The Silver Lake Nature Center has many very exciting projects moving forward simultaneously! The best news to the Bucks County taxpayer is that grants are paying for all of the costs. Grants do not miraculously appear; they require preparation and hard work. One of the ways we can be so successful is that we can show how much the community supports the Nature Center through our program participants, members, donors, and volunteers — YOU.

The Watershed Education Building, also known as the “Earthship”, is on its way to becoming a reality. To stay within the ship metaphor, the winter weather had it dead in the water for a couple months, but now it is steaming ahead. One of the challenges has been securing the skilled volunteers to do all the work as there is no paid labor being used to build this unique structure. As I write this, the roof has been installed and the windows are being ordered to enclose the building. Change will happen fast! Come see how we are advancing during our Nature Fest on October 12, 2013!

Another grant provided funds for the replacement of the exhibits within the Nature Center building. Initially installed in 1993, the exhibits, while still attractive, need to be updated. When we asked the community what they wanted, the resounding response indicated a more open, friendly place where visitors will want to hang around and get involved. The design firm, Content Design Collaborative, has completed the concept plan for the new exhibit space, and it is exciting. It shrinks our retail space and opens up three new large windows so visitors can gaze outside, enticing them to walk our 4.5 miles of trails. The design includes new plans for the few animals we keep to display and a number of interactive features. The drawings are done, and the project went out to bid in September.

A third project, one that visitors will not see but certainly can feel, is the replacement of our heating and air conditioning system. The old heat pumps installed in 1991 need to be replaced with highly efficient units before they die. A small change which will not be obvious to anyone other than staff will be a new membership database, one that was professionally designed and will offer more resources for staff to use in maintaining membership, donor, volunteer and program participant records.

Within the next year, all of these projects will be completed and visitors will be encouraged to come and see the wonderful improvements. Until that time, the building is open and the trails are open every day from sunrise to sunset. Learn more by visiting our website www.silverlakenaturecenter.org or join the 1,200+ people who liked our facebook page.
My internship at Silver Lake involved many tasks that I honestly didn’t expect to complete, from designing posters for the Earthship to sorting through books to old fashioned yard work. By far my favorite and most tiring task was helping out with Summer Camp. I learned so much about the crazy critters the campers were so skilled at finding, as well as how to command attention of over forty campers at one time. Along the way, I was able to do things I never thought I would do, such as walk thigh high in a marsh! This summer definitely propelled my education for the environment and sustainable living. I will continue this education at Rutgers University, double majoring in Environmental Policy, Institutions, and Behavior and History.

Stephanie Sinkiwiecz  
My first summer at Silver Lake Nature Center has brought many new and fun experiences! I have explored the “shallow” side of the marsh, learned most of the trails, recited a poison ivy rhyme at each three-leafed/hairy-vined plant, and flipped many rocks in the waterfall exploration. I enjoyed our midweek story learning; it gave me an opportunity to bring a little bit of my school fun to camp! Each story was read during snack, followed by an exciting art activity. I also loved researching various insects that were discovered during the day, so that I could report back to the camp with my findings! I look forward to bringing my newly invigorated love for the environment back to my classroom. In September, I will begin my seventh year teaching Pre-K at Kids R First Preschool in Trenton, NJ. I will be back during the year to visit and navigate the trails!

Rae Hemingway  
1950 - 2012
We are saddened by the loss of Rae Hemingway on June 18, 2013, a loyal and longtime volunteer. Rae has been helping us for years with traveling displays, the White Elephant table at our Flea Markets, and seasonal displays. She taught craft classes, and did whatever needed to be done.
Rae happily collected articles from local newspapers to put in our archives. She prepared crafts and activities to hand out to kids at local events, organized our files, and got her employer to support our events. She made sure the Christmas tree was up and decorated, encouraged us to have a Giving Tree, and was always spreading the word about Silver Lake Nature Center.
Rae was a good friend and we miss her loyalty, tenacity, and generosity.

Thank you, and Good Luck!
Gailen Davis  
My internship at Silver Lake involved many tasks that I honestly didn’t expect to complete, from designing posters for the Earthship to sorting through books to old fashioned yard work. By far my favorite and most tiring task was helping out with Summer Camp. I learned so much about the crazy critters the campers were so skilled at finding, as well as how to command attention of over forty campers at one time. Along the way, I was able to do things I never thought I would do, such as walk thigh high in a marsh! This summer definitely propelled my education for the environment and sustainable living. I will continue this education at Rutgers University, double majoring in Environmental Policy, Institutions, and Behavior and History.

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It’s a boy!

Ryan David Bilger  
Born: 4 am on August 15, 2013  
Weight: 7 lbs. 2 oz.
Our Summer Camp director, Jenn, led seven weeks and three days of our eight-week Camp, then went home and had a baby!
He is beautiful!
Congratulations, Jenn and David!
The Only Constant—Change 

by Robert Mercer

Now into my 39th year at the Nature Center, change is all I see. I have changed from a spirited, naïve, kid to a mature man. I have watched the trees grow, the habitats evolve, and the job grow more challenging. One of the things that makes it easy for me to accept all of this is being one who studies nature. Each day is different. Each season is different. Each year is different. Every day brings something new and interesting. Let me give you some examples:

• One day and only on one day, the kids in the nature camps noticed several moths hanging around the picnic pavilion. We took some pictures and looked them up and we had two Io Moths and a beautiful Clymene Moth—two species I had not seen or keyed out here before.
• The next day, the insects were gone and have not been seen since. The Hickory Horned Devil caterpillar they found grew larger and then disappeared, presumably to pupate somewhere.
• Suckers, tiny new branches that pop out of the trunk of a tree, cover the trees that were blown down by Hurricane Sandy, each tree struggling to survive. Meanwhile the sunlight penetrating to the forest floor stimulated a myriad of seeds to sprout, and the normally brown floor clusters in green.
• The crustose lichens, once a rare sighting, now festoon most trees at the Center indicating a healthier air quality!
• The pine trees planted by Don West as little tiny saplings tower over the trail.
• Many of our older trees crashed to the ground during the hurricane force winds of Sandy, wind speeds that were new to many of these trees and the last thing they experienced. This has created a haven for bark boring beetles and other insects.

Most of us resist change. Change is uncomfortable. Change can be as slow as the aging process or as fast as a car accident, but change is inevitable. I, too, resist change (read my first sentence again), but I try very hard to recognize when I am being headstrong and push myself to embrace the new world, to work hard not to keep things as they are, but to make it better or at least different. Big changes are happening at the Silver Lake Nature Center. Support our efforts to make the Nature Center even better by participating in our programs, maintaining your membership, and supporting our annual appeal. Learn more in my project update article on the front page. Stay abreast of the rapid changes by becoming a facebook friend.
Winners of a free FOSL Membership!

June  Jessica Petro
July  Noah Kilgore
August  Amanda Roos

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 31, 2013

Janet Adkins     Ginette Grafton     Christine Patton
Bryan & Melissa Allen Deborah Groh     Fred Perkins
Vickie Barreira Joshua Heebner     Tim Pierson
Elizabeth Boruch Loretta Henry     Robert Riegen
Michael Broscius Keith & Theresa Kemp Adrienne Rigney
Erin Bruehl William Kerner     Kelly Rodriguez
Tom & Fred Calkins Patricia McKay     Katie Rubenstein
Mary Carton Shane Marchok     Bob & Debi Schiefer
Jack Dence Travis Marchok     Dana Sullivan
Patricia Doss Penny Martin     Marianne Tramontana
Sharon & Jeffrey Fang Yvonne & Pat Mazzanti     Dale Vansant
Carolyn Foley Colleen McCullion     Lisa Vegas
Jocelena Fox Lisa Miller     Ronald Walker
Donna Gestite Karen Miller     Lee Weiler
John Goodgion Janice Nixon     Howard White
Sandra Gould Chris Ott     Anne Williams

We hope to see you often!
Volunteers

Volunteers of the Quarter: 
Summer Camp Counselors-in-Training (CIT's)

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

Jessica Tokarczyk    Mark Kogan
Ryan Neuman          Eric Diaz
Nicolas Nicoletti    Karina Knapp
Elizabeth McGoldrick Elisabeth DeRosa
Carli Goodgion      Justin Kerner
Samantha Brooks      Aidan Meister
Madeline Bobst       Torrin Williams
Julia Price          Michelle Salmastrelli
Shannon Dixon        Maggie Strucker

We couldn't have had such a great Summer Camp without you! Thank you! We'll see you next year!

Summer Camp 2013

This year’s summer camps were a huge success with the return of full day camps and a partnership with United Way of Bucks County. Jenn Bilger and Stephanie Sinkiewicz, with the help of interns Gailen Davis and Daniel Reynolds and the SLNC staff, led the summer campers through outdoor adventures, nature exploration, experiments, games, and crafts with the help of all of our CIT’s. 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.

Storekeeper

We are searching for a volunteer to work in our gift shop greeting visitors, answering phones, and running the cash register. Open shift is on Saturday afternoons.

Animal Ambulance Crew

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

Trail Maintenance

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

Adopt-an-Animal

We need people who are 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.

Contact us at 215 785-1177 or silverlakenaturecenter.org

Volunteer Work Days from 9 am to 2 pm
November 2nd, December 7th, January 4th

Nature Fest- October 12 from 11 am to 4 pm
We will need pre-assigned parking lot and info table volunteers, bakers and kitchen staff for this event.

We extend a special thank you to all of our Summer Camp Guest Naturalists and Guest Speakers who volunteered their time to give our campers a great summer of specialized programs on a variety of nature-related topics:

Clarence King            Mary Ellen Noonan
Lois Glasscock           Kyle Loucks
Jeanne Bray              Gail Bracegirdle
Eileen “Cinders” Swank   Marty Shively
Margaret McGinnis        Rose Marie Strippoli
Samuel Shielis           Michael Johnson
Matthew Kicinski         Angelique Riling
Rich Bryan               Becky Obert-Thorn
Rob Hubner               Dori Schiefer
Marc & Joseph Long       Pam Hansell
Nancy Wicker             Eileen Mercer
Shara                    Avery Martin
Karen Flanigan           Linda Reboh

www.silverlakenaturecenter.org
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

Calling All Scouts!!

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

We cover all kinds of Scout programs including Flag Retirement Ceremonies, Badges, Journeys, 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, 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!

Preschool Camp

For the fourth year in a row, our Preschool Camp was a great success!!

The Preschool Camp, led by Ms. PattiAnn, offered Preschoolers (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 and hand painting, making friends, and much more!

Keep a lookout for details, as we may be offering our Preschool Camp for additional weeks next summer since BOTH of this summer’s weeks sold out so quickly!

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

**Fall Flung**
Thursday, October 10th
5:30 - 7 pm
Plan on joining us for this special event:
Meet guests of honor: Ed Malouf and Matt Kirchman of Content Design Collaborative, who have designed the plans for the renovation of our exhibit area, office, and gift shop.
Taste the creations of local chefs, mingle with friends, and enjoy the lovely music of a piano soloist.
We hope to see you there!

**Fall Birding:**
Saturday, November 16
Birds of Brigantine
7:30 am - 5 pm
Excellent for beginners through advanced birders, and photographers, providing access to a variety of large and showy birds.
Bring a lunch and plan on joining us for dinner afterwards.

**Naturalist Aide Training**
Fridays, 10 am - noon
October 25, November 1, 8, 15, 22, & December 6
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.

**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 pm.
- S. Bucks Garden Club - Meets on the first Tuesday at 7 pm.
- Artists of Bristol - Meet on the second Wednesday at 7 pm.
- Yoga - Meets every Thursday at 7:30 pm.

**Thank you!**

- Earthship volunteers: Jim Skala, Hope Sauppe, Bob Pearson, Jim Kristofic, Eric Chang, Terry VanPraet, Tony Garwood, and Betsy Micir. You are loyal and tireless!
- Dori Schiefer for collecting, washing, un-labeling, and cutting all the bottles for the Earthship’s “bottle wall” - and for preparing the messages for the bottles!
- Pat Rossi for doing our seasonal fliers and for keeping the bulletin board at the lake up-to-date.
- Everyone who has come out and helped on Volunteer Work Days in June, July, August, and September.
- Marie Wojcik and Madeline Bobst for preparing and taking our display out to local events.
- All our water-monitoring volunteers, who come out monthly to test and record the water in our locale waterways: Hope Sauppe, Darius Rogers, Chris “Che” Egnoto, Elaine Gramlich, Roberta Turner, Neil Burd, Patti Burd, Dana Sullivan, Nancy Bilheimer, Albert Bilheimer, Theresa McCartin, and Susan Paulsworth.
- Dave Chalfant for keeping the water monitoring program going by collecting and inputting data, checking and ordering supplies, keeping the kits complete, and training and mentoring new volunteers.
- Joanne Kyle for contributing monthly to the care of our display animals.
- Florence Stepenaskie for donating crayons, paint and glue for our children’s programs.
- Members of the Delaware Valley Model Boat Club, especially Ted Baugh, Fred Perkins, and Bryan Mullen, for repairing our electric tractor. You used your time and know-how and even built some parts from scratch, and you got the tractor working again! Yahoo!
- Sandy Wah for proofing our articles, letters, and newsletters. You make us look good!
- Everyone who has helped with our mailings, including Mary Ida Reitz, Walt Lorchak, Jeanne Winerip, Marie Wojcik, Elaine Gramlich, Margaret McGinnis, Joan Foley, Glenn Rodkey, John McGrath, Mary Lou Boyer, and Jeanne Stemmer.
- Everyone who has helped out with and/or participated in our Kayak paddles this season, by taking our Intro to Kayaking class, trying one or more of the Full Moon Paddles, or experiencing some of our off-site paddles. Thanks for a great season!
- Everyone who participated in our Summer Camp, including parents, grandparents, campers, volunteer guest naturalists, teen volunteers (Counselors-in-Training), and donors of craft supplies and snacks!
Of Interest...

Join us!

Come to the
Silver Lake Nature Fest
October 12th
11 am to 4 pm

Enjoy free, fun activities all day long:
- Live music!
- Live native animal show!
- Come with us to discover pond life, try some birding, go on an insect hunt!
- Tour our nearly complete Earthship!
- Shop with crafters and vendors!
- Learn about healthy products and local foods!
- Learn how to live lighter on this earth, be healthier, and save money, too!
- Refreshments for sale. Basket raffle!

Free Admission - Free Parking
Free Kids’ Activities - Free Concert
Rain or shine!

Winter Solstice Celebration
Saturday, December 21
7 - 8:30 pm
We will welcome the winter season with the music of the West Chester University Harp Ensemble, learn about the history of 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

2014 SLNC Calendars
Once again we are offering calendars for the new year featuring photographs of Silver Lake’s flora and fauna in all seasons. Most of the shots were meticulously taken by Clarence King, with some contributions from members of the Focal Planes Foto Club. These calendars make great gifts, but get your order in soon! Supplies are limited.

Cost: $15 each  Available October 12, 2013

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