

Streamside

Newsletter of the Renfrew Institute

MISSION STATEMENT

“Renfrew Institute’s mission is to guide the people of the Cumberland Valley Region to become stewards of their natural and cultural worlds.”



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Children and Nature

Greetings Everyone! Though page one is usually devoted to newsy notes about various programs and projects, I would like to take this space to share some news I think you will find interesting and meaningful to all of us, and to Renfrew Institute and its mission.

Something exciting is happening on the national level, in part because a new book has been a catalyst for the environmental, health and education communities to come together for the well-being of our nation’s children. A recent press release from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and The Conservation Fund, sums it up:

In an effort to create stronger connections between children and the outdoors and to address the disturbing increase in children’s health issues, including obesity, diabetes and attention disorders, The Conservation Fund, US Fish and Wildlife Service and best-selling author Richard Louv [futurist, journalist and author of “Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder”] convened September 8-9 in West Virginia to host the nation’s largest gathering on children and nature.

I was there. The inspiring, challenging, thought-provoking conference brought together ...350 educators, developers, health professionals and conservationists at the National Conservation Training Center, including Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne, US Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dale Hall, The Conservation Fund’s President Larry Selzer, Executive Director of the North American Montessori Teachers’ Association David Kahn and Yale University’s Stephen Kellert to discuss the problems associated with what Louv has dubbed ‘nature deficit disorder.’

You may have heard about Louv and his book. He has appeared on radio and TV shows around the country including NPR’s Morning Edition, The Morning Show on CBS, Good Morning America, Today, Talk of the Nation, PBS NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, the CBS Evening News, NBC Nightly News and others. The importance of connecting children (and adults for that matter) and nature is not a new idea. Renfrew Institute’s mission is based on this. An organization in San Jose, California called Hooked On Nature paints the picture beautifully on its website (www.hookedonnature.org)

But Louv has captured the attention of a national audience at a time when his message and those of untold numbers of us working in the field of nature education have begun to make sense to decision makers and average citizens. Louv’s message does go beyond the usual. He draws specific links between children’s experience in nature and their physical, intellectual, spiritual and emotional health. He then expands that relationship to society as a whole.

The conference welcome booklet noted, ...if children are

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Eunice Statler— So Many Hats!

“born and raised,” Eunice has served in so many capacities at the institute it is difficult to recall them all.

As a former board member, Eunice was instrumental in getting many projects off the ground and accomplished. She chaired the Nominating and Governance Committee, and served on the Membership and Special Events Committees.

While on the board, Eunice worked on important revisions to the institute’s by-laws. In addition, she was project-head for the complex task of creating the “Statements of Purpose” for all board committees—essential job descriptions for entry into board member handbooks.

Though no longer a board member, Eunice continues to serve the institute in many ways, generously contributing time, talent, and financial resources. She is currently an active member of the Bay Supper Committee and assisted with this year’s successful fundraising event.

With Allie Kohler, Eunice co-chaired Renfrew Institute’s Tenth Anniversary Celebration in July 2000. But her association with the institute goes back farther than that. “I became interested in the institute a long time ago through my friend, Dawn Keller, with whom I’d worked at the YMCA and the Cancer Auction,” she said. “At first I was just a member, but I became more involved as time went on, and eventually was asked to join the board.”

Eunice enjoys many aspects of Renfrew Institute. “I am so interested in everything they do,” she said. “Teaching children about our environment is wonderful, and also the cultural history of our area, which I believe is important to know.”

Asked what she enjoys most about the institute, Eunice said, “Over the years, I have really enjoyed working with and getting to know the staff. They do an amazing job and are so dedicated. We are lucky to have Renfrew Institute...there’s just something for everyone there.”

Renfrew Institute is lucky indeed to have such a dedicated supporter in Eunice Statler, and we tip our hats to her as she sits “On Top of the Mushroom.”

The position of honor “on top of the mushroom” belongs to long-time institute supporter, Eunice Statler. A Waynesboro native



Eunice Statler watched over the institute’s 10th Anniversary Celebration, an event she co-chaired.

Earth Celebration Day Welcomes Artists ...Institute presents first “Environmental Artistry Award”

Well known artist, Lester Jay Stone, was awarded the first Renfrew Institute Environmental Artistry Award at the 2006 Earth Celebration Day and Festival of Art on Sunday, April 23, 2006. Stone, beloved by his students and colleagues, grinned cheerfully as a tulip poplar tree was planted in his honor, right in front of his exhibit tent. The presentation was made by Festival of Art chairperson, Bridget Brown, and institute board president, Allie Kohler.

The newly expanded event drew a large crowd of people on a day that started out with showers. Fourteen artists displayed and sold their works including pottery, watercolor paintings, jewelry, weavings, beads, wind chimes and baskets. The idea of celebrating the Earth through art is expected to grow with additional artists each year and added interest for event goers.

The environmental exhibitors were there in force with more than twenty-five displays. Those who marked 10 years or more of participation were awarded certificates. In addition, children’s art activities, school clothesline displays and a children’s kite-making workshop gave everyone much to see and do. Musician, Slim Harrison returned with his popular kid-friendly format as boys and girls joined The Sunnyland Band playing Slim’s home-made instruments.

Cheryl Plummer, Franklin Co. Commissioner, read a proclamation that established April as Earth Awareness Month in Franklin County. She noted the county’s environmental initiatives and thanked the institute for its work. The commissioners have supported the institute’s overall mission and programs for many years.



Lester Stone (center) received the first Renfrew Institute Environmental Artistry Award at the 2006 Earth Celebration Day and Festival of Art on Sunday, April 23, 2006. Barrett Brown (left) applauds and Becky Dietrich (right) offers congratulations.

Downstream

with Melodie Anderson-Smith

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Downstream* is a regular column in this newsletter. It features articles about environmental awareness and action that can help us be better stewards of our natural heritage.

Developmental EQ

In July my husband and I moved into a “development.” Not exactly what we had planned. We had in mind the forested “wilderness” of one of the mountains around here, but the house is great and we are slowly getting accustomed to our new neighborhood.

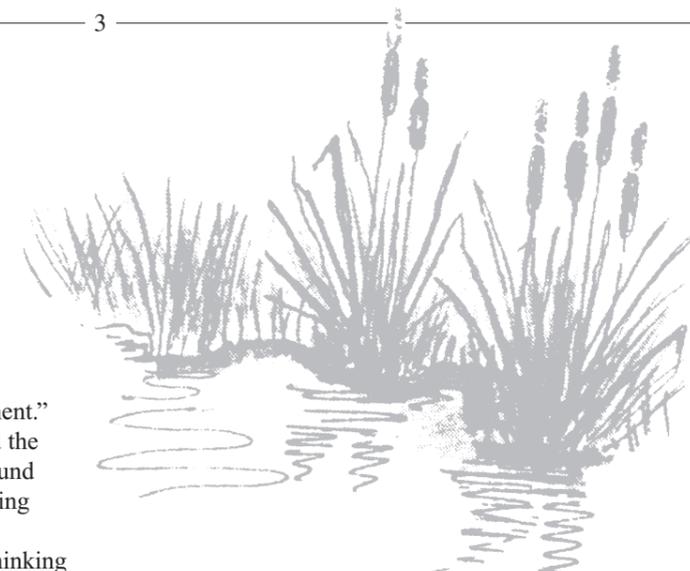
I used to be biased about “developments,” thinking of them as environmentally unfriendly places that convert perfectly good farmland into not-so-perfect human habitat. This is often true. However, new developments are springing up everywhere, older developments are viable established communities and most of us live in one or the other. We can find ways to minimize eco-damage and maximize eco-harmony. Perhaps we can boost our collective “Developmental EQ” (i.e. Eco Quality in Developments).

Exploring our neighborhood during runs, I have discovered some surprising eco-friendly features. In spite of lots of new, really large houses, I also see many modest little homes suitable for small families and retirees. Maybe the upturn of the housing downturn is that more people will choose smaller, efficient homes which help them live within their means and with less impact on the landscape.

It seems that most people in developments are into gardening. Many are planting native species too. Ours is a golf community and the unsold lots as well as the “roughs” of the golf course are allowed to stay in tall grassy/wildflower meadows, lush with milkweed, golden-rod, Queen Anne’s lace, chickory, daisies, asters, etc.—excellent habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife. We plan to turn some of our own lawn area into such habitat. If done in a way that creates distinct edges between the mown and the “wild,” these natural landscapes can be very attractive. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay calls this “bayscaping” and you can find out more on the Alliance’s website, www.alliancechesbay.org. Another really good site is U.S. EPA’s Green Acres program: www.epa.gov/greenacres.

As we garden and groom our lawns, we must also be reminded to go easy on those chemicals. I have seen many development streets dusted with those little blue and white balls of commercially applied lawn fertilizers containing nutrients, pesticides and herbicides. If you use a landscape professional, please ask them to apply only as absolutely necessary—and to keep it on your lawn! You should not be paying for the product to go on the street, and our waterways are degraded by chemical run-off.

There are organic alternatives too. Try one of the



following websites: <http://paipm.cas.psu.edu/> or www.spcpweb.org/yards (an excellent site based in Illinois, but fact sheets are suitable for anywhere), or ask your local Master Gardener or landscape professional about organic methods.

There are no curbs in our development. This is good, as water runs off road edges into the grass and is not channeled with increasing volume and speed into the nearest, not-big-enough storm water retention basin. I see lots of smaller swales and low areas that are planted with native grasses and shrubs and even stabilized with a new kind of cement open weave grid. I saw one driveway paved with this pervious surface treatment. If you want more information try this web address:

www.concretenetwork.com/pervious/index.html or check out a product called Grasscrete, also detailed on the concrete network website: www.concretenetwork.com/grasscrete/index.html

Here’s an idea that I only saw once—washing your car on your lawn. It makes so much sense. Wash your car and water your lawn at the same time! When it’s hot and dry in July and August, and your grass is brown, why send all that wonderful water down the driveway? Most car care products will not damage grass. If they do, they probably shouldn’t be used anyhow. Just think how much lawn watering we could save if we and all our neighbors used this sensible idea!

Keeping our cars in good health will make our developments healthier too. Cars leaking oil make rainbows in the rain puddles—not the kind of rainbows we want. Take a look at your driveway and street next time it rains. You will be amazed at the number of little spills that together add up to tons of oily pollutants (including heavy metals) running off the pavements of our watershed.

The bottom line? Reduce the amount of impervious surface and the waste that falls upon it. Our human activities will produce waste no matter how eco-friendly we try to be. If we can keep those waste products off our pavements, out of our waterways and recycled into other usable products, we can work like nature intends—in a circle—the reduce/recycle/reuse concept.

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Adult Education Committee Honors Willard Rahn

At its last meeting of the 2005-06 program year, the institute's adult education committee honored Willard F. Rahn for his many years of leading spring birdwalks at Renfrew Park. Rahn, a past institute board member and vice president, was given an embroidered cloth field guide bag to mark the occasion. He has been introducing birders to the species-rich wild areas of the park for more than 30 years during Saturday morning birdwalks from April through May.

According to Rahn, approximately 106 bird species have been spotted in the park over the years—some migratory, some resident and nesting, some rare or occasional. "If you wanted to see them all you would have to pitch a tent and be out there from January 1st to December 31st every year!" he chuckled.

Some very interesting sightings have occurred in the past. "One day we discovered a fox hole and watched two pups play, Rahn said. "On another occasion, I was all by myself on the Old Mill trail, in the spring, but there was some snow on the ground. I saw a weasel! I stayed motionless and he came within 10 feet of me."

What gives Renfrew's "bird expert" the most fulfillment? "I'm the catalyst for people who have never seen certain birds." Rahn explains. "I introduce the birds to them for the first time. People get really excited to see these in the wild." He notes that when the group is walking and spots a bird they haven't seen before or for a long time, they rely on a good birdbook (Rahn's favorite, the Peterson guide). "Like the redstart. It's dark orange and



Leonora Bernheisel, chair of the Adult Education Committee, presents an embroidered field guide bag to Willard Rahn in recognition of 30-plus years of leading bird walks at Renfrew every Saturday in April and May.

black. I use the book to show people about it."

Some of the most exciting and rare species sighted have actually happened within recent years in spite of research indicating a decline in song bird numbers in North America. Rahn says, "About a week ago I had a rose-breasted grosbeak on migration in my yard. I've seen them before, but not in my yard! It was just stopping over for nourishment on its way south."

The Northern water thrush was spotted at Renfrew and about five years ago Rahn and his group sighted a willow fly catcher. This was especially rewarding "...since you have to know it by the call. There are several species of fly catchers that are pretty close, but they differ in their song or call."

Rahn is a current member of Renfrew Executive Committee (REC), and serves on the museum's Park and Buildings committee, and is past president of the Renfrew Museum & Park board. He is affiliated with Cornell University's "citizen scientist program" through which he continues to monitor bluebird nesting boxes on the Renfrew property.

When asked if he will lead birdwalks again in April and May 2007, Rahn chuckled, "If I couldn't get out there I would cry!" Rest assured, he will be there...wearing his familiar birding vest, new field guide bag, 25-year-old L.L. Bean boots (re-soled several times) and carrying his favorite binoculars and spotting scope.

Melodie Anderson-Smith

Cultural Currents

with Sherry Hesse

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Cultural Currents* is a regular column in this newsletter. It features articles about past ways of life in our area, and strives to help us better understand our cultural heritage.

Growing Clothes: Flax Culture of the Pennsylvania Germans

As fall returns, so do the students who visit Renfrew Institute each year. One of the fall school programs is *Growing Clothes: Flax Culture of the Pennsylvania Germans*. The flax that we harvested this summer is in the barn awaiting the arrival of eager children who attend the flax program. We grow a small amount of flax at Renfrew to use with our classes, and as I tend our crop I think about the reality of the farmers who lived in our region two hundred years ago. Flax was the "cloth of the farm" through the mid-1800s, and most farmers grew and processed it for clothing, household and farm textiles. Flax production was a labor-intensive process that involved the whole family.

What is Flax?

Flax (*linum usitatissimum*) is one of the earliest plants known to man. Like hemp and jute, flax is a 'bast fiber'—a fibrous plant used for making cord or thread. A slender annual plant, it reaches 1 1/2 to three feet tall.

The fiber is found sandwiched between a woody core and the outer part of the stem. A gummy pectin holds the fiber tightly to the rest of the stem, and separation of fiber from stem requires much labor.

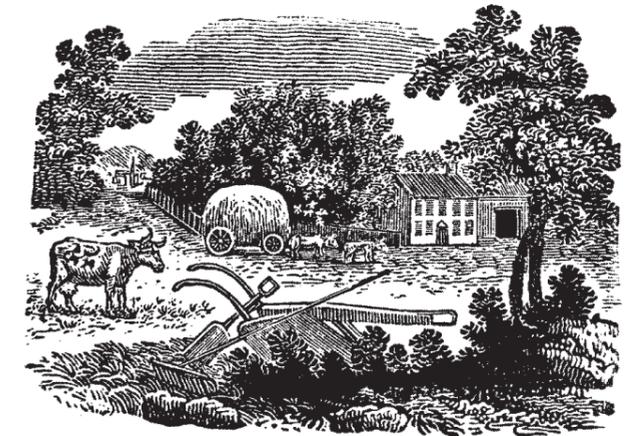
The plant grows in a variety of climates, and historically was grown in many parts of the world. The Swiss Lake Dwellers used flax as early as 8000 B.C.

For our ancestors, the flax process occupied much of the year, beginning with spring planting and culminating in winter when the cloth was complete. Area farm families in the early 1800s grew about a quarter of an acre of flax per person each year, which yielded enough flax to clothe each family member, as well as cloth for farm and household textiles. For our purposes, we will use the term 'flax' until it becomes linen cloth.

Growing Flax

Traditionally, flax crops were planted in April. The dark, sesame-like seeds were sown by hand in a similar fashion to broadcasting grass seed. While the plant was young, children would weed the flax patch. By early summer the plant had grown to its full height, and displayed lovely delicate blue flowers, which were followed by seed pods.

In mid-July the plant was usually ready for harvest. It was pulled by hand, keeping the bundles neat. Pulling the plant in handfuls, rather than cutting it, allowed the fiber in the entire stem to be used without waste. Often



women harvested the crop, with help from neighboring farm women who shared the work.

The bundles dried in the field for several days, and then the seeds were removed through threshing or rippling. Rippling involved pulling the stems through an iron comb. In threshing (a method often used by Pennsylvania Germans like the Royers who lived on the farm that is now Renfrew Park), farmers whacked bundles of stems over a barrel or plank, allowing the seeds to fall onto a canvas below. (When our fourth grade students perform this task, we call it "a boy and a barrel.")

Flax seed was a valuable commodity. An adequate amount was saved for planting the next season's crop, and leftover seeds could be sold or taken to the oil mill and pressed into linseed oil. The oil was used as an ingredient in paint or as a wood preservative. (The woodworkers among you will recognize linseed oil as a product that is still used today.)

Excess seed leftover after pressing was called "cake" and fed to the cattle. Flax seed is edible for humans as well as cattle. Historically, it was used for both culinary and medicinal uses. Flax seed, which contains alpha-linolenic acid, is high in omega-3 fats. Today it is touted as a health food, and is added to breads and sold as a supplement or a tea.

Retting and Braking

After the seeds were removed, the flax stems were retted (or rotted). The pectin that held the fiber to the stem was loosened during this process. The Pennsylvania Germans preferred the method of "dew retting." The flax was spread out in rows in the meadow. The morning dew, afternoon sun, and occasional rain rotted the sticky substance that held the layers together and allowed the flax fiber to be removed from the stem. Dew retting generally took a few weeks, depending on the weather.

Water retting was another method, usually preferred by English settlers. Bundles of flax were submerged in a pond or stream. It was a stinky process and resulted in one of the first anti-pollution laws in early England (created mostly to keep the odor away from the Queen's castle).

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Second Annual "Recycle/Reuse" Earth Day Yard Sale

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2007 • 9 AM-3 PM

Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Earth Day Recycle/Reuse Sale on Saturday, April 21. Rent a space for yourself, your family or your organization. Spread the word to help the Institute raise funds through space rentals and don't forget to come to the sale to find great bargains!

Space rental fees to be determined. For more information and a registration form call the institute at 762-0373.



2006 Bay Supper Raises Over \$11,000!



On June 30, nearly 150 hungry supporters gathered at the Waynesboro Country Club for food, fun and—most importantly—fundraising for the Renfrew Institute. It was the ninth annual Chesapeake Bay Supper and the most successful yet. With proceeds of \$11,009, it topped last year's by \$4,584!

Renfrew Institute's programs were the emphasis of this year's event, with an ongoing slide show depicting the many activities and school programs that the institute provides.

The highlight of the evening is always the auction, and this year marked the addition of a live auction of some items. "Lively" auctioneer, Jerry Scruggs, donated his time to make for a great bidding session that really boosted the bottom line.

Allegheny Power made a significant contribution in underwriting the cost of the crabs. And Steve Graham of Pungoteague, Va. (formerly of Waynesboro), once again kindly donated little neck clams which were steamed for the supper. Thanks go to all who attended, contributed, and donated their time and effort to make this such a special event.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Friday, June 29, 2007, for the Tenth Annual Chesapeake Bay Supper!

Pat Heefner

Thank You...

Thanks to everyone who supported the supper including the following generous sponsors and patrons...

SPONSORS

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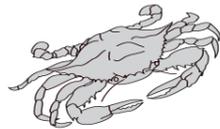
PATRONS

Grace & Bob Brown	Bill & Lois Shull
Mark & Clare Caron	Tom Singer
Beth & Chris Firme	Eunice Statler &
Bill Gelbach	Jordan Trostle
Steve Graham	Jan & Nick Turano
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Susan & Tom Murphy	Barbara & Corbin Wilson
Cheryl & Ken Plummer	Bob & Linda Zimmerman

More Thanks...

SILENT AUCTION DONORS

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of Mary's Delight Farm	Blue Ridge Summit
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Green Arbor Flower	Rich & Barb Rook~~
& Shrubbery	Fazoli's Restaurant
Virginia Hair	Dave Rotz
Jack Handshaw~~	Patric Schlee
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Jay & Pat Heefner	Silpada Designs
Diana Keilholtz-Gunder	Eunice Statler
Allie & Jo Ann Kohler	Bill Van Gilder/VG Gallery



LIVE AUCTION DONORS

Steven Graham
Paul & Diana Gunder
Susan Keilholtz
Bill Van Gilder
WindJammer Balloons



And...A huge **THANK YOU** to the following members of the planning committee & their helpers:

Event Co-chairs: Pat Heefner & Susan Shull

Murphy

Auctions/50-50: Diana Keilholtz-Gunder

(Chair), Carly Dittman, Matt Gunder, Susan

Keilholtz, Missy Murtaugh, Sparky Sharpeless

Decorations: Bay Supper Committee & Jordan

Trostle. Balloons Courtesy of John Ingels,

Eichholtz Flowers, Waynesboro

Invitations: Eunice Statler (Chair), Shirley Faith,

Barbara Gaydick, Pat Heefner, Joann Hersh, Jo Ann

Kohler, Donna Steiner, Angela Grove Weagly

Food & Arrangements: Jo Ann Kohler (Chair), Dick

Hersh, Waynesboro Country Club—Don

Harriman, Ronda Kleppinger & Staff

Set-up: Allie Kohler, Donna Steiner, Jordan Trostle

Special Thanks to Jerry Scruggs, auctioneer, for donating his services for the live auction.



Allegheny Power

Special thanks to Allegheny Power for underwriting the cost of the crabs.

"Allegheny Power is pleased to serve the area's residents and businesses with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity..."

we are honored to support Renfrew Institute and their environmental education programming provided in part by the Chesapeake Bay Supper fundraiser."

—Edward C. Miller, Allegheny Power Regional Sales Manager & Renfrew Institute board member

Renfrew Institute is Pleased to Announce New Underwriting Support

Renfrew Institute welcomes two new sponsors in support of our farmstead program *Four Squares: The Pennsylvania German Garden*.

First Data Merchant Services, Inc., a world-wide leader in electronic commerce and payment services, delivers a full portfolio of card issuing and merchant processing services in more than 70 countries on six continents. With approximately 33,000 employees worldwide, First Data has offices throughout Europe, Asia Pacific, Africa, Latin America and North America.

Doing business locally in their Hagerstown, Md. facility, First Data is a major regional employer that understands the importance of investing in the community where its employees live. Diane Baker, Site and Community Coordinator, expressed her appreciation for the work of Renfrew Institute in educating area youth.

First Data has adopted a special interest in promoting literacy, and found the Four Squares program to be a good fit for that focused challenge. While students are engaged in experiential learning during their visit, the institute provides materials for post-visit use by classroom teachers to expand historic and scientific literacy. The programs of Renfrew Institute take young people onto an historic farmstead and into the environment so they can understand, through direct experiences, the region's natural and cultural heritage.

Appalachian Nurseries has also engaged in support of the Four Squares experience. Appalachian Nurseries, specializing in the propagation of potted liners for over 60 years, operates in Chambersburg, Pa. Appalachian serves the nursery trade as a wholesale supplier.

Tom McCloud, President and General Manager, found a natural connection in the work he does and the lessons offered in the Four Square setting. Since Appalachian Nurseries is located in Chambersburg, they are helping to contribute to a balanced funding base for the institute. As a regional educational center, institute school programs served an increased number of students (19% of the total) from the Chambersburg area in 2005-06. It is important we also receive funding support from that community.

The *Four Square Garden* program has been especially popular with the Chambersburg area, hosting student visits from Duffield, South Hamilton, Hamilton Heights, U.L. Gordy, Thaddeus Stevens, Scotland and Cumberland Valley Christian Elementary Schools and the Franklin Learning Center. Students from the Waynesboro area, and Maryland students also attend Four Squares.

Matthew S. Hurley Auction Company, Inc. has come on board as a new sponsor for Renfrew Institute's recently launched *Nose to Nose with Nature*. One component of the program bundle known as Summer Institute, *Nose to Nose with Nature* is an experience designed to

engage young children in free-wheeling explorations in the natural world. Participating families used "bug boxes" to catch critters and take a look "up close," dipped their toes in the creek, and viewed the horizon through kaleidoscopes.

Matthew S. Hurley Auction Company is a full service, full time auction company with a staff of over 20 employees. They are recognized as leaders in the auction industry, having successfully conducted hundreds of real estate and personal property auctions.

Company founder Matt Hurley earned a degree in agriculture and education from Penn State University, and felt a special connection to the institute's environmental offerings through his own background in environmental education.

Bonded Applicators, Inc. has offered new sponsorship support of the institute farmstead program, *The Royer Legacy*. Company president Amy Weber received an invitation of support through our communications with Waynesboro Chamber of Commerce members. Weber mentioned that her son's sixth grade class from St. Andrew Elementary had recently visited the program. "He just can't quit talking about it," she said of his experience. As a parent visitor during her children's trips, and during her own student years, Amy remembered fondly her connections to Renfrew Institute programs.

Bonded Applicators, Inc. is itself a story of legacy. Doing business first in 1947 under the leadership of Glen Fry, Amy's grandfather, then under second generation owner Robert Fry, Glen's son, and now under the leadership of Amy Weber, Glen's granddaughter, this Waynesboro business marks three generations of serving the tri-state as a roofing and siding contractor.

During the two hour *Royer Legacy* program, sixth grade students are taken into the Royer home where they learn how the Renfrew property became a gift to the community of Waynesboro. They enjoy a tour of the house and learn about the "behind the scenes" work involved in museum operation. An outdoor component of the program takes students on a walking tour of the Royer farm. The Renfrew Institute instructor helps students pull together pieces of their past Renfrew experiences into a deeper understanding of the Royer/Renfrew farmstead... past, present and future.

(continued on page 8)

gifts
New
Sponsorships



Sponsor Spotlight

Mountain View Reclamation, a Waste Management Company

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Sponsor Spotlight* is a regular feature of this newsletter, highlighting Renfrew Institute's programs or events and their underwriting sponsor(s). The generosity of these sponsors enables the institute to offer a variety of educational activities to our community.

Since the summer of 2002, Mountain View Reclamation, a Waste Management Company based in Greencastle, has supported the work of Renfrew Institute through its adoption of our student water quality monitoring program *WaterStriders*. Last spring the company also added support for the development of *Creek Crawlers*, a summer day camp program launched in July 2006.

Cheryl Shields, Community Relations Director for the company, has been enthusiastic about *WaterStriders* since its start. She has visited Renfrew several times and has taken a real interest in what we do with student scientists. When we asked Cheryl if her company could also help us with *Creek Crawlers*, she made it happen. She agreed that it was a good fit.

According to Shields, "By partnering with Renfrew Institute, Waste Management has been able to provide support for both the *WaterStriders* and *Creek Crawlers* programs and bring education to life for those children who participate."

WaterStriders gets middle-schoolers in the creek to learn about stream life, water quality and the importance of watershed protection. The after-school program runs once or twice a month year-round with an occasional month off due to severe weather or summer vacations. The dedicated corps of six students, along with their institute instructor, measure the health of the East Branch of the Antietam here at Renfrew using the following physical



Students at the Summer Institute Day Camp got more than their feet wet during "Creek Crawlers," a program underwritten by Mountain View Reclamation, a Waste Management Company. Melodie-Anderson Smith and students inspect creek critters.

and chemical parameters: pH, temperature, alkalinity, nitrates, ortho-phosphates, turbidity and dissolved oxygen.

Creek Crawlers offered some of the same experiences, only for slightly younger students and for only two days (of a 5-day camp). Campers spent lots of time in the creek exploring. They measured the width, depth and flow of the stream, studied macroinvertebrates, fish and other stream life and had quiet time beside the water. They also learned about land use ideas and pollution sources. They even calculated the amount of rainwater that runs off a section of the Summitview Elementary School parking lot in an average year!

Kids and creeks just go together. Children play, feel, explore, discover and learn, through rich first-hand experience in the natural world. Waste Management has made it possible for Renfrew Institute to bring these experiences to our youth. As Cheryl Shields explains, "No investment yields greater returns for a community than the investment of time and financial contributions for the education of our children. Waste Management believes environmental learning should go beyond formal instruction in a classroom, and create opportunities for children and adults alike to better understand environmental protection, the earth and its resources. Our thanks to Renfrew and their staff for allowing us to make this investment."

Tracy Holliday

New Sponsors (continued from page 7)

Dan Ryan Builders has provided new underwriting support for professional development for Renfrew Institute's faculty and staff. Since 1990 (the same year Renfrew Institute was founded) Dan Ryan Builders has completed hundreds of homes in more than 35 communities in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. The company emphasizes service and quality, and offers well-constructed and affordable homes in communities ranging from rural settings to metropolitan developments. In 2004, Dan Ryan Builders was named one of the Top 100 Builders in the country by *Builder* magazine.

Dan Ryan Builders has several local communities in

Chambersburg, Greencastle and the Waynesboro area. John Migliore, Division President, recently visited Renfrew Institute and said, "We feel good about giving to the faculty who will be educating children in the area. This place is an important part of Pennsylvania history and we are happy to be involved in such a worthwhile cause."

Renfrew Institute faculty members attend a variety of professional development activities. All faculty members are trained and certified in CPR and first aid. During the course of the year, Institute instructors attended three conferences: "No Child Left Inside," presented by the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators (MAEOE); a symposium on historic

(continued on page 9)



Sponsor Spotlight

Mountain Valley Real Estate

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Seeing double?* We are fortunate to have two *Sponsor Spotlights* in this issue of *Streamside*. It is our pleasure to recognize the continuing contributions of sponsors such as these whose generosity enrich our local communities.

In the fall of 2004, Mountain Valley Real Estate proprietor Carol Young attended a program at Renfrew Institute with her then fourth grade daughter, Sarah. Unbeknownst to our staff, Carol had just sent a gift by mail in support of Renfrew Institute's school programming. Upon attending *Green Energy*, Carol's enthusiasm for the program guided us to direct her gift in support of that fourth grade experience. Carol even extended an offer to provide some materials that would directly support the program.

Getting out there on the trail with students gave her an opportunity to share the experience with her daughter, and to gain a deeper understanding of our educational program series.

In the ensuing years, Carol has expanded her support to include our sixth grade farmstead program *Royer Legacy* and *Summer Institute Day Camp*. In fact, *Green Energy* was withdrawn from our environmental education continuum with a plan to revise it as a component of *Summer Institute Day Camp*, launched this past summer. Upon hearing this, Carol asked if she could support current school programming (*Royer Legacy*) and restore her support of *Green Energy* upon completion of revisions for camp. True to her word and generous nature, she opted to support the *Green Energy* portion of Day Camp, and **added** support for the Day Camp component called *Old Friends are Worth Saving*.

New Sponsors (continued from page 7)

food procurement and preparation at George Mason University; and the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE) Conference, "Pennsylvania's Harmony: Celebrate the Wonder of Pennsylvania's Environment." Additional professional growth is acquired through seminars on a variety of topics, and visits to other outdoor, environmental and cultural education organizations.

Thanks to these organizations and individuals for their new support of Renfrew Institute, and welcome to the family of program and event underwriters. We look forward to your future involvement.

Tracy Holliday



Summer Institute Day Camp students got hands-on experience building a log cabin during "Old Friends are Worth Saving," a program underwritten by Mountain Valley Real Estate of Waynesboro.

The Old Friends component featured exploration of the farmstead, its stories of the past, and the construction of a lifesized "log cabin." Young historians sat before the schnitzelbunk (shave horse) to create their own wooden roof shingle, learned of the use of the froe in squaring a log, understood the strength and practicality of a mortise and tenon joint...and in the end, stood within the "walls" of their log cabin creation.

Mountain Valley Real Estate provides complete real estate services throughout Waynesboro and surrounding areas. "I am a nature lover," Carol said. "The programs at Renfrew have an immense impact on our children...it is a privilege and a blessing to me to be able to support such important educational programming."

This year, Sarah is in sixth grade and will be completing the series of farmstead and environmental programs she began as a kindergarten student. It is a pleasure for us to watch students like Sarah "graduate" with the knowledge of and appreciation for the natural and cultural heritage they have studied during their Renfrew Institute experiences. It brings us special pleasure when family members of our young visitors embrace enthusiasm for these experiences. The meaning and importance of *community support* can't be better demonstrated!

Tracy Holliday

Dear Renfrew Program Leaders -

I just want to thank you for the great programs the Duffield 1st and 2nd graders experienced in the last so many years. It has been a great privilege for me to be part of the Renfrew educational program.

Thanks for all your hard work in making the programs fun and informational and also for all your patience with the little ones.

I hope Renfrew is able to continue its teaching for many years to come.—Lynne Peters, Duffield Elementary, retired June 2005.

Summer Fun at Renfrew

Summer brought lots of kids to the park!

This summer, the institute launched new summer programming, and continued our popular *Summer Stories*. On Tuesdays from late June through July, young children gathered under the tree near the Visitors Center to listen to stories and enjoy related hands-on activities.

On Wednesday mornings in July young school-age children participated in *Nose to Nose with Nature*. This new program featured fun-filled exploration of nature in the park.

A highlight of the program was wading in the creek on those hot, hot summer days.

We also launched our first *Day Camp*, and spent a wonderful week in the park with a group of 4th, 5th and 6th graders. The camp was comprised of a combination of environmental and farmstead programming.

The kids built a log cabin, and learned how the Fahnestock Barn and other buildings in the park were constructed. They explored the Antietam Creek and studied the watershed.

The *Heritage Crafts* program was expanded this year to include five morning workshops. Five invited artists taught workshops on piercing tin, quilting, woodworking, pottery and basketry. This program was very popular. The students learned about crafts of our ancestors, and took home beautiful finished products.



Institute: Organization & Volunteers for 2005-2006

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Allison B. Kohler, *President*
M. James Rock, *Vice President*
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Executive Director
Sherry Hesse, *Director of Cultural Studies*
Tracy Holliday, *Assistant Director/Grants Administrator*
Beverly McFarland, *Accounts Manager*
Andrea Struble, *Public Relations Director*
Doris Goldman, *Faculty*
Nancy Hall, *Faculty*
Mary Harsh, *Water Striders Instructor*
Stephanie Kober, *Faculty*
Virginia Rahn, *Faculty*
Edna Rice, *Faculty*
Pamela Rowland, *Faculty*
Lori Schlosser, *Faculty*
Nora Slick, *Faculty*

Interns

Logan Haugh, *WASH senior project*

VOLUNTEERS

Educational Programs & Office Assistance Volunteers

Pat Heefner
Frank Larson
Mary Ann Payne
Molly Serpi
Angela Grove Weagly

Adult Education Committee

Leonora Bernheisel (Chr.)
Garrett Blanchet
Marie Campbell
John Elder
Charlene Good
Tom McFarland
Edward C. Miller
Susan Shull Murphy
Tim Rahn
Willard Rahn
Jeff Rhodes
Tom Singer
Andy Smetzer
Brian Toro

Development Committee

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Leonora Bernheisel
George Buckley
Dick Hersh
Allie Kohler
Debbie Pflager

Facilities Committee

Jim Rock (chr.)
Leonora Bernheisel
Marc Desrosiers
Dick Hersh
Richard Mohn

Renfrew Exploratory Ad-hoc

Facilities Committee (Museum & Institute)

Allison Kohler (chr.)
Leonora Bernheisel
John Blubaugh
Robert Brown
George Buckley
John W. Keller
James Rock
Tim Rahn
John Frantz
Melodie Anderson-Smith
Sherry Hesse
Tracy Holliday

Finance Committee

Richard Hersh (Chr.)
Marc Desrosiers
Allison Kohler
Richard Mohn
Tom Singer

Accounting Consultants

Linden A. Showalter, CPA
Michael S. Snyder, CPA

Historian

Mary Ann Payne

Membership Committee

Edward C. Miller (Chr.)
Liane Benchoff
Charlene Good
Pat Heefner
Carol Ann Henicle
Diana Kielholtz-Gunder
Edward A. Miller
Debbie Pflager
Willard Rahn
Angela Grove Weagly

Nominating/Gov. Committee

Linda Zimmerman (Chr.)
Diana Keilholtz-Gunder
Dudley Keller
Allison Kohler
Edward A. Miller
Susan Shull Murphy
Donna Steiner

Special Events Committee

Susan Shull Murphy (Chair)
Liane Benchoff
Charlene Good
Diana Kielholtz-Gunder
Pat Heefner
Allison Kohler
Edward C. Miller
Richard Mohn
Debbie Pflager
Lynn MacBride
Donna Steiner
Angela Grove Weagly

Strategic Planning Committee

Tim Rahn & Allison Kohler (Co-Chairs)
Melodie Anderson-Smith
Leonora Bernheisel
Marc Desrosiers
Sherry Hesse

Tracy Holliday
Diana Kielholtz-Gunder
Allison Kohler
Deborah Pflager
Linda Zimmerman

Technology Committee

Marc Desrosiers (Chr.)
Pat Heefner
Susan Shull Murphy

Youth Education Committee

Bonnie Bachtell (Chr.)
Liane Benchoff
Pat Heefner
Pamela Rowland
Donna Steiner
Rita Sterner-Hine (WASD liaison)
Linda Zimmerman

ADULT/TEEN PROGRAMS & PRESENTERS

Andy Smetzer & Tri-State Astronomers—*Fall Star Party*
Lori Schlosser—*Owl Walk*
Elizabeth Warner—*Results of the Deep Impact Mission*
Tom McFarland & Tim Rahn—*Musical Instrument Making Workshop: Ocarina*
Jeri Jones—*Geology Program & Field Trip: From Rondinia to Pangaea—Take a Walk through Geologic Time*

Roy Justice—*Music, Dance and Toys: Entertainment in the Nineteenth Century*
Nancy Walker & Danza Antiqua—*May I Have the Pleasure of This Dance?*
Richard Bly, Holgate Toy Company—*As Old As The Nation*

Robert Berghage, PhD.—*Greening the City From the Top Down: Greenroofs in North America*

Sterling (“Buzz”) Buzzell, John Adams, John DeMars & Bill Lewis—*Fly-tying Workshop*
Willard Rahn—*Spring Birdwalks*
Doris Goldman—*Wildflower Workshop*

YOUTH AFTER-SCHOOL/WEEKEND PROGRAMS & PRESENTERS

Note: Summer 2006 programs will be listed next year in the 2006-07 list

Children's Summer Stories

Claire Hunter (Chr.)
Jean Cashin
Dorothy Fawks
Lauren Fawks
Ricky Fawks

Heritage Crafts

Robert North—*Tin Punch Workshop*

WaterStriders

Mary Harsh (Staff Instructor)
Caleb Draper
Danae Draper
Emily Shipman
Zachary Stanley
John Tabor
Preston Tabor

SPECIAL EVENTS: VOLUNTEERS & PRESENTERS

Jazz Festival 2005

Andrew Sussman (Chr.)
Liane Benchoff
Carol Henicle
Allie Kohler
Edward A. Miller
Edward C. Miller
Clay Moyer
Susan Shull Murphy
Debbie Pflager
Eunice Statler
Donna Steiner
Sally Sussman
Linda Zimmerman

Halloween Storytelling

Susan Shull Murphy (Chr.)
Jennifer Vandereau
Annual Renfrew Fun Fly
Bill Flohr (Chr.)
Twila Flohr

Earth Celebration Day & Festival of Art 2006

Bill Barns & Mike Howard (Hagerstown Honda)
Wayne Bartholow & Nicole Zirgable (Greyhound Pets of America/Maryland Chapter)
Vertis Bream (Energy Options)
Judy Bricker & Maggie Cisar (Flower Buds—Waterside Gardens)
Sherry Clayton (Franklin Co. Planning Commission)
Ruth & Stanley Davis (Population Connection)
Becky Dietrich, Mike Mowen & Tom Smith (Franklin Co. Rock & Mineral Club)
Beth & Chris Firme (Keystone Trails, tables)
Bill & Twila Flohr (Kite making workshop)
Kathy Fotheringham (Antietam Girl Scouts & Products Customized & Kreated)

Franklin Co. Master Gardners
Girl Scout Cadets #737 (exhibit)
Girl Scout Juniors #866 (bat house donation)
Doris Goldman
Charlene Good
Shirley Gossert (Record Herald)
Cindy Hallberton (Conococheague Audubon)

Mary Harsh (WaterStriders)
Matt Harsh
Pat Heefner
Jackie Holsher (Arbonne)

(continued on page 13)

Organization & Volunteers (continued from pg. 10)

George Hurd (Penn State Cooperative Extension)
Allison Kohler
Rudolf Lemperg (My Farm at Goose Pond)
Karen Manderson (Shoulder Works—seated massages)
Tom McCarty (Groundwater/Penn State Coop. Extension)
Bev McFarland
Tom McFarland
Susan Shull Murphy
Birgitt Osterling
Lori Penrod (Traveling Tails)
Cheryl Plummer (Franklin Co. Commissioners)
Sandy Polvinale (children's art activities)
Steve Rettig (Antietam Watershed Assoc.)
Patric Schlee (Drum Circle)
Richard Schulman, Lisa Collins (Freedom Electronics Recycling, Inc.)
Mary Ellen Selvaggio (School Exhibits)
Susan Stampien (Natural Alternatives & Energy Vitamins & Health Foods Store)

Doug Stine & Pandy Yeakle (Cumberland Valley Chap. #27/Soc. for PA Archaeology)
Joyce Stuff (Franklin Co. Bluebirds)
Richard Sullivan & Jeff Hahn (PA Bureau of Forestry—Michaux State Forest)

Festival of Art

Bridget Brown (Chair)
Eve & Richard Adkins
Becky Dietrich (watercolor)
Jack Hanshaw
Pat Brezler (photography)
Kevin Kohler (bonsai)
Elaine Longenecker (basketry)
Michael McIntyre (pottery)
Claudia Peet (weaver)
Robin Saulsbery (fiber artist)
Patric Schlee (wind chimes)
Mary & Joseph Shoemaker (lampwork beads & jewelry)
Beth Skroban (weaver)
Lester Jay Stone (landscape paintings)
Betsey Tresself (jewelry)

Youth Festival 2006

Kathy Bourdeau (Co-Chair)
Kim Sheffler (Co-Chair)
Vicki Sprenkle (Co-Chair)
Cookie Beck
Liane Miller Benchoff
Candi Bennett & Stephanie Honodel (Antietam Humane Society)
Bourdeau Family
Valerie Dudash (River & Trail Outfitters)
Dottie & Laura Fawks
John & Jean Frantz
Cheryl Gates
Autumn Golden

Pat Heefner
Carol Ann Henicle
Emily & Riley Ledden
Rudolf & Katalina Lemperg (My Farm at Goose Pond)
Karen Manderson
Tom McFarland
Jill & Emily Morningstar
Danielle Mummert
Sheffler Family
Crystal & Andrea Shockey
Simmers Family
Nora Slick
Stephanie & Chuck Sprenkle

FUND-RAISING EVENTS

Pumpkin Festival/Haunted Farm

George Buckley (P. Fest Co-Chair)
Debbie Pflager (P. Fest Co-Chair)
Daniel Pflager (Eagle Scout candidate/Trebuchet Project)
Garrett Blanchet (Trebuchet Consultant)
Jim Ross (Haunted Farm Chair)
AARP South Chapter
Bonnie Bachtell
Grace Baylor
Marie Beck
Liane Miller Benchoff
Catherine Bercaw
Leonora Bernheisel
Beta Y Gradale
Mary Black
Phyllis Brothers
Marty Buckley
Carolyn Carson
Phyllis Croson
George Crouch
Becky Dietrich
John Elder
Audrey Eshleman
Barbara Eshleman
Kay Fitz
Five Forks Fruit
Kay & Paul Fontaine
Alma & Herb Frantz
John, Jean, Louise & Harrison Frantz
Future Business Leaders of America
Javonta Gardner
W. H. Gelbach, Jr.
Doris Goldman
Charlene Good
Nancy Hall
Bobby Hamner
Jodi Harbaugh
John Hasty & Adventure Crew 97
Pat Heefner
Kathy Helfrick
Carol Ann Henicle
Beverly Henneberger
Tom Hoffmann
Tracy Holliday
David Hykes
Edgar & Ruby Hykes
Ivy Hill Farms
Chris Johnson

Waynesboro College Club
Angela Grove Weagly
Lindsay Weaver
Sharon Weaver
Louise West
Stephen Yealy
Sara Yost
Linda & Bob Zimmerman

Earth Day Recycle/Reuse Yard Sale

Diana Kielholtz-Gunder (Co-Chr.)
Debbie Pflager (Co-Chr.)
Tracy Holliday (Staff coordinator)
Melodie Anderson-Smith
Sandy & Bob Beaumont
Liane Miller Benchoff
Leonora Bernheisel
Rob Bostic
George Buckley
Marc Desrosiers
John Frantz
Doris Goldman
Charlene Good
Pat Heefner
Dick Hersh
Allie Kohler
Bev McFarland
Ed Miller
Red Mohn
Missy Murtaugh
Bill Pflager
Edna Rice
Jim Rock
Pam Rowland
Lori Schlosser
Sparky Sharpeless
Nora Slick
Sue & Ron Von Rembo
Angela Grove Weagly
Peggy Weller
Linda Zimmerman

CHESAPEAKE BAY SUPPER
[PLEASE SEE COMPLETE LIST OF BAY SUPPER VOLUNTEERS, PATRONS AND SPONSORS ON PAGE 6]

Thank
You
One
&
All!

Cultural Currents *(continued from page 5)*

Pond retting produced a blonde color, while dew retting yielded a gray color.

When the retting was complete, the flax was dried in the field and stored in the barn until fall. Bundles of flax were dried over a flax kiln, an oven in which a low fire was built. Old stumps provided excellent fuel for the



Flax Culture instructor, Sherry Hesse, demonstrates flax hatchelling.

flax fire because they produced few flames. Losing flax to the flames was an unfortunate occurrence which has also happened to us on teaching days! Drying the flax was a hot, dusty, smoky job and was performed by men.

The men also took charge of braking, during which handfuls of flax were drawn through the wooden blades of the flax

brake. The brake was a four-legged wooden tool with wooden knives that crushed the core of the stem. Much of the stem fell to the ground, leaving the fiber ready for the next step, scutching.

Scutching and Hatchelling

The flax was then scutched, or scraped, with a wooden scutching knife or paddle against an upright board, a job performed by women and children. Scutching scraped out the remaining pieces of the stem and prepared the fibers for hatchelling. Many times braking and scutching were community events that brought friends and neighbors together for work and play.

After the flax was scutched, it was ready to be hatchelled. The hatchel was a tool made with iron spikes that were driven through a wooden board to make a "brush" through which the flax was combed. Most farmers had two or three hatchels varying in size from coarse to fine.

The hatchel separated the long fibers ('line') from the short, coarse 'tow.' The line was used for clothing and household linens, like sheets, towels and tablecloths. Tow was used for farm textiles such as feed bags and flour sacks, as well as mattress covers or 'ticks.'

After hatchelling was complete, only one quarter of the original flax straw was left. The women of the family hatchelled in the late fall, and finally the fiber was ready for the winter task of spinning. All this work yielded only one new outfit per person per year!

Spinning

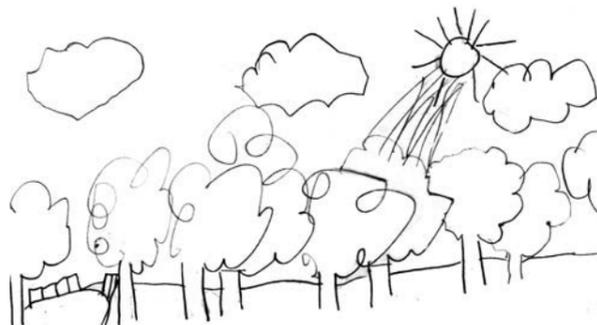
Women spun the flax into thread at home, using a small flax wheel. The yarn could be bleached, dyed or used in its natural color, and was then ready to be woven into cloth. In our region, weaving was most often done by a professional, usually a man.

As cotton became more readily available, flax production declined, and by the mid-1800s, farm families were growing less flax. Although modern families do not grow flax, its culture left a legacy. The language of the flax process is with us today. The "distaff side of the family" refers to the mother's family. The distaff is the part of the spinning wheel that holds the fiber as it is spun. "Towheads" are blond children whose hair resembles the color of the flax or tow. A spinster is an unmarried woman, and the term is derived from the time when a single aunt may have contributed to the household by spinning. When an angry dog "gets its hackles up," the comparison is made to the tool, the hackle or hatchel.

Linen cloth has recently experienced a resurgence in popularity. Next time you notice linen clothing in the department store, think, as I do, about the labor intensive process that our ancestors performed to create their cloth.

References:

- The Story of Flax.* New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown NY.
 Gehret, Ellen J. and Keyser, Alan G. 1976. *Pennsylvania Folklife* (22(1):10:34), Flax Processing in Pennsylvania.
 Jenson, Joan M. 1986. *Loosening the Bonds: Mid-Atlantic Farm Women 1750-1850.* Yale University.

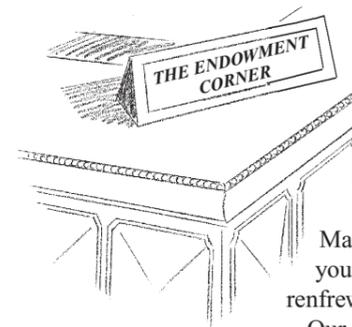


Dear Renfrew Park,

Thank you for a fun day! We liked the star necklaces you gave us. We met Marvin and we learned about things needed by all living things. Redbud tot [told] us the four nonliving things we need. We lisnd. [listened] We wocd. [walked] We follod str clus [followed star clues] that told us we were on the rit [right] path.

We learned the four things we need are water, air, soil and sun. We saw a hawk. We saw squirrels. We saw leaves. We had a really good time! We wrote more about our visit and dru [drew] pictures!

Thanks again,
 Mrs. Norris' First Grade Class
 Mowrey Elementary School



Endowment Fund Grows!

Thanks to recent generous donations Renfrew Institute's Endowment Fund has now grown to more than \$53,000! Please keep the institute in mind as you plan your end-of-year community giving. You will receive a mailing in December 2006 for our annual supplemental giving campaign for the endowment fund.

Contributions are welcome year-round. Please make your check payable to Renfrew Institute (memo "endowment") and send to: Renfrew Institute, 1010 E. Main St., Waynesboro, PA 17268. For information about including Renfrew Institute in your estate planning, please call our office 717-762-0373 or email us at renfrewinst@innernet.net.

Our sincere THANK YOU to the following members and friends who made contributions to the endowment fund since the last issue of *Streamside*:
American Legion Post #15, Maggie Cisar, Rose Dagen, Mr. & Mrs. Richard D. Shook, and The Estate of Charles E. Smallwood (see below)

A Special Memorial Gift

Long time Renfrew Institute supporter Wayne Martz recently paid a special visit to our office. As executor of the estate of his friend Charles E. Smallwood, Wayne designated Renfrew Institute as a recipient of funds from the estate distribution. His generosity resulted in funding support for three areas: 2006-07 sponsorship of second grade environmental program *Sidney's Wonder Web*, a 2006-07 Today's Horizon Fund contribution, and a gift to Renfrew Institute's endowment fund.

In exploring possible areas of support, Wayne was interested in investing in school programming directly, as well as the general financial well being of the organization. The gift in support of *Sidney's Wonder Web* will help underwrite that experience for second grade students. During this two-hour program, students meet spider puppet character, Sidney. She has built a web and in order to make it complete, must find out how the nine parts of nature are interrelated.

Students help Sidney by visiting four activity stations where they learn that plants and animals depend upon each other and upon non-living elements of nature for food, shelter, hiding places and transportation. At the end of the session, each child assembles a special necklace representing interrelationships in the natural world to remind them of their Renfrew experience.

The Today's Horizon Fund gift will help support the day to day operations of Renfrew Institute. As we strive to deliver programming the community values,

we must ensure that our budget provides resources for new program development, adequate staffing, and technology and office resources that are necessary for efficient operations. We are grateful to receive these undesignated dollars, as they are crucial in maintaining the excellence in programming our community expects.

As may have read in our Endowment Corner (above), our endowment fund is growing. We look forward to the day when, through the investment of larger gifts such as the one received from the Charles E. Smallwood estate, we will have access to income generated by the fund. Currently, all donations to the fund, and their investment earnings, are held out of our general operating budget. These "growing" dollars will help ensure the financial longevity of Renfrew Institute.

Though the loss of a friend is an occasion of sadness, Wayne was gratified that his gifts would honor his friend's memory, while contributing to the work and mission of Renfrew Institute. Wayne shared his feelings in saying, "I believe the Waynesboro area is very fortunate in having a place like the Renfrew Institute and Museum; a place where children and adults can learn about nature and the environment; a place in our backyard to attend cultural events and learn local history; and a beautiful place just to visit. I thank the people at the institute for their work and efforts. I hope in a small way that Charlie's donation will help ensure that this continues. Thanks for all you do."

Tracy Holliday

A Gift to Honor Margaret Keller



A new gift of program support has been received from William and Kathleen Kaminski, in memory of Margaret Keller. A personal note from Bill Kaminski instructed us to direct this gift in support of the institute's first grade environmental program, *Fall Walk* in honor of "Margie Keller, a real Renfrew supporter." We are glad to help Bill and Kathleen honor their friend's memory in this way.

Their support will help us deliver the *Fall Walk* experience to area first grade naturalists. During their visit, children will study plant, animal and human preparation for winter; seeds and their methods of dispersal, solar cycles, secrets of fall leaf colors, and the sights, smells and "touches" of fall. When the book *Chipmunk Song* by Lynn Cherry is read, students "become chipmunks" in a high activity game that gets everyone, including adult chaperones, involved.

Thanks to Bill and Kathleen for recognizing the importance of our work with children, and choosing to honor "our Renfrew Institute friend" through educational program support.

Downstream—Stream Health (continued from page 3)

In addition to focusing on ground-level ideas, we can improve our DEQ with efforts to prevent air pollution as well. Healthy cars emit fewer gases and particulates. Smaller cars...well, you know the story here. Check out the EPA website to find the cleanest car ratings:

<http://www.epa.gov/autoemissions/>

The EPA Green Acres Program points out that native landscaping helps reduce conventional lawn maintenance, especially the need for pollution emitting small machines that use fossil fuels (mowers, weed edgers, leaf blowers, etc.). The less mowing and blowing we do, the better.

At our house we have a battery powered lawn mower made by Neuton. I'm not promoting that company, but the concept is interesting. The company's literature states:

'Even considering the pollutants contributed by the power facility that produces the electricity to recharge the NEUTON, a gas mower by comparison emits 1800 times more hydrocarbons, 250 times more carbon monoxide, and 4 times more nitrogen oxide than a NEUTON during

the course of a season's mowing!' [If you would like information on this I have fact sheets in the Institute office.]

The best part about the electric mower? It's so quiet. You can barely hear it in operation unless it is passing by you in the yard! And then it's just a very acceptable "hum." This type of mower is recommended for smaller yards.

Soooo, plant more natives, reduce grass areas, buy an energy-saving, pollution reducing, money-saving (after the initial investment) electric mower, and enjoy your quieter, cleaner, greener development!

There are many ideas that will help us improve our Developmental EQ. In future issues of *Streamside* we will provide additional helpful hints for homeowners in developments. Truth is, such hints will be beneficial for everyone,

even those in the forested "wilderness" of the mountains around here.

NOTE: The Antietam Watershed Association is producing a new brochure that will include homeowner hints for watershed protection. The brochure will be available at Renfrew.



Planting drought-tolerant plants saves water and is one way to improve your "DEQ" wherever you live. Photo from U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Children and Nature (continued from page 1)

detached from nature today, who will care for the land in the future? How will our society address greatly increased health care needs? What will our society be like if nature is considered irrelevant to our lives?

Louv pointed out in his keynote address that those who work in the field of nature education are doing "sacred work." That was nice to hear! He also said there are two lists from which most of us operate: 1) things we should do, and 2) things that we would like to do. Louv says nature outings invariably fall on the second list. He hopes to see that change.

Dr. Michael Suk, Director Orthopedic Trauma Service, University of Florida outlined the latest medical news about the drastic increase in childhood obesity and new programs to combat it. Dr. Terry Neu, Sacred Heart University spoke of finding children's special talents and interests and helping them to become "creative producers." Noted writer and native Pennsylvanian, David Orr, now Professor and Chair of the Environmental Studies Program, Oberlin College, reminded us that "...by age ten, a child can identify 1,000 corporate logos but less than 10 local plants and animals." He called for a design revolution that would bring children into the process of cultural change. Jack Shea, Director of Teton Science Schools, was upbeat as he explained that environmental education has been too "complacent with itself as a niche boutique." He feels we need to become a mainstream part of everyday life promoting "...nature as a YES place."

An excellent talk was given by Lowell Monke, a former high school teacher, professor of education at Wittenberg University and coauthor of the forthcoming book, *Breaking Down the Digital Walls: Learning to Teach in a Post-Modem World*. He noted that in the last 50 years children have moved from experience through physical activity to experience built on symbolic representations [computer and other screen media] by the millions. He had our attention as he described "a flood of images with a drought of physical contact." He believes that the "maturity of the child should match the power of the tool," and that the computer may be too "powerful" for the young child, especially if that child is fed computer images at the exclusion of real-life experience. The computer then becomes a tool of misinformation instead of the opposite. Monke says we should use simple tools to connect kids to the real world and save major computer use for post-elementary school years.

Other speakers suggested embracing new technologies to engage modern learners, even in the outdoor setting. Using GPS units and computers in the outdoors can lead to some innovative ways to get techno-savvy young people outside. Yale University's Stephen Kellert spoke on biophilia, the concept developed by E.O. Wilson to explain our inherent biological need to be connected to the natural world. Kellert said that the overall problem is a design flaw, not a failure of modern life. He showed slides of

amazing architectural and landscape designs that redefine and renew our relationship with nature. From homes to schools to whole villages, this "restorative design and renewal" can make a profound difference in community life and sense of place.

Examples of successful programs were inspiring. Gina McCarthy, Commissioner, Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection, elicited gales of laughter as she reminisced about her childhood and called for "...more moms that say 'get outside and play now!'" She spearheaded an incredibly successful program for Connecticut families, "The Great Park Pursuit" a media-promoted survival-style game for families to visit eight state and local parks in eight weeks. Organizers had to pull the TV ads, because the grant money ran out as an overwhelming number of families signed up. They had hoped for 100 families and closed it out at 400! Needless to say, they hope to continue the program in the future. McCarthy's point? Families really DO want outdoor activities and they want to have fun, too. Marketing such projects using today's cultural framework and media technology paired with old-fashioned outdoor activities and games can work.

Though speakers came from numerous sectors and perspectives, their voices expressed a unified passion and determination to bring children and nature together, while at the same time nourishing and rebuilding adults' relationships with nature too. Speakers joined in the break-out sessions as we were challenged to brainstorm our ideas about connecting children and nature—from visions to solutions—in the areas of health, education, modern culture and the built environment (homes, schools, libraries, playgrounds, community parks, etc). The proceedings of the conference will be published and sent to all participants. It will be in our library for your reference.

The door has been opened to organizations like ours to be involved in this national movement. I have asked to be invited to the next step in the Children and Nature initiative, a national forum to create viable actions from the ideas that were generated during break-out sessions at the conference. The Institute's *EarthSeekers* program is a perfect fit for implementing the hands-on nature experiences promoted through Children and Nature. Indeed, all of the Institute's educational programs (for children and adults) and special events for families are well-matched with the goals of the movement.

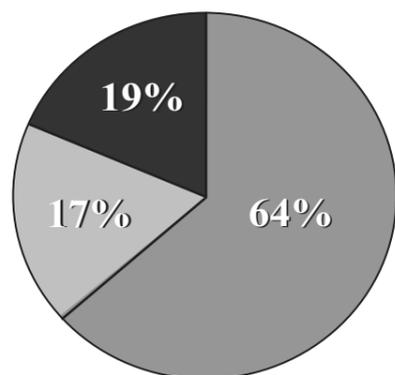
Special thanks to my daughter, Jodi Stewart Schwarzer, manager, Linking Girls to the Land, Girls Scouts of the USA, for securing a spot for me at the West Virginia conference. It was a joy to be with her at such an important event where we could share our mutual passion with others who also believe that experiential learning, including structured and unstructured play, in the outdoors should be a part of every child's life. I encourage each of you to read Richard Louv's poignant and hopeful book. You can learn more about all of this at his newspaper's website: www.thefuturesedge.com.

Melodie Anderson-Smith

Renfrew Institute's Financial Health

Renfrew Institute Financial Statement 2005-06			
(July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006)			
Operating Income		Operating Expenses	
Memberships	\$26,558	Salaries/benefits	\$105,247
Capital Income	3,650	(includes FICA, Medicare)	
(from 2004-05 extra gifts)		Capital Expense	3,560
Bequests, Memorials	5,285	(technology upgrades)	
Student Fees (inc. adult/teen wksp)	19,724	Special Events	5,694
Grants/Sponsorships	38,888	Fund Raisers	8,130
(educational programs/publications)		Suppl., Printing, Postage	10,727
Grants/Sponsorships	8,422	(programs, office, newsletter, etc.)	
(special events)		Professional Devel.	1,049
Grants/Today's Horizon Fund	6,000	Admin./Consult. Fees	1,140
(devel. support)		Phone/Internet/Equip. Maint.	1,921
Fund Raisers (Pumpkin Fest, Haunted Farm, Bay Supper)	22,168	Insurance	2,504
Other (special projects, interest, misc. donations, etc.)	2,378	Misc. (petty cash, bank fees)	214
Accounts Receivable	4,189		
Total Income	\$137,262	Total Expense	\$140,186

Renfrew Institute Assets as of 6/30/06



17%—Money Market Account—\$12,333
 64%—Endowment Fund/Margaret Keller Fund—\$46,334 (these two combined)
 19%—Checking Account—\$13,775

TOTAL ASSETS: \$72,442

1
2
3
4

Fall/Winter 2006-07 Calendar of Events

Annual Renfrew Pumpkin Festival

Saturday, October 14, 11 AM-4 PM

Underwriting support provided by M & T Bank

Co-sponsored by Renfrew Institute and Renfrew Museum as a joint fund-raiser.

Pumpkins will be on sale. A team of artists will carve or help others to carve intricate designs (no charge). New this year!—Hot air balloon rides by Windjammer with underwriting support by Paul, Diana & Matt Gunder of Jack Gaughen ERA, Waynesboro Jack Gaughen ERA office & Cornerstone Family Dentistry. Popular features include: pumpkin hurling trebuchet, hayrides, face painting, music, and free soup, cider and bread. Hot dogs, sodas, t-shirts sold separately. Admission charged. Small extra charge for balloon rides.



Halloween Storytelling

Wednesday, October 25, 6:30-7:30 PM

Underwriting support provided by Patriot Federal Credit Union

Annual evening of spooky tales featuring professional teller, Jennifer Vandereau. The event will be held in the Fahnestock Barn or another site on the property. Suitable for all ages. Bring flashlights.



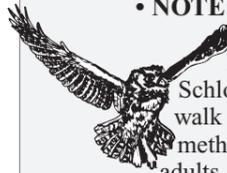
Creatures of the Night - Owl Walk

Date to be arranged in January, 6:30 PM, meet at Visitor Center

• **NOTE: THIS YEAR, LIMITED ENROLLMENT OF 50 PARTICIPANTS—PLEASE REGISTER AHEAD •**

Renfrew Institute faculty member, Lori Schlosser, will conduct this outdoor walk to areas of Renfrew Park most likely to attract owls, including the Barred and Great Horned owls.

Schlosser will use taped owl calls to attempt to draw owls close enough for viewing. A brief pre-walk information session will help participants learn more about these nocturnal creatures and the methods used to locate them. The event is free and open to adults and children accompanied by adults. Dress warmly and bring flashlights.



(More programs for winter and spring are being planned.)
Call for complete listing after January 1, 2007.

Looking for Stream Monitors—West Branch Antietam



Do you live on or near the West Branch of the Antietam—Quincy or

Guilford townships north, Fairview Ave., Waynesboro or Zullinger area on the west?

If so, and if you like science and getting outside and dabbling in chemistry, YOU (and/or your partner, club, etc.) could be our next citizen water quality monitor.

We provide all training and equipment!

The Antietam Watershed Association Stream Monitoring Program (headquartered at Renfrew Institute) will soon launch a monitoring program for the Antietam Creek's west branch. We need monitors. Here are the qualifications—

BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

- General interest in water science
- Willingness to commit a 3-4 hour work session during the first weekend of each month (for at least 8 out of 12 months)
- Willingness to commit to training sessions as needed (2-3 per year)—usually a half day Sat. or evening (accommodates those with fulltime day jobs).
- Physical ability to manage stream entry (usually shallow water) or assist partner who can do this.



- Willingness to be part of a team and have fun!

Note: Residence along creek is helpful, but not required. Science background not needed—will train. Equipment provided. Interested? Call 717-762-0373 or email renfrewinst@innernet.net for more info.

The next general meeting of AWA:

Wednesday, October 18, 7 pm

Washington Township Office Meeting Room
Welty Rd., Waynesboro

Township manager, Mike Christopher will talk about local ordinances and other development regulations and what they mean for township residents.

Great time to ask your questions!

For more information, call 717-762-9417.

AWA Events:

The following AWA projects are in coordination with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

(1) What: Fall riparian planting project
When: Saturday, October 21, 9 am-1 pm
Where: Site to be announced.
Who: Everyone welcome!

Notes: Lunch provided. Bring gloves, boots, and a shovel, if you have one.

(2) What: Clean-up on AWA's adopted road, Rattlesnake Run in Michaux Forest

When: Saturday, November 11, 9 am-noon

Watch for more details in local newspapers, call us at 762-9417, or see AWA's website at www.antietamws.org



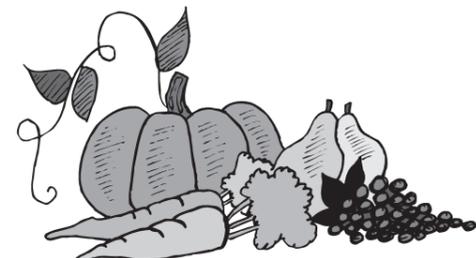
WELCOME

New Members!

Note: New members sponsoring specific programs are listed under *Gifts—New Sponsorships* on page 7.

* = *Honorary - for donation of special time, talent and/or materials*

Appalachian Nurseries	Stephen Howe
A.J. & Kate Benchoff	Mr. & Mrs. Alan Johnson
Bonded Applicators	Della Koons
David D. & E. Louise Boon	Dr. & Mrs. David Logan
Michael Cordell	March Chiropractic
Dan Ryan Builders, Inc.	Angela Rocks & Bill Shriver
M.S. Haq, M.D.	Marilyn Ross
Rosa Harmon	Estate of Charles Smallwood
William Heineman	Gordon Thomas
Hirschmann Automation & Controls, Inc.	VFW Post 695



Thanks

...to **Louise Kyser** for washing sweatshirts from the "extra clothing box" at the end of the spring school program season and for preparing corn cob bird feeders for kindergarten *EarthSeekers* winter program.
...to **Molly Serpi** for scrubbing "piles" of sit-upon cushions in preparation for the next season's use by school students, and helping to harvest flax crop.
...to **Pat Heefner** for weekly help in the institute office.
...to **Mary Ann Payne** for continuing work on the institute's photo albums, program materials and other tasks.

Special Thank You

... to visiting speaker **Richard Bly of Holgate Toy Company** for donating a limited edition wooden replica "Neighborhood Trolley" made by his company and signed by Fred Rogers of *Mr. Roger's Neighborhood* television series.
... to **Waynesboro Lioness Club** for making an extra donation of \$200 to help launch our summer programs for youth.
...to **Kyle Anthony Shaw**, one of our school program students, for sharing a snapping turtle skeleton he found along the creek in Renfrew Park.

Errata

The following were listed incorrectly or missed in the last issue of *Streamside*:

- New members, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Elden (incorrectly listed as Eldon).
 - New member, Manitowoc Crane Group (incorrectly listed as Manitowac Crane Group).
 - Naturalist Society members, Carl & Bonnie Monk were listed incorrectly as Paul & Bonnie Monk.
 - Phil & Gail Hammond were inadvertently omitted from the list of water monitors in last issue's *Downstream* article.
- Our apology for these errors and omissions. Please notify us if you see an oversight, error or omission.



Former *WaterStrider*, Mark Fries, shares information about the Copper River Delta watershed in Cordova, Alaska to current *WaterStriders*. Mark worked at the watershed during a special student program last year. From left to right: Preston Tabor, Mark Fries, John Tabor, instructor Mary Harsh, Caleb Draper, Danae Draper and Emily Shipman.

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- Pamela Rowland, *Faculty*
- Lori Schlosser, *Faculty*
- Robin Shipman, *Faculty*
- Nora Slick, *Faculty*

Our Wish List...

- ❖ Card tables—used, in good condition
- ❖ Book(s): *The New Games Book* and/or *More New Games!* The Headlands Press, Inc., 1981, from the New Games Foundation
- ❖ Additional underwriting sponsor for this newsletter (\$250)
- ❖ Funding for additional rain ponchos for use by school groups (\$400)
- ❖ Outdoor tent canopy—mesh or waterproof, new or used (in good condition)
- ❖ Coffee maker for office
- ❖ Old untreated lumber, any length
- ❖ Walkie Talkies—new or used (in working order). Prefer rechargeable. Sorry, cannot use older styles.



Extra special thanks to Angela Grove Weagly, of the institute's membership committee for her generous donation to underwrite the cost of new table exhibit panels and brochure holders. The exhibit will give the institute a professional looking and easily portable display to set up at our own events as well as other fairs and festivals in the community. It

will also travel to conferences and speaking engagements.

The new exhibit made its debut at the September 14th Chamber of Commerce Mixer held at Renfrew to spotlight both the museum and institute. [see photo, right]

Thank you Angela, for your thoughtful contribution!

Wish List "Thank You"

- ❖ **Pat O'Connor:** Large capacity garden cart
Books—*A Quaker Woman's Cookbook* by William Woys Weaver; *Butterflies of North America*, from Kaufman Focus Guides series; *Caterpillars in the Field & Garden* by Thomas J. Allen, Jim P. Brock & Jeffrey Glassberg
- ❖ **Beyond the Wish List... Thank You Too!**
- ❖ **Doris Goldman:** Books—*Algonquin Legends* by Charles Leland; *Bartram's Garden Catalog, 1793 Journal of Garden History*; *Discovering Timber-Framed Buildings* by Richard Harris; *Famous American Women: A Biographical Dictionary from Colonial Times to the Present* Ed. by Robert McHenry
- ❖ **Red & Wendy Mohn:** Book—*The Herbal Medicine Chest* by Sujata Bristow
- ❖ **Pat O'Connor:** Books—*Beginners Guide to Dragonflies* by Blair Nikula, Jackie Sones, Donald & Lillian Stokes; *Guide to Grasshoppers, Katydid & Crickets* by John Capinera, Ralph Scott, Thomas Walker
- ❖ **Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse of Waynesboro:** Materials for trebuchet repair
- ❖ **Steve Graham:** Book—*Conscience of a Conservationist* by Michael Frome



Streamside

Renfrew Institute for Cultural and Environmental Studies

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