



Winter 2016

THE FROGHORN

www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org

Blazing Trails!

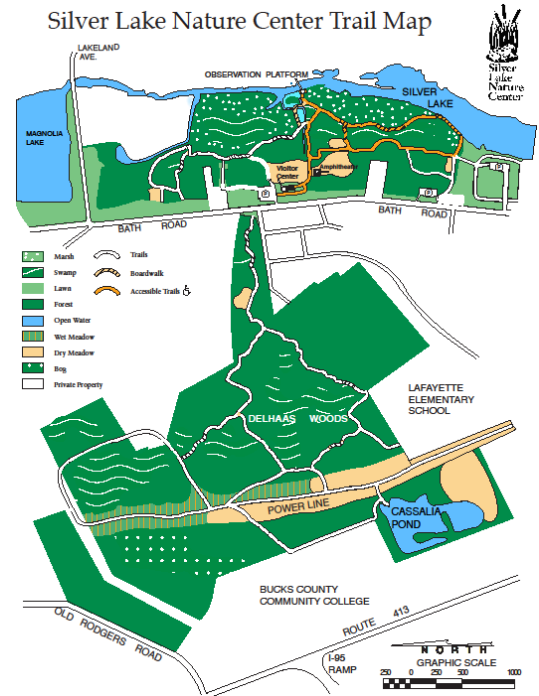
The portion of the Silver Lake Nature Preserve known as Delhaas Woods has always held a sense of mystery and wonder within its dense canopy.

A place of legend and myth, it is even avoided by some people due to its tangle of trails and confusing layout of paths. The fog of uncertainty is now being lifted as a new trail has been blazed through the woods of Delhaas to assist hikers in their travels.

The new trail, known as "Willow Oak", begins and ends at the main entrance to the woods on Bath Road directly across the street from the Silver Lake Nature Center and is open to the public. The trail is easy to traverse and takes the hiker through many of the wonderful habitats of the Woods, like wetlands, deciduous forest, meadow and more. The Willow Oak trail is marked in handsome yellow blazes that allow a hiker to walk all 1.5 miles with relative ease. It is a perfect length trail for a nice afternoon stroll or a morning run.

Convenient, free parking at the Nature Center makes this circular trail even easier to access. Paper maps of the area are available in the Nature Center, and we appreciate all feedback on the new trail.

Happy Hiking!



Due to popular demand, extended Kids & Nature Days are BACK! This time, for a full week!

Spend some of your winter break with us! Six to twelve-year olds are invited to join us as we explore the trails, play games, make crafts, visit with our animals, and much more!

Activities will be held both outdoors and indoors, so please dress for the weather. Participants should bring a snack, lunch, and water bottle with them.

Fee per Nature Camper: \$200 for the whole week; \$50 per day

Before/After Care Options available for an additional fee.

For more information and/or to register, please call 215-785-1177 or

email SilverLakeNatureCenter@buckscounty.org. Registration and payment are due by Dec. 20th.



Silver Lake Nature Center

50th Anniversary

1966 - 2016

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS WITH NATURE FOR ALL AGES

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
Every Other Sunday, 12 pm - 5pm
Closed Monday

Trails are open daily from Sunrise to Sunset

STAFF

Jerry Kozlansky, Director/Naturalist

PattiAnn Cutter, PR-Marketing Manager/
Environmental Educator

Jennifer Bilger, Environmental Educator/
Summer Camp Director

Arden Williams, Volunteer Coordinator/
Administrative Assistant

Danielle Morrissey, Office Manager

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.*

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Giving Tree

We hope you'll visit our "Giving Tree" this Holiday Season. Our Tree will be on display in the entrance area of the Nature Center Visitors' Building. Hanging from the Tree will be our Wish List in the form of ornaments.

Visitors may take an ornament with them if they would like to donate that item.

Here is a sampling of items on our Wish List:

Marshmallows
Volunteer Work Day Lunch Sponsor
Water cooler for Earthship
Volunteer Work Day Lunch Sponsor
Gift Cards to Craft and/or Grocery Stores

Please call us at 215-785-1177 or visit our website at www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org for more information, and/or to take a peek at our "Giving Tree."

Thank you!





Mink Tracks

The snow had fallen softly all evening, leaving a fresh blanket of white over all the ground. The light of dawn was breaking through the grey clouds as I hiked silently down the winding trails of Silver Lake Nature Preserve. Ahead in the distance were two young boys with their father. As I approached them, it became apparent that they were discussing a set of fresh animal tracks in the snow. They were obviously excited about their discovery and were eager to learn more. Therefore, I joined their group, and we set off to investigate these footprints.

The tracks were paired together side by side in a bounding type of pattern. Each footprint was about one inch long with five toes on both the front and back feet. I explained to the boys that having five toes on the front feet eliminated many possible suspects, including the rodents of the area like the squirrels, woodchucks, and porcupines, because rodents have only four toes on their front feet. The small size also eliminated the raccoon and opossum from the list of possible animals. The whole group was now very keen to find the identity of this mystery animal.

The tracks led to the water's edge at Silver Lake where it had slipped and dodged its way through stumps and rocks before plunging into the cold water. Ten yards later this little predator had emerged and feasted on a crayfish it had caught in the lake. There was now only one animal this could be, The American Mink. The Mink is a small one to two-pound mammal measuring about two feet long with silky brown fur and is a sleek and adept carnivore. The marshes of Silver Lake Nature Preserve are perfect habitat for the mink, and its den was most likely dug into the creek bank or even in an abandoned muskrat den.

We tracked the mink along the water's edge deeper into the marsh when suddenly the boys gasped as we all caught sight in the distance of not one but two minks intensely facing one another. Minks are fiercely territorial, and we assumed it was about to turn into an aggressive encounter, but what we observed, however, was more of a courtship dance instead. Indeed, it was mid-February, and it was the height of the minks' breeding season. The two minks then noticed us and scampered off together into the wild.

As the four of us walked back to the Nature Center, the boys were excitedly talking with their father about how in about 50 days a litter of two to ten mink kits could be born somewhere in the marshes of Silver Lake Nature Preserve. The entire group made a plan to return to the same location in late spring to see if we could find any evidence of a family of minks bounding across the area.



Be sure to celebrate World Wildlife Day on March 3rd every year by spending some time engaging with the world of wildlife!

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Charles Raudenbush, Jr.



Calendar of Events

December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Birding/ Conowingo Volunteer Workday Aquatic Critters History of Silver Lake
4	5	6 Southern Bucks Garden Club	7	8	9	10 Bird Seed Sale Beginning Birding 101
11	12 Focal Planes Foto Club	13	14 Artists of Bristol	15	16	17 Bird Count Map & Compass Class
18	19 Holiday Harps Concert	20	21 Winter Solstice Night Hike Campfire	22	23	24
25	26 Winter Nature Camp 12/26-12/30 Focal Planes Foto Club	27	28 Delaware River Fishermen's Assoc.	29	30	31

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Southern Bucks Garden Club	4	5	6	7 Volunteer Workday Nature Craft
8	9 Focal Planes Foto Club	10	11 Artists of Bristol	12	13	14 Shelter Building
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Birding/ Barnegat Light Winter Tree ID
22	23 Focal Planes Foto Club	24 Homeschool Enrichment Series Begins. 1/24-3/14	25 Delaware River Fishermen's Assoc.	26	27	28 Mysteries of Delhaas Woods
29	30	31				

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Volunteer Workday
5	6	7 Southern Bucks Garden Club	8 Artists of Bristol	9	10	11 Fire-building for Beginners
12	13 Focal Planes Foto Club	14	15	16	17	18 Birding/ North Shore Wild Animal Signs of Delhaas Woods
19	20	21 Maple Syrup Week, Group Programs	22 Maple Syrup Week, Group Programs Delaware River Fishermen's Assoc.	23 Maple Syrup Week, Group Programs	24 Maple Syrup Week, Group Programs	25 Making Maple Syrup
26	27 Focal Planes Foto Club	28				

Business Partners

Friends of Silver Lake Business Partners and Donors 2016

Diamond Partner \$5000+

The Dow Chemical Company
County of Bucks
DEP, Coastal Zone Management
Parx Casino

Platinum Partner \$3000+

CBM Construction Building Materials

Silver Partner \$1000+

Action Manufacturing Company

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

Glenn and Jerilyn Barford

Dawn Denner

Barbara Hordis

Andy Pustay

Frank Robidoux

Barbara and Arthur Stakes

Amanda Sullivan

Looking Ahead...

The Nature Center will be **open every other Sunday** starting **Sunday, November 6, 2016** until further notice

Bird Seed Sale 2017

February 11, 2017, orders due by February 3, 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.

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

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.
December 3rd, January 7th, and February 4th

Animal Care Volunteers

Are you interested in learning more about our exhibit animals? We are currently looking for volunteers to come in for an hour or two each week to help care for our animals and maintain their display habitats. You bring the curiosity and enthusiasm and we'll provide the training!

Volunteer Accomplishments:

This quarter our Interns took the lead on many projects around the grounds. This set of summer interns, Rachel Bryan and Ryan Neuman, were the first to be paid by the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center through the initiative started by the Center's former Director, Bob Mercer, who retired in November of 2015.

Rachel and Ryan were instrumental in assisting with programs, leading groups of volunteers on Volunteer Work Days, and assisting the staff with the upkeep of the building and grounds. With the help of our paid interns our volunteer work days are much more focused and productive. They worked hard throughout the week to maintain specific areas of the grounds so that work days can be geared toward projects that required all hands on deck. Volunteers have been able to weed, mulch, and restack the border of the pond areas, remove and replace old trail liners, and remove fencing poles from the community garden.

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

Volunteer of the Quarter:

Carolyn Hankerson

Carolyn is a retired Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center employee. Since her retirement in 2014, she has been tending her garden, more active in her church, and regularly comes back to the Center to volunteer. Her experience as the Nature Center's Office Manager makes her a valuable asset to the group that gets our publication in the hands of our members and partners.

However, what really makes her exceptional is that she makes it a point to contact some of our older volunteers who no longer drive, so they can still come to the Center to help out and socialize.

Thank you Carolyn for being a model former employee, citizen and friend to the Silver Lake Nature Center.

Internship Opportunities at SLNC

Spring 2017 Education Internship at Silver Lake Nature Center

Silver Lake Nature Center is looking for an energetic, creative individual to fill this position. This internship is very flexible as far as time and weekly schedule and is 20-30 hours per week. There is a possibility of payment, and includes the option of free housing on the preserve property. The intern will be exposed to all aspects of the Nature Center's activities including but not limited to: education programs; kayak trips; public interpretive walks; seasonal group programs; summer camps; special events; marketing; invasive species management; data entry; working with volunteers; and grounds keeping. The intern will focus on education and will also be expected to choose/design a project that will demonstrate his or her skills in his or her chosen field and which will produce a final product for the Center.

For more information please contact the Silver Lake Nature Center at 215 785-1177

Winter Programs and Activities

For more details please see the 2016 Fall Program or www.SilverLakeNatureCenter.org

Birding Trips

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

Conowingo Dam

Saturday, December 3

8am - 5pm

Led by Linda Rowan. The Conowingo Dam is located in Maryland about a 2 hour drive south of the Nature Center. This birding spot is on the Susquehanna River. Bald Eagles can easily be seen here. This location is great for photographers. We will also take an easy walk along a trail down the river to look for other birds.

Meet at SLNC at 8am to arrive at location by 10am. Bring snacks, and plan on a late lunch out.

Registration and payment due by November 26, 2016

Barnegat Light

Saturday, January 21

8am - 5pm

Led by Mary Jane Mannherz. A brisk walk should provide excellent views of Harlequin Ducks, Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks and plenty of other rare and common birds. We will lunch in a warm restaurant and then bird the bay. Just before sunset, we will search for Short-eared Owls.

Registration and payment due by January 14, 2017

North Shore

Saturday, February 18

8am - 5pm

Led by Rick & Terry Van Kirk. This trip will provide a wonderful chance to see a number of waterfowl up close. This a great trip for beginners and photographers. For lunch, we will warm up in a local restaurant.

Registration and payment due by February 11, 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.

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 from puppet friends what animals do during winter.

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

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On The Horizon



Silver Lake Nature Center is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Look for special 50th anniversary events and opportunities throughout the year to show your support and share your favorite things about the Nature Center!

2017 Silver Lake Nature Center Calendars Have Arrived!

Enjoy stunning pictures of Silver Lake Nature Center & Park through all seasons!

These beautiful, popular calendars sell out quickly, so please be sure to purchase yours now.

Calendars cost \$15 each. Supplies are very limited.

Photography and design are by Resident Historian & Photographer, Clarence King, as well as members of the Focal Planes Foto Club.



All proceeds benefit the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center