The renovations of the Silver Lake Nature Center building are moving along rapidly. If all goes well, the project will be drawing to a close about the time you receive this newsletter. The new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system is installed, is very comfortable and shows a big drop in cost already! Of course, some of that reduced demand can be attributed to the abnormally pleasant summer.

In July, the staff moved to their new quarters. Each person has their own work space. The new phone system took some getting used to. The staff have their own phone numbers, which includes their extensions. All of the information is transmitted digitally, a system called Voice Over Internet Protocol. It also links us to the County’s phone system which is purchased in bulk and will save money. The staff works really hard to make it so you still can talk to a person as opposed to a machine.

Once the building construction is complete, the change will be dramatic. Those of you who are familiar with the old arrangement will notice immediately the building is more open, brighter and airier because we took down walls and added windows to bring in more light. We wanted to update our display area, so we invited our members, volunteers, the local community, staff and visitors to make suggestions.

The result is an attractive and informative display that will draw visitors in and encourage them to stay awhile. Ready or not, on November 20, 2014, we will celebrate the official grand opening. More details on that event can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.
Brick by Brick—Building a Sustainable Future

The Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center’s Earthship is a zero carbon footprint building using rainwater for water, solar energy for electricity, and thermal mass for heating and cooling. Purchase a brick or two to help make this model project a reality. Your name and/or message will be carved in brick for everyone to see. The bricks will be prominently placed in the Earthship’s entryway.

Be creative. Let your imagination run wild. Use this opportunity to:

• Show your passion for the Silver Lake Nature Center and your support for our programs
• Honor a family member, friend, teacher, school, colleague, or a pet
• Promote your business
• Commemorate a loved one or a special memory
• Celebrate a significant event like a birthday, wedding, birth, or other memorable event
• Make a permanent gift for someone who has everything
• Send a message to the future (We reserve the right to edit messages for appropriateness.)
• Create an educational brick about one of the Center’s species of special concern

Every time you visit, you will be able to see with pride that you made a difference.

The 4” X 8” (cost is $100 per brick) bricks match the flooring, an autumn red, and you can have up to 3 lines of black text with 14 characters per line. The 8” X 8” (cost is $250 per brick) bricks will be gray, visually popping out from all of the others. They can have six lines of black text with 14 characters per line. You also have the option of enhancing your brick with a special symbol (for an additional $15 per brick). The symbol will reduce the number of characters on that line by four.

Contact the Nature Center if you have questions or wish to make a larger donation in return for a more prominent brick.
Mercer’s Musings

The Only Constant—Change by Robert Mercer

Below is a map made available by NASA Goddard Space Center, which highlights the reduction of Nitrogen Dioxide in our region over the last few years.

According to the EPA, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) “forms quickly from emissions from cars, trucks and buses, power plants, and off-road equipment. In addition to contributing to the formation of ground-level ozone and fine particle pollution, NO₂ is linked with a number of adverse effects on the respiratory system.” This is one of the pollutants you and I release every time we drive somewhere.

The pollutant NO₂ is a major component of ground based ozone. It is breathed in with each breath and can be traced back to causing a host of lung ailments. EPA states, “NOx react with ammonia, moisture, and other compounds to form small particles. These small particles penetrate deeply into sensitive parts of the lungs and can cause or worsen respiratory diseases, such as emphysema and bronchitis, and can aggravate existing heart disease, leading to increased hospital admissions and premature death.” The closer to a major road you live or work, the more exposure you experience. The deeper you go into an open area like the Silver Lake Nature Center, the cleaner the air becomes.

A quick glance at the maps reveals how much cleaner the air has gotten. Why? The major reason is the laws passed regulating the pollutants emitted by vehicles and the mandated pollution control inspections on cars and trucks. As a result, our air is cleaner and healthier. Many people fought the regulations when they were proposed, but thanks to the far-sighted work of the EPA and those who approved the laws, you can breathe easier. Who says we cannot make a difference! Someday, maybe in our lifetime, the red will disappear from the map completely—if we continue to support the efforts to clean our air!
Thank you for supporting Silver Lake Nature Center!

Application for Membership

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Please Print

Name: ________________________________  ________________________________
First                  Last

Address: ________________________________  ________________________________
Street name/house number                  Apt.
City _____________________________  State _____  Zip___________

Phone _____________________________  E-mail _____________________________

All contributions and dues are tax deductible as 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

*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.
Volunteers

Volunteer Work Days from 9 am to 2 pm

October 4th, November 1st, December 6th.

Be sure to let Jenn know that you can help!
Wear clothes that you don’t mind getting dirty or wet and bring a refillable water bottle.
Give us four hours and we’ll give you lunch!

Contact us at 215 785-1177 or silverlakenaturecenter.org

Summer Camp 2014

This year’s summer camps were a huge success! Jenn Bilger, Stephanie Sinkiewicz, and Ally Sarno led the summer campers through outdoor adventures, experiments, games, nature exploration, and crafts with the help of all of our Guest Naturalists and 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 a lifetime.

Farewell and good luck to our summer seasonal staff:
Stephanie Sinkiewicz, Ally Sarno, and Mike Keefe.
Thank you for all your hard work!

Volunteers of the Quarter: Summer Camp Volunteers
Thank you to all of our Counselors-In-Training (CIT’s), who volunteered their time to help run our camp:
We couldn’t have had such a great Summer Camp without you! Thank you! We’ll see you next year!

Adam Ziegler    Aydan Meister    Asha Lee    Carli Goodgion
Christopher Schilling    Elizabeth McGoldrick    Holly Hewchuk    Jessica Tokarczyk    Joe Long
Julia Price    Justin Kerner    Madeline Bobst    Mark Kogan    Michelle Deodati
Nina Ruhe    Samantha Brooks    Torrin Williams

A special thank you to all of our Guest Naturalists who gave our campers a great summer of programs on a variety of nature-related topics:

Clarence King    Jeanne Bray    Eileen “Cinders” Swank    Margaret McGinnis
Marc Long    Nancy Wicker    Stacy Smith    Karen Flanigan
Mary Ellen Noonan    Jeanine Mitchell
Angelique Riling    Patti Burd    Becky Obert-Thorn
Dori Schiefer    Maggie Strucker    Pat Coleman
Lois Glasscock of the Southern Bucks Garden Club

Samuel Shiels, Matthew Kicinski, Rich Bryant, Rick Morrison, Frank Beck, Pete Marcoleno, and Ron Sodo of the Delaware River Fisherman’s Association

Gail Bracegirdle, Marty Shively, Rose Marie Strippoli, Linda Reboh, of the Artists of Bristol on the Delaware
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: a 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 themes like, Butterflies & Moths; Itsy Bitsy Spiders; The Frog Prince; 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 palynn@co.bucks.pa.us or call her at 215 785-1177.

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 also 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 programs, please visit our website at www.silverlakenaturecenter.org
Contact PattiAnn at palynn@co.bucks.pa.us or 215-785-1177.

Book early! Dates fill up quickly!

Preschool Camp 2014

Thank you to all of our Preschool Campers and their families for another fantastic summer!

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, creating their own games, being artists, going on hikes, being nature detectives, 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, email PattiAnn at palynn@co.bucks.pa.us, or call her at 215-785-1177.
Upcoming Events

Fall Fling and Grand Opening of our Exhibits, Office & Gift Shop
Thursday, November 20th
6 - 8 pm

Plan on joining us for this very special event!

Come and tour our new facilities — exhibit area, office, and gift shop. Try the hors d’oeuvres and wine, mingle with friends, and enjoy the music of a piano soloist. We hope to see you there!

Donation: $40 pp member
$50 non-member

Please RSVP by November 12th.

Educators’ Corner
Biology Keystone Workshop
January 22, 2015

SLNC’s Education Committee is developing a workshop aimed at the high school level that will assist local school districts in preparing their students for the upcoming Keystone Biology Exams.

Registration is required and ACT 48 hours are available. Please contact Lorraine Skala lskala@co.bucks.pa.us for more information or call the Nature Center at 215-785-1177 to register.

Earthship Update

Through the hard work of many volunteers and much community support, we are getting closer to the completion of our building, also known affectionately as the Earthship. As many of you know, the design is based on Michael Reynolds’s Global Model. What you may not know is that Earthship Biotecture is coming to Philadelphia and has asked Silver Lake Nature Center to speak about our unique public building. The presentation will be held at the Ethical Society – off Rittenhouse Square – September 29, 6 pm. More details can be found at http://earthship.com/philadelphia

Also in the works for October is an Earthship Biotecture workshop to be held at our site. We will focus on a particular component of Earthships. Stay tuned for details…

Thank you!

- Earthship volunteers: Jim Skala, Hope Sauppe, Bob Pearson, Jim Kristofic, Tony Garwood, and Betsy Micir. You are great!
- 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.
- Everyone who has donated food for our hungry volunteers on our Volunteer Work Days.
- Sandy Wah for proofing our articles, letters, and newsletters. You help us do it right!
- Everyone who has helped with our mailings, including Mary Ida Reitz, Diana Bullard, Marie Wojcik, Elaine Gramlich, Margaret McGinnis, Joan Foley, Glenn Rodkey, John McGrath, and Jeanne Stemmer.
- Eileen Swank, a.k.a. “Cinders” for donating The Face of Nature by Susan Limone to the SLNC, and for all the Scout campfires you do!
- Everyone who helped with our September Flea Market and Craft Fair, everyone who rented a space, and everyone who came out and shopped!
- Moses DeHart (Harmonica Moose) and Zachary Simmons for providing fun music at our Flea Market!
- Members of Asylum Wind for entertaining us at the Flea Market and Craft Fair.

Meet with vendors who provide “green” foods and healthy free

Saturday, November 15
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.

Fee: $15 member; $19 non-member
Of Interest...

**Winter Solstice Celebration**

**Saturday, December 20**
**7 - 8:30 pm**

Join us for this unique celebration of the return of winter. The music of the West Chester University Harp Ensemble alone is reason enough to attend! Clarence King will fill us in on local history, and then we will enjoy a candlelit stroll through the woods to a roaring campfire. Story-telling, songs, hot cider, and homemade cookies will complete the evening.

We hope to see you there!

Must register and pay in advance.
Fee: $10 member; $15 non-member

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**Please Visit Our Giving Tree**

The Giving Tree will be on display in the lobby during the holidays.

You will find our wish list decorating the tree in the form of ornaments. Visitors may take an ornament with them if they would like to donate that item. Items on the list range from a bag of marshmallows to equipment to lunch for our volunteers. Stop in to take a peek at our Giving Tree or visit our website. Thank you!

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**2015 SLNC Calendars**

Once again we are offering calendars for the new year featuring stunning photographs of Silver Lake’s flora and fauna in all seasons. Calendar design and most of the photos were taken by Clarence King, with contributions from members of the Focal Planes Foto Club. These calendars make great gifts, but supplies are limited, so get your order in soon!

Cost: $15 each

Call 215 785-1177 or e-mail palynn@co.bucks.pa.us to order.

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