



Summer 2017

# THE FROGHORN

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



## Fresh Ideas for Summer Camp at Silver Lake

Summer is a time of freedom, laughter and exploration for children of all ages. At Silver Lake Nature Center, we are offering a summer program for children that is new and innovative. Our staff of College educated professionals are trained and equipped to assist your child in navigating the wild and mysterious recesses of the Preserve.

Unlike most other camps, here the children get to choose much of what they will be experiencing in a given day. Much like selecting items on a menu, there will be different choices each day that will allow the students to maximize their interest and, therefore, their direct engagement with nature.

New trails have been blazed this Winter that have opened access to fishing in Magnolia Lake and hiking deep into Delhaas Woods. New Programs have been added, and we have overhauled the “Children’s play area.”

If you are looking for environmentally based adventures for your child, Silver Lake Nature Center can provide wonderful memories that last a lifetime. See you this Summer!

## Preschool Nature Camp

Four and Five 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.

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.

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](mailto:pacutter@buckscounty.org).



# 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 Naturalist

**Arden Williams**, Volunteer Coordinator/  
Administrative Assistant

**Danielle Morrisey**, Office Manager/  
Earthship Steward

**Kassandra Archer**, Summer Camp Director /  
Environmental Educator

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 Membership

6 Calling All Volunteers!

7 Spring Programs and Activities

### **Looking to the Future**— by Jenn Bilger

It has been a wonderful 10 years here at Silver Lake Nature Center! I am now the Conservation Programs Manager with Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association in Ambler, PA.

I will miss this preserve that I have become so connected to and all of the incredible people I have had the pleasure of working with throughout the years. All of the staff, volunteers, and campers have come to feel like family to me, and you've all been such great influences during my time here. I cannot thank you enough for all of the kindness and memories you have shared with me. I still plan to attend trips and programs once I get settled, so I won't be a stranger! Thank you all for sharing a part of this journey with me.

Recently, I wrote a piece for use in securing funding for places like Silver Lake Nature Center to continue our important work. I thought it fitting to share with you all now—keep up this vitally important work!!

*"Being immersed in nature can be a life - altering experience; here at Silver Lake Nature Center, I have*

*seen this unfold time and time again!*

*I see a child who thinks he can't have fun without playing video games arrive for his first week of summer camp, nervous and shy. Slowly as we explore the forest I see him becoming more observant and curious. As we learn how to build shelters in the woods and play a game of camouflage, I see him choose hiding spots further out into the Sweetgums of the Coastal Plain. By the end of the week, he is leading a group of kids in a made up world of bartering with mica for sticks and rocks to use for shelter building in the natural kids play area, and he is smiling the smile of someone transformed.*

*I see young girls learn they can do all the same things that boys can. They can jump in the mud of our marsh, catch bass in the lake, and they can win 'capture the flag' deep in our historic Delhaas Woods, the woods that are full of large Willow Oaks that shade us on hot summer days. I see these young girls grow up summer after summer to become counselors who then help show the next generation the lost*

Cont'd Page 5

The summer air was sultry and bright. Our breath felt thick in our lungs as our group of intrepid summer camp students and I peered through the dense foliage of the swamp in search of wildlife. The heavy silence was broken by a screech of "Jay! Jay!" from above in the tree tops. We scrambled forward to catch a glimpse of the creature making such a raucous sound. A flash of blue feathers in the canopy and our assumption is confirmed; it was indeed a Blue Jay. This large crested songbird with its brilliant blue, white, and black feathers is a year - round resident of this part of the world. What most people don't know is that these relatives of the crow are highly intelligent and have tight family bonds.



Cyanocitta cristata, Blue Jay

My young companions crouched in awe watching several Blue Jays circling and diving at a plump grey squirrel that sat on the ground undaunted, eating a cache of acorns. Acorns are the Blue Jays favorite food, and these birds are thought to have serendipitously aided the spread of Oak trees after the last ice age due to their fondness of them. The crest of a Blue Jay can be raised and lowered and corresponds to its aggression level. The higher the crest, the more agitated the bird. This family of Blue Jays had their crests completely raised!

The children giggled as this chunky Gray Squirrel refused to move even with all the noise and diving from the Jays. Suddenly from high in the mighty oak came the unmistakable call of the Red-Tailed Hawk, a known predator of squirrels! The Grey Squirrel, hearing the hawk call, raced for the closest tree and scampered up quickly to hide. The family of Blue Jays then dived onto the acorns, all save one lone Jay that stayed high in the tree. Much to the astonishment of the children this Blue Jay gave out a loud call that sounded like a Red-Tailed Hawk! This species of bird, known for imitating other bird calls, had imitated the hawk to scare off the squirrel. This was an example of mimicry at its finest. After all the acorns were gone, we tromped off back to the Nature Center imitating hawk calls as we did so.



**Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center**

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**Introducing Cassandra Archer as SLNC's Summer Camp Director and newest Environmental Educator!**

Please Join us in welcoming **Kassandra Archer** as Summer Camp Director and Environmental Educator. Kassandra's first day here at the Center was June 6th, 2017. We are excited to have her as a part of the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center Staff. Now, In her own words, Kassandra would like to tell you a little bit about herself:

*Greetings! My name is Kassandra Archer, and I am excited to join the Silver Lake Nature Center team! I grew up in south Jersey in a town located between the Pinelands and the Barnegat Bay, which allowed me to develop a love and respect for the outdoors. I attended Montclair State University and received a bachelor's degree in Geography with concentration in Environmental Studies. After college, I went on to serve our country through AmeriCorps where I had my first experiences with environmental education. During my two years of service, I realized that I would be able to make the greatest impact by educating others about our planet and helping them to understand the impacts our species has on natural ecosystems. I decided to go back to Montclair State University to pursue a Masters in Environmental Education. During my time at MSU, I ran a STEM Summer Program for urban youth. I have a diverse background ranging from animal husbandry to trail building, and I look forward to continuing to learn and grow at the Silver Lake Nature Center.*

# Calendar of Events

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>Registration for Summer camp is open!</b>		1 Yoga	2	3 Volunteer Work Day Amazing world of Aquatic Critters
4	5	6 Southern Bucks Garden Club	7	8 Yoga	9	10 Kayaking 101 am Yoga Hike Full Moon Kayak pm
11	12 Focal Planes Foto Club	13	14 Artists of Bristol	15 Yoga	16	17 Beekeeping 101 Butterfly Count
18	19 WCU Harp Ensemble	20	21	22 Yoga	23	24 Butterfly Lifestyles
25	26 <b>Summer Camp Begins!</b> Focal Planes Foto Club	27	28 Delaware River Fishermen's Assoc.	29 Nature Book Club Yoga	30	

July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Open Registration for Summer Camp!</b>						1 Volunteer Work Day Nature Scavenger Hunt
2	3 <b>Summer Camp wk 2</b>	4 Southern Bucks Garden Club	5	6 Yoga	7	8 Kayaking 101 am Sensory Hike Full Moon Kayak pm
9	10 <b>Summer Camp wk 3</b> Focal Planes Foto Club	11	12 Artists of Bristol	13	14	15 Beginner's Birding
16	17 <b>Summer Camp wk 4</b> Learn Care Share WCU Harp Ensemble	18	19	20 Yoga	21	22 Birding- Bombay Hook, DE Art & Nature /Earthship
23	24 <b>Summer Camp wk 5</b> Focal Planes Foto Club	25	26 Delaware River Fishermen's Assoc.	27 Nature Book Club Yoga	28	29 Journal Crafting

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 <b>Open Registration for Summer Camp!</b>	31 <b>Summer Camp wk 6</b>	1 Southern Bucks Garden Club	2	3 Yoga	4	5 Volunteer Workday Kayaking 101 am Meet our animals w/ Intern Stephanie Full Moon Kayak pm
6	7 <b>Summer Camp wk 7</b>	8	9 Artists of Bristol	10 Yoga	11	12 Meet our animals w/ Intern Stephanie
13	14 <b>Summer Camp wk 8</b> Focal Planes Foto Club	15	16	17 Yoga	18	19 Meet our animals w/ Intern Stephanie
20	21 <b>Summer Camp wk 9</b> Learn Care Share WCU Harp Ensemble	22	23	24 Yoga	25 <b>Summer Camp</b>	26 Meet our animals w/
27	28 Focal Planes Foto Club	29	30 Delaware River Fishermen's Assoc.	31 Nature Book Club Yoga	For more detailed information please go to <a href="http://www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org">www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org</a>	



## New Members

Terri Boileau  
Debbie Cesta  
Jill Clegg  
Keri Ehrlich  
Amy Ewing  
Braylan Farmer

Amber Jurrens  
Danielle Lehr  
Michele Lynham  
Barbara Merritt  
Mary Notwick  
Jennifer Parilo  
Nicole Roadside

Bernard Rosenbaum  
Barbara Hejnar  
Naomi Schembri  
Jeffery Stahlman  
Annette Williams

## Looking Ahead...

### Earthship Tours

This summer, the Earthship is open for free tours 2 Saturdays a month. For a current tour schedule please see [www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org](http://www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org)

### Home School Enrichment Series- Fall Session

Begins September, 2017, and will run every Tuesday through November, 2017.

### We are now taking registrations for Summer Camp!

Camp Season begins June, 26th 2017, and runs for 9 one-week sessions.

For a look at the 2017 brochure and registration forms please see our website at : [www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org/things-to-do/summer-camp/](http://www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org/things-to-do/summer-camp/)

### Saturday Series Programs

We are continuing to add new Saturday Series Programs every Saturday from 1 pm - 3 pm. Stop in and learn something new this Saturday!

### Special Event!

Singer/Musician **Mary Courtney** will be here on Saturday September, 16th 2017, for a special performance. Courtney has used her music to spread Irish culture and to educate her audience about the struggles of the Irish people. From rock 'n' roll to the ethereal strains of some ancient Celtic bard, Mary can sing anything, and sing it unforgettably. Tickets available in advance please see [www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org](http://www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org) for more details.

Cont'd from Page 2

*art of how to have fun simply playing outside.*

*I see exhausted parents bring their children out to our frog slog in the bog programs and learn to slow down and enjoy the moment their child first catches the rare and protected Leopard frog, and that parent tears up with nostalgia for their own youth spent playing outside sunrise to dinner time.*

*I see retired adults rediscover the next phase of their life can have purpose and meaning while volunteering here, and they find a strong sense of community within our oasis. They take on their projects here with such pride and ownership, knowing that their tireless efforts will preserve and protect this vital natural resource for future generations to visit and discover.*

*I see a woman start volunteering here when she is 92, greeting our visitors with kindness and helping them find a place here. I see another woman donate all of her time outside of her full time job, doing trail maintenance and becoming our leader. I see the gentleman whose family owned this place when it was a farm come back and wrap us in his warm stories of what this place was like 70 years ago. I see another dedicate 40 years of his life to a career spent nurturing the wonders of our preserve and its people, and his legacy lives on. I see a man spend a dozen of his last years on this earth removing non-native species so his beloved Pine Grove can become the magical place he longs for, a place to sit under the evergreen canopy and rest.*

*Places like Silver Lake preserve are incredibly important, not just for the environmental ethics of protecting such habitats for the animals, but because we are part of nature and we have become increasingly estranged in today's modern society. People of all ages need to have a place to come back home to, a place to find peace and see the beauty and magic that is our natural world."*

*I see myself start out naïve and unsure, welcomed into the Silver Lake family with open arms and taken under your wings. I see the lessons I've learned, the skills (career and life skills) I've developed here, and the close bonds I've been lucky enough to form. I feel the transformative power of this preserve and the amazing people who love it—thank you! -Jenn*

## Calling all Volunteers! Opportunities - Events - News

### Volunteer Opportunities:

**Kayaking Assistant** - A volunteer is needed to assist the Kayak Instructor with set up, breakdown, and the monitoring of program equipment and class participants during the session on and off the water.

**Volunteer Work Days** - Volunteers are needed to help us maintain our grounds. Work days are scheduled for the first Saturday of every month 9 am - 2 pm rain or shine.

### Volunteer Accomplishments:

Our Annual Member Meeting and Volunteer Recognition event was held at the Nature Center in March. In preparation for that event our volunteers were in high gear. The event was catered by McCaffrey's Catering and center piece flowers were donated by Schmidt's Flowers. This past year there were 23 volunteers who had put in at least one hundred hours of volunteer service. That achievement qualified them for the 2016 Century Club. Each year that list of names is given to Christa Bain, who is a retired County employee of the Nature Center, and during her winter break in North Carolina she creates a fraktur to be hung in the auditorium memorializing the contributions of these wonderful volunteers. It was a fabulous event that resulted in the election of a new Board of Directors president, Hope Sauppe.

This quarter our volunteer work days have included creating a trail off the upper trail, that provides direct access to the water front of Magnolia Lake, removing litter from the outer edges of the forest along Bath Road and Lakeland Avenue, and planning revisions to existing park signs with volunteer Wm. Roger Clark.

**Ponds and Gardens Maintenance** - Volunteers are needed weekly to help us maintain our ponds and gardens. If you have two hours on Thursday mornings 10 am - 12pm, then we could use your help.

**Animal Caregivers** - Volunteers are needed to spend 1 or 2 hours a week caring for the exhibit animals.

*Interested? Please contact Arden Williams at 215 785 1177 or [awilliams@buckscounty.org](mailto:awilliams@buckscounty.org)*

## *Volunteer of the Quarter*

### **Robert Pearson**

It is difficult to keep the grounds and trails of the park visitor-friendly without handy and dedicated volunteers. Bob is one such person for. He is a member of the facilities committee; he helped to construct the Earthship; he keeps the walkways and trail paths clear of hazards like ice and fallen trees; he mows a meandering trail through the meadow; and he maintains the grass in the meditation circle. He also suggested that the County consider adding new trails to take advantage of the natural features inherent to this tract of the Coastal plain. So Bob was given permission to map and blaze new trails that will eventually allow visitors to walk completely around Silver Lake. The first new trail to be blazed was the Magnolia Lake Trail and it has been a wonderful addition to our grounds.

*Thank you Bob for being such a valuable contributor to the Nature Center!*

### **Silver Lake Nature Center Intern Program, Summer 2017**

SLNC is pleased to welcome 2 new interns for Summer 2017:

#### Stephanie Heim: Environmental Education Intern

I am excited to be an intern here at Silver Lake Nature Center for the Spring and Summer seasons! I am currently studying Environmental Science at Drexel University. I believe one of the best ways we can protect the environment is by teaching and inspiring others about environmental issues and conservation, so I am thrilled to be able to interact with visitors and share my passion for nature! In the past, I have completed internships in the GIS department of a utilities company and as a conservation education and animal behavior intern at the Philadelphia Zoo. I was also able to take a teaching course and teach STEM lessons to fourth graders in the Philadelphia School District, which helped me to learn some teaching techniques for educating students. I look forward to working with the Silver Lake team to make positive contributions to our community and environment!

#### Clare Quinlan: Environmental Education Intern

Clare is currently attending Miami University where she is studying Ecology and Conservation. As an intern she will be involved in the daily workings of the Nature Center. From assisting with educational programs to special assignments and projects, she will have an immersive and well rounded educational experience this summer.

## Summer Programs and Activities

For more details and full schedule please see the 2017 Spring Program or [www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org](http://www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org)

### Summer Camp 2017

**June 26 - August 25**

**9 am - 4 pm**

Our Summer Camp gives your child the opportunity to get outside and explore the outdoors with hands-on activities, games and natural crafts.

Campers ages 6-14

\$200/wk per child

Extended Care available for an additional fee

C. I. T. ages 15-18

\$50/ wk

For additional information and registration forms call 215 785 1177 or see

[www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org/things-to-do/summer-camp/](http://www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org/things-to-do/summer-camp/)

### Full Moon Kayaking

**Saturdays, 6/10, 7/8 & 8/5**

**6 pm - 9 pm**

Led by SLNC Kayak instructor Wm. Roger Clark. Start out in the daylight and journey from Silver Lake to Magnolia Lake where we disembark on the island for a campfire and marshmallow roast. Then paddle back to Silver Lake by moonlight. This program is for experienced kayakers.

Registration & payment due 2 days prior. Space is limited.

Fee per person per class is \$30 member; \$35 non-member

### Birding, Bombay

**Hook, DE**

**Saturday, July 22**

**8:30 am**

Led by Rick and Terri Van Kirk. Late July is a great time to study adult shorebirds returning from the breeding grounds of the north and to look for southern species such as stilts, avocets and blue grosbeaks. Meet at SLNC at 7am or at offsite location at 8:30 am. Bag lunch, snack and water. Dinner will be at a local restaurant

Fee \$15 member, \$19 non-member. Call 215.785.1177 for registration

### Saturday Series

All-ages programs

**Saturdays, all Summer**

**1pm - 3 pm**

Come in yourself or bring the family! Each Saturday we have a different topic or activity. Upcoming programs include Beekeeping, Yoga Hike, Butterflies and more.

For a full listing of Saturday Series Programs check out the SLNC Program schedule or our website, [www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org](http://www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org)

Fee per person \$8 member, \$10 non member

## 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](http://www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org) and/or contact PattiAnn Cutter at [pacutter@buckscounty.org](mailto:pacutter@buckscounty.org) or 267-880-5022.*



# Silver Lake Nature Center

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## On The Horizon



### Mark your calendar now for a special event this fall!

**Who?** *A Taste of Artistry* is coming to Silver Lake Nature Center.

**What?** Join us for a “no experience required” Nature Step-By-Step Painting Class with A Taste of Artistry-Art on Wheels.

**When?** Saturday, September 16th, at 2pm!

Pre-registration is required for this special event.

\$40 per person.

Please bring your own snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.

Please register at <http://www.atasteofartistry.com/> or by calling 267-307-2481.



### **\*\* An Important Message to the members of Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center\*\***

#### **Notice of Proposed Changes to FOSLNC By-Laws**

The FOSLNC Board of Directors is proposing revisions to the FOSLNC By-Laws.

A copy of the By-Laws with the recommended changes is now posted for all members of the organization to review on the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center website at:

<http://silverlakenaturecenter.org/about-us/friends-of-silver-lake-nature-center/>

This document will be available for review until June 14th 2017. If you have any questions or concerns about the proposed updates, please contact Membership Coordinator Danielle Morrissey at 267 880 5023 or [dmmorrissey@buckscounty.org](mailto:dmmorrissey@buckscounty.org)

Thank You,

Hope Sauppe

President

Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center