preschool Camper is \$120 per week. (\$35 Household Membership is required.) For more info on Preschool Nature Camp, contact PattiAnn Cutter at 267-880-5022 or pacutter@buckscounty.org.