



SUMMER 2015

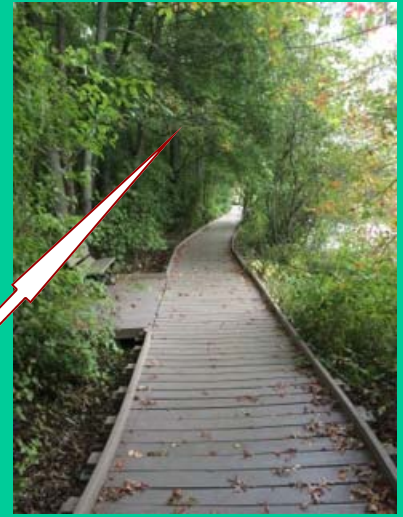
THE FROGHORN

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're on the web:
silverlakenaturecenter.org



So much to see and do
in the Summer!



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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Silver Lake Nature Center
1306 Bath Road, Bristol, Pa 19007
215 785-1177 Fax 215 785-3228
www.silverlakenaturecenter.org

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

**Photographs by local Photographers*

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

Welcome Summer Staff!**Karen Wilwol: Summer Intern**

I am thrilled to be an intern at Silver Lake Nature Center this summer! I'm currently studying Geography and Planning in the Environmental, Geographical, and Geological Sciences at Bloomsburg University. This summer, I look forward to meeting different people, spending time outdoors, developing my professional skills, and being able to apply what I've learned from my various classes. I am very excited to experience the variety of opportunities that Silver Lake has to offer, and I hope that I can make a positive contribution to them as well!

Melissa Heller: Assistant Camp Counselor

I truly believe that no matter how old we are we learn something new everyday. I've always been fond of what nature has to offer us and admit that I want to know more. I appreciate not only where food comes from but I enjoy the shade of a big tree on a hot summer day or listening to the sound of silence during a snowfall. Today, technology has overwhelmingly increased a child's time spent indoors. I welcome the opportunity to leave "no child left inside" this summer at Silver Lake Nature Center and assist in exploring the value of nature with younger children.

Alexandra Sarno: Camp Counselor

My name is Ally Sarno and I am a senior at Philadelphia University. I am studying Environmental and Conservation Biology. I have a passion for the environment and want to preserve what it has to offer. The only way to make this possible is to start with educating the public. I have been a volunteer tutor at an Elementary School. Silver Lake is all about educating the public through outdoor activities and recreation. I am very excited to share my passion for the environment with the campers at Silver Lake Nature Center again this summer.

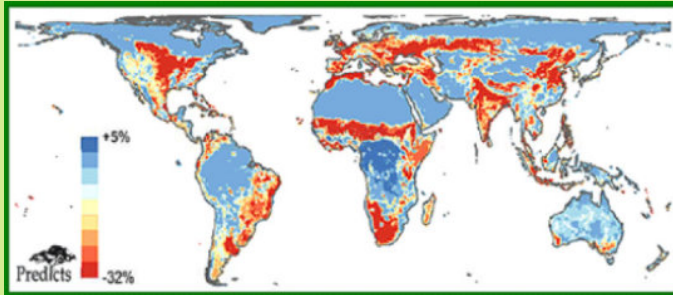
Thanks to all who bought a brick!

Late last winter, the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center offered people a chance for immortality by buying a brick to be installed in our Earthship. This project still moves forward. The Buy-A-Brick campaign was designed to generate enough funds to pay for the floor of the building. Sixty-seven people purchased a brick and we generated enough to pay for the remaining floor. Once again, our members and supporters came through when our organization needed their help. We hope the permanency of the brick is appreciated also. For now, the campaign is closed. Maybe we will find another location somewhere else for those of you who missed your chance.

Impact of Humans on Local Species

by Robert A. Mercer

As I drove into work on April 2nd, I listened to a report on the impact of humans on local species. Since I was driving, I did not catch the name of the presenter, but he mentioned some startling facts from an article in Science News, April 1, 2015 edition. Globally there has been over a 14% drop in species diversity on the local level, attributed to habitat loss caused by humans.



Globally, there has been an average drop in species at a local level of 14%. So, in many areas, shown on the map in red, biodiversity has dropped by 20-30%, whereas areas in deep blue such as the Congo, may have actually had an increase in biodiversity.

Credit: Image courtesy of Natural History Museum

The habitat destruction is done by the demand for housing and agriculture and in many parts of the world resources like firewood or "bushmeat." The same day, in the Bucks County Courier Times, an article announced the approval to put 33 houses on 14 acres of land along Bath Rd., adjacent to the Delhaas Woods section of the Nature Center. Currently undeveloped, the County made an effort to purchase the land, but could not agree on an acceptable price—another small chunk of open space vanishes. For the animals and plants, the link between the Delhaas Woods and the Silver Lake sides of the nature center will be a much thinner strip of woods.

Species diversity may suffer.

The day before, I was talking with the County Forester who lamented the loss of trees to introduced insects and disease. Oak wilt weakened and killed many of our big old oak trees. You can visually see this anytime you walk through our trails. With the mild drought last summer stressing the trees already weakened by introduced diseases and the hurricanes, many of our trees, especially the older ones, died and had to be cut to keep the trails safe for visitors.

Two particular problems that have not reached the Nature Center yet are the emerald ash borer and thousand canker disease that affects black walnuts. How are these problems finding their way into our communities? We bring them! The Forester mentioned, anecdotally (I have not found scientific documentation), that the thousand canker disease was brought into Bucks County by a local woodworker buying black walnut from California and not knowing it was infected. The disease is now in new territory and is spreading among walnut trees like Ebola did in the human population this winter.

Is there anything you can do? Yes, particularly if you have a fireplace or burn wood. Do not transport wood from one area to another. In other words, do not bring Pocono wood to Bucks County or Bucks County wood to the Poconos or anywhere else. In fact, this is so important, there is a quarantine. "Agriculture Secretary George Greig signed a new quarantine order on July 22, 2014, to include Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties. Walnut material, wood chips/mulch and firewood may move unrestricted within this area, but may not move outward from the five counties." This is essentially saying that these five counties are lost. Please don't introduce it into the rest of Pennsylvania.

Very few introduced species come across the oceans or even across a state without help from humans. We are slowly homogenizing the world. How sad.

Fine Spirits and Fare on the Delaware Update

by Robert Mercer

For the third year in a row, Cissi and Lou Quattrocchi loaned their stunning house overlooking the Delaware River in Bristol to the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center for the Fine Spirits and Fare on the Delaware. This is definitely a fun-raiser as everyone who came had a blast. It is also a big fundraiser for the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center.

Those businesses that supported the effort with their donations of food, drink, and time should be recognized as important locals worthy of your support. The list of supporters include: Borough Pub, CBM of Delaware Valley, Cesare's Ristorante, Got Wine, King George II Inn, Mazzanti's Market, Mountain Laurel Spirits, Pines Tavern, and Weyerbacher Brewing Company.

It would never have happened without the committee: Cissi Quattrocchi, Jackie Garber, Pam Morris, Becky Obert-thorn, Donna Scalzo, and Jim Sell. They worked hard and had a lot of fun planning this event.

Mercer, announced a dire need the Center had. After almost 20 years, our electric tractor lost its spark. The Board recognizing the importance of a vehicle to maintain the 4.5 miles of trails and to haul our kayaks decided that they remove \$3,900 from the rainy day fund. With that they could purchase a used golf cart which could do the job, but barely.

Bob asked people if they would help the Friends raise at least \$4,000 so they could purchase a much stronger, new Club Car Carryall 300, Price \$7,900. By the time people stopped promising to support the purchase, we had received money or pledges for \$7,010! WOW! The Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center would not need to dig deeply into that rainy day fund—a sunny day for our organization. The tractor has been ordered and may be here by the time you read this.

Thank you to all who helped!

Business Partners

Diamond Partner \$5000+

County of Bucks
The Dow Chemical Company
Fairless Energy, LLC
PA Department of Conservation and
Natural Resources (DCNR)

Platinum Partner \$3000+

National Environmental
Education Foundation (NEEF)
The West Foundation

Gold Partner \$1500+

Construction Building Materials (CBM)
Lower Bucks Hospital
Natural Awakenings, BuxMont

Silver Partner \$1000+

Bristol Township
Crown Holdings, Inc.



Benefactor \$500+

Allied Electronics, Inc.
Aqua America, Inc.
Bristol Garden Apartments
Harris Comfort
Leck Waste Services
Lucisano Bros.
Metal Finishing Corporation

Patron \$250+

Allied Waste/Republic Services
Cesare's Ristorante
J. R. Goodgion Co.
Lucisano Bros.
McCaffrey's Market
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Friend \$100+

Artists of Bristol
Bayard Pump & Tank Co.
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Four Lanes End Garden Club
Grundy Industrial Complex
King George II Inn

Martha Washington Garden Club
Mazzanti's Market
Mountain Laurel Spirits
Pa Representative Tina Davis
The Pines Tavern
Rittenhouse Foundation
Simon and Shuster
Sims Metal Management
Southern Bucks Garden Club

Please support our business partners whenever you can!

Join us!

Application for Membership

Memberships

Individual \$25
Household \$35
'Household' includes all at same
address.

With \$10 Senior discount:
Sr. Individual \$15
Sr. Household \$25

Special Memberships
provide funds for additional pro-
grams

Grey Fox \$ 50 - \$99
Red Fox \$ 100 - \$249
Willow Oak \$ 250 - \$499
Pin Oak \$ 500 - \$999
Legacy Investor \$ 1000



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Last

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Phone _____ E-mail _____

New _____ Renewal _____ Gift _____

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".

Activities for Everyone

Programs for Preschoolers

Some of the Preschool programs we offer include: *Hibernation Happens*, *Life in a Log*, *Fancy Feet Feats*, *Ponds & Puddles*, *Frog Friends*, *Bugs & Beasties*, *Five Senses*, *Winter Wonders*, and *Spring Discovery*.

For more information on our Early Childhood Education programs and/or to schedule a program, please visit our website at www.silverlakenaturecenter.org and/or contact PattiAnn at palynn@co.bucks.pa.us or 215-785-1177 EXT 5022.

Calling All Scouts!!

Did you know that Silver Lake Nature Center offers a variety of Scouting adventures & activities?

We cover all kinds of Girl Scout & Boy Scout Badges, Merit Badges, and Journeys.

Scouts can also enjoy our night-time programs, such as Night Hikes and Sleepovers! Both programs include an indoor presentation focusing on nocturnal life, a walk on the trails (sans flashlights), and a campfire with a marshmallow roast and sing-a-long/storytelling!

SLNC will also work with your Scouts to complete Service Projects with our unique Serve & Learn program!

For more information on these and all of our Scout activities, please visit our website at www.silverlakenaturecenter.org or contact PattiAnn at the Center at palynn@co.bucks.pa.us or 215-785-1177 ext. 5022.

Hold Your Next Birthday Party or Other Special Event at Silver Lake Nature Center!

SLNC offers a variety of options for children (of all ages), as well as grownup birthday parties, bridal/baby showers, anniversaries, other special events, and meetings.

Some of our options include day time parties, night hikes, & campfires. We'll work with you to find the right option for your event. Fees vary.

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

For regular two-hour birthday parties, fees are: Member -\$9/child; Non-member - \$12/child. Fee includes one free adult per child. Minimum # of Participants: 10 (Please note that fees vary for different types of parties.)

For pricing info, visit www.silverlakenaturecenter.org or contact PattiAnn at 215-785-1177- EXT 5022 or palynn@co.bucks.pa.us.



2015 Kayaking Schedule

Intro to Kayaking

June 20th, July 18th, and August 15th, 9:00-11:00 AM

This class is informative and fun for beginners and those looking to improve paddling skills. Before we take to the water, we will demonstrate the basic paddle strokes, proper techniques, practice basic safety and proper boat handling skills. Once in the water we will practice our new skills and have fun getting familiar with paddling on Silver Lake and Magnolia Lake.

Fee: \$22 member; \$27 non-member. Space limited, please pre-register.

Full Moon Paddles

June 2nd and August 29th, 7:00-1:00 PM

Paddle with us as we glide through areas of the preserve that can only be accessed by water. On a sandy island, surrounded by nighttime sounds, we'll enjoy a campfire. Afterwards we take to the water again and paddle back by moonlight.

This paddle is rated Moderate and is for adults only.

Fee: \$27 member, \$32 non member. Space limited, please pre-register.



Volunteers

Volunteer Opportunities Coming Soon...

Volunteer Work Days

First Saturday of every month from 9 am to 2 pm

June 6, September 5

No Volunteer Work Day July and August

Flea Market:

June 20th & September 19 from 8 am to 2 pm

We will need bakers, info table, and parking lot volunteers for this event.

Volunteer Accomplishments

Our wonderful volunteers have helped in too many ways to count. The Watershed Monitoring group continues to chemically test the Mill Creek-Otter Creek watershed for pollutants and have been able to catch several infractions that have since been corrected. Christa Bain created a beautiful Fraktur to celebrate our Century Club volunteers. Our greeters returned, and Arden Williams and Charlotte Doan joined as well, to welcoming visitors on the phone and in person and help us with many varied tasks. Our mailing volunteers continue to help us get our publications out to our membership. Our animals have returned to the Center and their new enclosures with the help of Garrett Ford, Michelle Deodati, Heather Neuman, Sue Grayeski, Bailey Stone, Nancy Bartle, and Adam Ziegler as animal caregivers who feed, water and clean the tanks of our turtles, snakes, and fish. Our Earthship building project continues to bring out some hard working volunteers who put their sweat equity into this exciting new exhibit. All of our volunteers make it possible for us to do so many amazing things here, THANK YOU!

2015 Earth Day Work Day Event Statistics: There were 150+ recorded volunteers for the April 18th Earth Day Work Day event, and we cleaned up & removed over 5.44 tons of trash and 500 lbs of recyclables! Thank you to all who participated, and thanks to our sponsor DOW as well as our partners Keep PA Beautiful and G.O.A.L!

Girl Scout Project Update: Hannah Leszcynski will be completing her Silver Award adding new features to our Kids Play Area including a bird nest reading nook & nature library box. Monica Weikel & Alyssa Takach will be completing their Silver Awards refurbishing our Kids Crawl Trail & adding animal footprints on the Kids Play Area bridge. Kim Kish and a group of 5 young ladies will complete their Bronze Award refurbishing our outdoor turtle habitat. Finally, Shannon Brown will be completing her Silver Award creating a Kids Play Area mural on our garage wall.

Calling all volunteers!

Greeter(s)

We are searching for volunteer(s) to be the first face of the Center; greeting visitors, answering phones, and running the cash register.

Animal Caregiver(s)

We are in need of volunteers to come one day per week for an hour or two to feed our exhibit animals, clean their tanks, and handle them: 1 year commitment, training included.

CIT's (Counselors-In-Training) Needed

We are looking for high school or college students willing to help as volunteer counselors at our summer camp.

Summer Camp Guest Naturalists Wanted

We are looking for people with a special skill, talent, or knowledge base who are willing to volunteer to lead mini-programs for our summer camps.

PA Master Naturalist Training

The PA Master Naturalist training will again be held at SLNC this Fall, check out our website for more details on how to register.

Animal Ambulance Crew

This crew will provide transport to wildlife rehabilitation centers for injured or orphaned wild animals. This service is desperately needed, especially in the spring.

We are sad to announce the passing of Glenn Rodkey in March of this year. He will be missed.

**If you're interested in volunteering,
contact Jenn Bilger:
267.880.5024 or jbilger@co.bucks.pa.us**

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

Volunteer of the Quarter:

Arden Williams

Arden has volunteered on our trails and grounds at our monthly volunteer work days and water cleanup events. She is now a greeter two days per week as well as a naturalist aide helping to teach educational programs. Arden has added much to the Center with all of her help, and we look forward to seeing her more, THANK YOU!

Thank you...

- Bonnie O'Boyle (our wonderful Store Manager) for the new cash register in the Gift Store.
- Pat Rossi for creating posters for our events and keeping them current in the kiosk at the lake.
- Marie Wojcik and Madeline Bobst for preparing and taking our display to Senator Tomlinson's Children's Expo.
- Everyone who helped with our Flea Market and Craft Fair, everyone who rented space, and everyone who came out to shop! We're doing it again on September 19th!
- Jeanne Stemmer, Len Zajewski, Joan Foley, and Hope Sauppe for providing all manner of food for our Volunteer Work Day each month.
- Christa Bain who created a beautiful Fraktur to celebrate our Century Club volunteers.
- Jim Skala, Bob Pearson, Tony Garwood, Hope Sauppe, Betsy Micir, and Barb Campbell for helping with the Earthship as it continues to take shape.
- West Family for donation of tools
- Comcast care volunteers
- GOAL for EarthDay Work Day help
- Dow for EDWD funding
- Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center Board members who contributed towards the Annual Meeting Brunch, purchasing scrumptious food.
- The many donors who, while enjoying the Fine Spirits and Fare on the Delaware, contributed over \$7,000 to our Fund-A-Need enabling the Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center to purchase a Club Car Carryall 300 to maintain the trails and pull the kayak trailer.
- Cissi and Lou Quattrocchi for opening up their house for another spectacular Fine Spirits and Fare on the Delaware fundraiser. Also to the hard working committee who brought all the pieces together – Cissi, Quattrocchi, Donna Scalzo, Pam Morris, Jackie Garber, and Becky Obert-Thorn.
- Businesses that donated food, refreshments and/or services to the Fine Spirits and Fare on the Delaware. These businesses support the community so remember this when you need supplies or want to visit a nice place to eat. These include: Borough Pub, CBM of Delaware Valley, Cesare's Ristorante, Got Wine, King George II Inn, Mazzanti's Market, Mountain Laurel Spirits, Pines Tavern, and Weyerbacher Brewing Company
- Eileen Swank (a.k.a. Cinders) for doing the Campfire portion of our night-time programs (i.e., Scouts, Birthdays, & Other Groups Night Hikes & Sleepovers)
- Eileen Swank (a.k.a. Cinders) for donating a lamp to use during our night-time programs (for under the pavilion).
- To all of the Focal Planes Members who donated their beautiful photos for our Silent Auction Fundraiser.
- Sue Kiernan for volunteering to help with all of our Night Hike & Sleepover programs.
- Sue Kiernan for representing SLNC at off-site events, including the Family Fest for FSA of Bucks County.
- Sue Grayeski for sprucing up our grounds and exhibits and taking care of the animals!

Naturalist Skills

Wednesday, August 26 6:00—8:00 pm

The idea is for the participants to work together to build our local knowledge about the plants and animals. We will meet at the Nature Center, exploring the vegetation as the marsh and meadow should be in full bloom. Time permitting we will also go down to the Bristol Marsh where the low tide at 7:30 will give us a great opportunity to look for some rare species in that unique habitat (low boots are recommended). Bring any field guides and equipment you might want to use (binoculars, magnifiers, nets, etc.) If you want to bring your own picnic dinner, that would work.

The fee will be \$6/person for members and \$8/person for non-members.

Opening of the Watershed Education Building (Earthship)

Saturday, August 15th, 2 - 3:30 pm

Visit the first structure of its kind on the East Coast and celebrate the work of the many volunteers and local businesses who made it possible. This unique building has been two years in the making and while it still needs a few finishing touches, we are ready to show it off.

Charlie Zahm & Tad Marks Concert

Saturday, November 14, 2015, 7:30pm

A Tribute to John Denver & the Great Folk Music of the 1960's

Concert will be held inside our newly renovated Visitors' Building.

Price is \$12/person in advance (by 5pm on Fri, 11/13) OR \$15 at the door.

(Fee is the same for all ages. No refunds/exchanges.)

Family Fishing Day

August 29, 2015 - 10:00 - 2:00

Join the PA Fish and Boat Commission and the Delaware River Fishermen's Association for a fun day to learn all about fishing fundamentals. Activities will include fish identification, learning about equipment, and fishing techniques. There is no fee for this event and it is open to the public. Bring your fishing rod if you have one. There will be a limited supply on hand. The event is partially funded through the National Environmental Education Foundation. Call the Nature Center for details.

Silver Lake Nature Center
1306 Bath Road
Bristol, PA 19007
215 785-1177

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Coming Events

Flea Market and Craft Fair in the Park

Saturday, September 19, 2015

Rain or Shine. No Refunds.



We offer an interesting mix of flea market and craft items - something for everyone! Rental spaces are set up on the grounds around the building, with spaces in shade and sun. Bring your own table and chairs. (There are some indoor spaces available, too.)

Single space: \$15 member; \$20 non-member

Double space: \$20 member; \$25 non-member

Car space: \$30 member; \$35 non-member

Indoor space (includes table): \$30 member; \$35 non-member



Please stop in to reserve your space. All spaces are assigned: first come, first served. Payment and registration are due in advance.

Bird Seed Sales



It's that time again! Time to mark your calendar and order your seed for the fall.

We have four sales:

order by

September 25

November 27

January 29

March 25

for pick-up on

October 3

December 5

February 6

April 2

Choose from oil sunflower in 25 lb and 40 lb bags; SL mix and conservation mix in 25 lb and 50 lb bags; thistle in 8 lb bags; sunflower chips and peanut hearts in 5 lb bags and suet in 10 oz cakes.

We accept cash, check, Discover, Visa, and MasterCard. Phone orders are welcome, stop in, or go to our website to place your order:

www.silverlakenaturecenter.org

Please share this newsletter with a friend. Thanks!