



Fall 2012

THE FROGHORN

~ SILVER LAKE NATURE CENTER ~

Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center Mission Statement

The Silver Lake Nature Center creates opportunities for the natural habitats of Silver Lake to inspire students of all ages and abilities with the wonder and beauty of this living treasure. Through education, recreation, research and advocacy, we attract new friends to Silver Lake and its watershed, and together preserve this priceless heritage for generations to come.

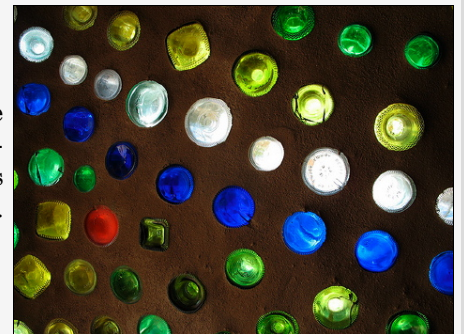
We've created an Earthship !(a.k.a. Watershed Education Building)..

We've taken tires and soil - LOTS of soil - and created walls for our new Watershed Education Building. It couldn't be done without our wonderful, generous partners and volunteers. Based on Michael Reynolds' Earthship designs, our own architect, Michael Jonn has adapted the plans for our location.



Nine rows of used tires make up the walls. Many triaxles of soil have been pounded into them and bermed up behind them.

Recycled bottles will be used to create light-emitting art on the walls and doorways.



When complete, our Earthship will look very much like this. For the growing list of partners and volunteers, see page 7.

Visit us on the Web!
www.silverlakenaturecenter.org

If you received this via the mail and would like to help us save trees, ink, and money, please share your email address with us and receive a color version of this newsletter via email. Thank you!

FOSL Staff and Board Members

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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Bristol, Pa 19007
215 785-1177
fax: 215 785-3228
www.silverlakenaturecenter.org

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

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

Special People

Jacqueline Cohen

1950 - 2012

We are saddened by the loss of longtime volunteer, Jackie Cohen, who died on July 22, 2012.

Jackie has been our Saturday afternoon shopkeeper since 2001. She was a member of our Century Club, with over 100 volunteer hours each year, from 2007 thru 2011.

Having been diagnosed with breast cancer at the beginning of the year, Jackie didn't let the chemotherapy stop her from teaching English as a Second Language in the Philadelphia Public Schools or volunteering with us at Silver Lake Nature Center. She continued to help out in the gift shop until shortly before she died.

We miss her loyalty, quiet humor, and gentle warmth.

Thank you, and Good Luck!

Syd Stutzman arrived from Drexel University at the end of March as our summer intern. She continued in researching and documenting the various invasive plants in the park. We also put her to work helping with our school programs, co-guiding many of our kayak trips, and she even planted a pretty remarkable garden. Syd shared her gardening accomplishments as a guest naturalist for our summer camp, and she helped with the Teen Kayak Week.

Melissa Eldridge, a student at Lock Haven University, arrived a month before the first day of Summer Camp to get a jump on the position of Camp Counselor for our six to eight-year-olds. With Camp Director, Jenn Bilger, Melissa helped to write lesson plans and prepare for a very busy summer. Each day during camp, healthy snacks were provided for the campers, and Melissa researched, practiced, and showed the kids how to make some fun food creations. Then, they were encouraged to eat their creations! Melissa assisted on the Marsh Meander, explored the waterfall, and became quite an expert at tie-dying.

These two summer staffers were a pleasure to have at the Nature Center. We wish them continued success as they *both* resume their studies at Lock Haven University.

..... Available in October!

Silver Lake Nature Center 2013 Calendars!

Enjoy fantastic photographs of Silver Lake Park through all the seasons!

These calendars make lovely gifts for all your family and friends.

Clarence King has again designed this calendar. He has also taken most of the photos and has included shots from guest photographers.

All proceeds benefit the *Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center*.

Calendars sell for \$15 each.

Due to a limited supply, please call 215 785-1177 ext. 12 or email palynn@co.bucks.pa.us to place your orders **soon!**

Mercer's Musings

A Long Hot Summer

By the time you are reading this, another brutally hot summer will be history. According to NOAA's National Climate Data Center, the period between 7/1/11 and 6/30/12 was the warmest twelve-month period since they started keeping records in 1895.¹



An Angus Reid poll conducted in May 2012 reported that only 42% of Americans say “global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities.” Another 21% of the respondents felt “Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by natural changes.”

Furthermore, 21% of Americans think “global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven.” I find this hard to believe, but it is true. Or, at least that is how Americans answered the three questions (I used the exact wording) in this poll.

Around the same time, June 13 to 21, 2012, the Washington Post conducted a survey about climate change. It is far more nuanced, is fascinating and is telling to read. This poll asked 54 questions, not three. A strong majority of people believe the world is hotter and temperatures are going up. They do not

trust scientists. They believe we must do something, but at the same time, only a minority think the temperature changes have a link to human behavior. They do not think the American government and American businesses are doing much to combat global warming. They feel that the American government should be a leader and not wait for other countries to step forward first. Even more interesting, I interpret some of the answers to say, “Yes, we need to do something, but not I.”

Over the years, my musings upon the environment. We learned release into the environment is 100 by all volcanic activity. We also to temperature.



often explored the issue of human impact how the amount of carbon we Americans times more than the average annual release explored changes in bird populations related

If you are still not convinced climate, here are some more 2004, the USA alone used 103 energy and 447Q was used around 2008). The largest bomb ever

that humans are powerful enough to alter the interesting facts. In quadrillion BTU's of the world (505Q in detonated (by Soviets on



July 10, 1961, at 50 megatonnes-MT) released about 0.2 quadrillion BTU's. (The energy used in the USA in 2004 was equivalent to 515 of these huge bombs, which is about one bomb every 17 hours.) In fairness, we are not talking about greenhouse gases here, but quantities of energy. Yet it is important to remember that over 80% of the energy is created from fossil fuels. The point is, while your contribution is miniscule, the collective use of energy, much of which releases greenhouse gases, is huge. We need to do our part to limit our damage to the environment.

detonated (by Soviets on

¹ NOAA National Climatic Data Center, *State of the Climate: National Overview for June 2012*, published online July 2012, retrieved on August 15, 2012 from <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national/2012/6>.

Where There is a Will...

In August, Silver Lake Nature Center director, Robert Mercer, received recognition by the Association of Nature Center Administrators for leaving 5% of his worth to that organization in his will. He did not tell them that he left the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center with 10%!

Many of you reading this are regular supporters of the Nature Center. Maybe you support the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center with your membership or hopefully with some gift to our annual fund drive. A gift of just \$600 placed in our endowment fund returns on average \$30 each year, which is the price of a family membership.

What do you want to happen to your “fortune,” as modest as it is? Without a will, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania takes it. Believe me, I did not leave anything in my will to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and I doubt greatly that I will be worth enough to attract the attention of Uncle Sam's Death Tax. If you do not have a will, take some time to make one soon. While you are at it, consider leaving either a set amount or a percent of residual value, as I have, to ensure that the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center enjoys your support forever. If you do have a will, have you updated it recently? You should revisit it regularly.

Business Partners

Diamond Partner \$5000+

The Dow Chemical Company
 PA Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED)
 PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR)
 PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Platinum Partner \$3000+

Foundations Community Partnership
 The West Foundation

Gold Partner \$1500+

Enterprise Rent-A-Car
 The Grundy Foundation



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Crown Holdings, Inc.
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Artists of Bristol
 Cabot Creamery Cooperative
 Exact Solar
 Fidelity Savings & Loan of Bucks County
 Four Lanes End Garden Club
 Garden Indoors of PA
 Green Jobs Academy
 Legacy of Clean
 Martha Washington Garden Club
 Mia Bella
 Natural Awakenings Buxmont
 Nutralite
 P. J. Fitzpatrick, Inc.
 Q's Cookies

Please support our Business Partners whenever you can!



Winners of a free FOSL Membership!

June Bethanne Schultz
 July Joslyn Moon Werkheiser
 August Michelle Crosby

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 May 1 thru July 15, 2012

Elmar Bonn	Kelley Krajewski	James & Jennifer Rogers
Ben Choi	William & Michele Lancaster	Mark Sampson
Meredith Cole	Michelle & Patrick Leighton	Roland Schiffner
Renee DaPonte	John Lukatchik	Joanne Shearn
George & Stephanie Davis	Amy Markert	Donna Stanish
Richard & Karen DeMarco	Kevin Miller	Ruth Tier
Lauren DeSilva	Alison Miller	Christopher & Lena Tomlinson
Sandy Dixon	Maryanne Murray	Colleen & Tom Tuttle
Jessica Drum	Andrew Ortiz	Viroopaksha Vardhineni
Bobbi Jo Foulks	Steven Pennelli	Kathy & Dave White
Ed & Roxanne Haleman	Jennifer & Jim Perry	Mary Willets
Katy Needle & Wayne Kachelries	Cindy & John Posluszny	Lori Willis
Judy Kane	Rosemary Revell	Barry Windsor

We hope to see you often!

Fun Activities for All

Come Celebrate at Silver Lake!

We offer a variety of options for children of all ages, as well as grownup birthday parties, bridal showers, baby showers, anniversaries, special events, and meetings.

Our regular two-hour party includes: one theme-related party craft; nature walk; and use of building, auditorium or pavilion, kitchen, restrooms, tables, and chairs. There will be indoor activities in case of inclement weather.

Fee per child for a regular two-hour birthday party:
\$9 member
\$12 non-member

Fee includes one free adult per child.

Minimum # of participants: 10

(Choose from themes like, Bugs & Beasties, Tracks & Scat, Insect Inspection, Dinosaurs & Cousins, or your favorite animal!)

Some 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 details, visit www.silverlakenaturecenter.org contact PattiAnn at 215-785-1177 ext. 12 or palynn@co.bucks.pa.us.

Calling All Scouts!!



Silver Lake Nature Center offers a variety of Girl Scout and Boy Scout programs!

Some of the Scout programs we offer include Badges, Journeys, Flag Retirement Ceremonies, Service and Volunteer Projects, and more!

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

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

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

Book early! Dates fill up quickly!



Kids & Nature Thursday, December 27th 9 am - 12 noon

Spend some of your winter break with us!

Six to ten-year-olds are invited to join us as we explore the trails, play games, make a craft, and visit with our animals! Activities will be held both outdoors and indoors. Light snacks will also be provided.

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

Registration and payment due by December 22nd.

For more information and to register, contact PattiAnn at palynn@co.bucks.pa.us or 215-785-1177 ext. 12.



Coming this fall...

After School Nature Club
for 10 to 14-year-olds

Call Jenn-

215 785-1177.

Starts Oct.17th

Fee: \$40 member

\$50 non-member

Sign up now!

Earthship - Living the Dream

We didn't *have* to build an Earthship. We just had to make our tired old Pond Shed usable as a classroom again, but it needed a lot of work. About two years ago, we received a \$25,000 grant from the PA Department of



Community and Economic Development to repair or replace the Pond Shed. Michael Reynolds' Earthship designs seemed to be a perfect fit for the Nature Center's mission and needs!

Earthships are made of recycled material and are designed to be self-contained. They maintain a comfortable temperature all year, collect rain water to be used in many ways, recycle waste, and grow plants for food and fresh air.



Our own Lorraine Skala has been the driving force behind this project. She met with architects, engineers, township inspectors, county officials, union leaders, and local businesses to find out if such a building was even feasible. More often than not, her inquiry was met with interest and enthusiasm.

All that preliminary work took a long time, but, if nothing else, we have learned patience.

In the spring, the asbestos shingles were removed and disposed of; our own volunteers installed 540 feet of silt fencing around the perimeter of the work site; the old building was taken down and all the debris was hauled away. Finally, with all the approvals in, we could proceed.



Volunteers showed up to dig trenches and help to build the framework for the footings. With many years of experience, Jim Skala came to the fore and acted as our project manager. He was the 'go-to' guy, keeping track of what was done, what needed to be

done, how our supplies were holding out, and the weather. The pour for the concrete footings happened on July 27, 2012. It went beautifully!

Once the footings cured, then we could begin the fun part: pounding tires! We found local businesses who had tires (in the right sizes) to donate, and we located a dependable source for large quantities of dirt. Again,



our volunteers rolled up their sleeves and took on the task of using a sledge hammer to compact each tire with as much dirt as was humanly possible. These 300 pound tires were

then stacked like bricks, in nine tiers, to form all but the south-facing wall. This is back-breaking, but very satisfying, work!

Currently, there is one final tier of tires to finish; the empty spaces in the tire wall will be filled with recycled cans and bottles; and the



walls will be encased in concrete. Then, there *only* remains the roof, the south windowed wall, the solar panels, the bottle walls, interior carpentry, plumbing and electrical, and the seeding and landscaping!

We have been deeply touched by the support we have received for this unique project. Our longtime members and volunteers were the first to show up - and they have



stayed. People we've never met have arrived to help for the day, called to offer to help, or sent a check to help keep the project going. Friends and well-wishers gave money to feed our volunteers and have supplied cases of drinks at the work site. People came and worked *hard* on their day off, including Director Bob Mercer, who spent many of his free days down at the job site.

When we needed to rent a bobcat to move the dirt, several people gave us funds to make it happen.



It is heartwarming to have such support and feel such positive energy! Stay tuned and plan to attend the grand opening early next spring!

Earthship - Thank You!

When word went out that we were building an Earthship, organizations, businesses, and individuals stepped up and helped us in whatever way they could. They offered their support and approval, their funding, expertise and enthusiasm, supplies, labor, and equipment. Those who could, pitched in with the physical work, some for a day, some for many days. This building was created with the sweat and good will of everyone. **Thank you!**

Partners

PA Department of Community and Economic Development
Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation
Bucks County Commissioners
Michael Jonn, Architect
CBM, Bristol
DeNucci's Excavating
Tina Davis, PA State Representative
Bristol Township
Carpenters Local 1462
Electricians Local 269
Operating Engineers Local 542
The West Foundation
Exact Solar
Bristol Environmental, Inc.
Tire City
Armour and Sons Electric
McHales Kitchens and Baths
Republic Services
JFI Redi-Mix
Anderson Construction
84 Lumber
The Dow Chemical Company
And others who wish to remain anonymous.

Volunteers

Jim Skala
Anthony Garwood
Barb Campbell
Bob Pearson
Dave Croce
Todd Nixon
Eileen Mercer
Robert Mercer
Betsy Micir
Mary O'Connor
Justin Hunt
Green Jobs Club/Bucks County Community College
Nino Randazzo
Mark Bortman
William Green
Will Dunn
Terry Van Praet
Sean Hayduk
Michael Hayduk
Linda Blum
Dana Katz
Clarence King
Wayne Moore
Virginia McGrath
Chuck Lufkin
Robert Moyer
Hope Sauppe
Steven Waite
Eric Kasitz
Jean Petryszak
Employees of Veridian Energy
One Brick volunteers
Darius Rogers

Jim Kristofic
Christina Kristofic
Troy Shirley
Karianne Blum
Jeff Eitel
Steven Pearson
Audrey Chen
Bernie Griga
Gail Bracegirdle
Reed Hennessey
Ashley Scott
Bobby Fiorentino
Larry Motchnic
Marty Shively
Bernie Arkin
Ed McDonald
Eric Miller

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Virginia McGrath
Eric Miller
Linda Rowan
Michael & Kathleen Buchheit
Alan Stoneback
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Anthony Messina
Tony Garwood & Barb Campbell
Frank Peters
Melinda & Angelo Ratini
Otto Grupp
Begley, Carlin, & Mandio
Christa Bain
Those who want to be anonymous

Join us!

Application for Membership

New Renewal Gift

Memberships

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



Silver
Lake
Nature
Center

Please Print

Name: _____
Mr./ Mrs./ Mr. & Mrs./ Dr. _____
(Circle one) First Last

Address _____
house number/street name Apt.

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Special Memberships

(provide funds for additional programs)

<i>Grey Fox</i>	\$ 50
<i>Red Fox</i>	\$ 100
<i>Willow Oak</i>	\$ 250
<i>Pin Oak</i>	\$ 500
<i>Legacy Investor</i>	\$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."*

Summer Camp Update

Summer Camp for 6 - 12 year olds

by Jenn Bilger



This year's summer camps were a huge success, with a third year of half and full day camps being offered. Jenn Bilger and Melissa Eldridge led the summer campers through outdoor adventures, nature exploration, games, experiments, and crafts with the help of all of our CIT's and guests. The counselors and campers had a fun-filled summer and developed a special connection with Silver Lake and each other that will last for a lifetime.

A very special thank you and good luck to Melissa Eldridge, Summer Camp Counselor, who will continue her Outdoor Recreation studies at Lock Haven University!

Preschool Camp

by PattiAnn Lynn

For the third year in a row, our Preschool Camp was a great success!! This year, we extended the Camp for an additional week and had a wonderful response to it!

The Preschool Camp, led by PattiAnn Lynn, offered 4-5 year olds opportunities to enjoy all kinds of nature exploration, from the wonderful woods to the precious ponds, and everything in between! Children also had fun playing nature games, being artists, going on hikes, conducting experiments, face/handpainting, making friends, and much more! Keep a lookout for details as we may be offering our Preschool Camp for additional weeks next summer!

For more information on Preschool Camp and all of our events and programs, call 215-785-1177, visit www.silverlakenaturecenter.org, or email palynn@co.bucks.pa.us.

Teen Camp

by Mary O'Connor

Teens from 13 to 17 spent two separate weeks this summer enjoying nature, learning about our environment, and mastering new skills, under the guidance of Mary O'Connor.

During the first week of Teen Camp, the campers learned techniques of Outdoor Survival. They tried their hands at building shelters, signaling for help, finding water, and starting a fire using a bow drill. For Kayak Week, the campers learned about proper equipment, paddling techniques, and how to do a wet exit and re-entry. On the last day of camp, the whole group had the opportunity to go paddling at an off-site location.

Thank you to all the campers for making this year's Teen Camp so much fun! We hope to see you all next year!

Volunteers of the Quarter

Thank you to all of our Summer Camp Guest Naturalists and Guest Speakers who volunteered their time to come out and give our campers an unforgettably great summer of specialized programming:

Sydney Stutzman, Vail Ryan, Clarence King, Lois Glasscock, Eileen "Cinders" Swank, Margaret McGinnis, Samuel Shiels, and Matthew Kicinski of Delaware Valley Fly Fishers, Kelly Young, Nancy Wicker, Karen Flanigan, Mary Ellen Noonan, Kyle Loucks, Gail Bracegirdle, Becky Obert-Thorn, Bill Smith, Dale Frazier, Dori Schiefer, and Timothy Kearney.
Director Robert Mercer also appeared as a Guest Naturalist.

Thank you to all of our Counselors-In-Training (CIT's), who volunteered their time to help run our camp:

Jessica Tokarczyk, Elaine Panuccio, Ryan Neuman, Nicolas Nicoletti, Elizabeth McGoldrick, Gregory Egan, Ben Burge, Shawn Sabourin, Brittany Brown, Carli Goodgion, Pooja Patel, Melani Synol, Lauren DeSilva, and Stephen McKinney.



A Picture is worth a thousand words...
Our campers having fun building shelters, racing stream boats, looking for insects in our meadow, meandering into our marsh, and exploring our waterfall!



Volunteers



Waterway Cleanup- September 29 from 9 am to 2 pm

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

Volunteer Work Days from 9 am to 2 pm

November 3rd, December 1st (no volunteer work day on October 6th; see Green Fest info below)

Green Fest- October 6 from 11 am to 4 pm

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

Scout Projects at Silver Lake

Currently, we have two Girl Scouts working on their Silver Awards:

- Anna Yates is creating a natural background for our Pine-Bull snake tank. She is also renovating the signage over our compost bins.
- Kelly Young raised butterflies that were part of the Monarch Watch program. She shared what she has learned by teaching a 'Life of a Butterfly' segment for our summer campers.

This year, two young men took on Boy Scout projects at the Nature Center:

- Dylan Brown addressed a potential fire problem. The Bucks County Fire Marshal noticed that the compost pile, if it ever caught on fire, would spread to the building. Dylan removed the wooden structure and rebuilt it in a new, safe, location.
- Rob Eisenlord conducted a project as part of his quest to earn the William T. Hornaday Award. "The fundamental purpose of the Hornaday Awards program is to encourage learning by the participants and to increase public awareness about natural resource conservation." This award is a rarity and highly prized in the Scouting world. According to the Boy Scout web site, only about 1,100 boys received this medal during the last 80 years. Rob brought in a team of workers who removed by hand two stands of Mile-A-Minute, a highly invasive species that lives up to its name. By removing the plants before they went to seed, Rob has prevented the further spread in the Delhaas Woods section of the Nature Center.

It has been a pleasure to meet with these Scouts and guide them in these projects. Their service to us enhances our facility while providing valuable experience for each Scout. Thank you for all your efforts!



Calling all volunteers!

Storekeeper

We are searching for a volunteer to work in our gift shop greeting visitors, answering phones, and running the cash register. Open shifts on weekend days.

Trail Maintenance

We are looking for regular volunteer(s) to help us maintain our trails between Volunteer Work Days.

Animal Care

We are looking for volunteers to come once a week for about an hour to feed our exhibit animals and clean their tanks.

We provide training.

Open Shifts: Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Contact Jenn Bilger at 215 785-1177 ext 14 or jlbilger@co.bucks.pa.us

Animal Ambulance Crew

This crew will provide transport to wildlife rehabilitation centers for locally rescued injured or orphaned wild animals.

Adopt-an-Animal

We are searching for anyone who is willing to donate funds for our educational animals. These animals include three box turtles, two aquatic turtles, two snakes, and two pond tanks 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.

Serve & Learn Program

Are you a special interest group that wants to learn while volunteering? The Serve & Learn program is a 1.5 to 3 hour program involving an educational component followed by a service project.

Choose from these programs:

Scavenger Hunt/Litter Removal
Invasive Removal/Kayak Cleanup
Trail Adoption/Maintenance
Experiential/Teambuilding

Native Plantings/Rescue
Fundraisers
Wetlands Restoration
Watershed Monitoring

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

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

Project update

by Robert Mercer

This spring, thanks to a grant from Foundations Community Partnership, we were able to conduct special after school programs for teens. A grant from the Enterprise Foundation (Enterprise Car Rental) will allow the programs to continue through the fall.

A grant through the Coastal Zone Management Program gave us the chance to develop our water monitoring activities. Vail Ryan has been training volunteers, building schedules, creating the collection protocols, and posting data.

Our Watershed Education Building is really close to completion. This could not have been possible without grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, the West Foundation and the Grundy Foundation. It also could not have happened without the many volunteers and, in particular, Jim Skala, who served in every capacity from project manager to laborer. It would not have happened without him!

The renovation of the building to make it energy efficient and to create new displays is supported by a grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection. The design phase for these projects is currently in the middle of the bid process.

In this and all of our newsletters, you will find a listing of all the businesses that support the Nature Center. Please support them and thank them for being a good neighbor. It may sound silly, but put yourself in a business owner's shoes. It feels really good to give, but when someone outside of the organization recognizes that gift, it REALLY makes them feel good about being involved. The Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center's success in getting grants is because of our members and volunteers. Members and volunteers verify the Nature Center is worthy of grant awards. Thanks to all of you!

Thank you...

- Glenn Rodkey for donating office supplies, padlocks, work gloves, a dozen bug boxes, and a new air pump.
- Carl Weiss for giving us office supplies, including a stapler, a hard drive, and a 3-hole punch.
- Sandy Wah for proofing everything for us, helping us to make it clear and get it right.
- Pat Rossi for doing our seasonal fliers and for keeping the bulletin board at the lake up-to-date. Thanks, too, for putting our display up at the Levittown Library — on short notice, too!
- Phil Nesbit for donating a 100 cup coffeemaker, and a new set of blinds for the auditorium window.
- To the generous donors for our Summer Camp craft projects: Mary Reitz, Frank Keating, “Michelle”, Michael Pastorok, Pat Rossi, and everyone else who dropped off craft supplies, like glue paint, pipecleaners, etc. for our Campers.
- Dori Schiefer for supplying the fresh fruit and making fruit pops for the Campers, and for donating t-shirts to tie-dye.
- Sharon Burkett for donating a large quantity of lemonade to help the Campers keep cool during the heat wave.
- Lou's Farm Mart for providing the food to make natural dyes for our Camp dream catchers.
- Matt Kicinski of Delaware Valley Fly Fishers for refurbishing old push-button fishing reels for our Campers.
- Kevin Thompson and Elizabeth Plageman for donating the stone marker for the Hummingbird Garden at the wall near the pond, and thank you Girl Scout Troop #2650 of Levittown for creating and caring for this garden.
- Lois Glasscock for acting as hands-on advisor to the Girl Scouts in planning and creating the Hummingbird Garden.
- Bill and Amparo Harpel for donating a wonderful Kowa spotting scope and tripod (for our birding enthusiasts).
- All those who have donated to the care of our animals: Florence McFadden, *Anonymous* (more than once), Margaret McGinnis, and Jo Anne Kyle.
- Ellen Whitely for the collection of “Birds and Blooms” magazines.
- Tony Garwood and Barb Campbell for donating masking tape, fasteners, and hangers.
- Marilyn Leberman for donating nature and garden books to us.
- Everyone who has come out and helped on Volunteer Work Days in June, July, August, and September.
- Rae Hemingway, Marie Wojcik, and Madeline Bobst for preparing and taking our display out to local events.
- Linda Blum for taking Earthship information to the Bristol Township Community Fair.
- Jim Skala, Mary O'Connor, Hope Sauppe, Darius Rogers, Dana Katz, and Nino Randazzo for putting up the silt fence at the Earthship worksite.
- Everyone who donated food, drink, and cash for food and beverages for our hard-working Earthship volunteers, including Hope Sauppe, Will Lewis, *Anonymous*, Gail Bracegirdle and others who donated but did not give us their names.

Upcoming Events

September and October Kayaking

- Saturday, Sept. 29** **Waterway Clean up** Come & help
Monday, Oct. 1 **Full Moon Paddle** adults only
Saturday, Oct. 6 **Intro to Kayaking**
Saturday, Oct. 13 **Pine Barrens** *difficult*
Saturday, Oct. 20 **Lake Nockamixon** *moderate*

Register and pay at least three days in advance.
 Call 215 785-1177 for details.
 Special rates for using your own kayak.



Fall Birding:

Saturday, November 17 **Birds of Brigantine**
 7:30 am - 5 pm

Excellent for beginners, advanced, and photographers, providing access to a variety of large and showy birds.

Bring a lunch, and plan on joining us for dinner afterwards.

Fee: \$14 member; \$18 non-member
 Call 215 785-1177 for details and to register.



Fall Fling Wednesday, October 10th 5:30 - 7 pm

Plan on joining us for this special event: Architect, Michael Jonns will tell us everything we want to know about the Earthship!

Take this opportunity to taste the creations of local chefs, mingle with friends, and enjoy the music of pianist, Joseph Lizzi.

Look for your invitation in the mail.



Naturalist Aide Training Fridays, October 19, 26 November 2, 9, 16, & 30 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.



We Sell Bird Seed!

Each year, we offer bird seed for sale in October, December, and February. This is high quality seed that your birds will love!

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

October 3rd for pick up October 13th
 November 20th for pick up December 1st
 January 23rd for pick up February 2nd

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



Symbionts - Clubs that meet at the Nature Center:

New members welcome - and needed!

West Chester University Harp Ensemble - Rehearses on third Mondays at 6 pm. Come & listen.

Focal Planes Foto Club - Meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:30 pm.

S. Bucks Garden Club - Meets on the first Tuesday at 7 pm.

Artists of Bristol - Meet on the second Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

Delaware Valley Fly Fishers - Meet on the fourth Wednesday at 7 pm.

Yoga - Meets every Thursday at 7:30 pm.



PA Master Naturalist Core Training

Silver Lake Nature Center, in partnership with the PA Institute for Conservation Education (PICE), is hosting this training from November 2012 to February 2013.

For more info, call Bob Mercer at 215 785-1177.

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.

Winter Solstice Celebration

**Saturday, December 15
 7 - 8:30 pm**

We will 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

Mark Your Calendar

Join us!

SILVER LAKE GREEN FEST



Creating a Sustainable Future

October 6, 2012

11 am - 4 pm

**Free Admission - Free Parking
Free Kids' Activities - Free Concert
Free Animal Show**



The Hive Buzz

What an exciting year in the Bee Yard! We had a swarm! Tens of thousands of bees left their hive and went looking for a place to land while scout bees searched for a new home. When honeybees are in this mode, they are not aggressive in the least. In fact, the Summer Camp kids watched, as Louis Zeleskey and Jim Skala captured the swarm and placed it in a new hive. No one was stung.

The new colony we acquired this past Spring was quite productive and we harvested honey in mid-August. We now have Silver Lake Honey for sale in the gift shop and the bees still have plenty left in their hive for Winter.

Speaking of Winter, a couple of tasks still need to be done, and then the hives will be put to 'bed' until Spring.

If you enjoy local honey, stop in for a jar. It doesn't get any more local than this! Oh, and it's delicious!



~ Please share this newsletter with a friend. Thanks! ~

Address service requested.

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