

# 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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## Drum Roll Please...

At last Renfrew Institute is about to launch a website! This may seem a bit mundane today, but we have been slow to join cyberworld. The time has arrived to let the world know who we are and what we do. When you get a chance, please visit [www.renfrewinstitute.org](http://www.renfrewinstitute.org). Hopefully, it will be up by the time this *Streamside* issue reaches you. If not, check back soon.

If you have been involved with creating a website, you know that significant time goes into the project. Fortunately, the RI board of directors voted to hire a professional consultant, Bare Hands Design of Gettysburg to create the site and get us started.

RI board members Marc Desrosiers, chair of the technology committee and Pat Heefner, committee member and Apple/Mac devotee, have been incredibly helpful throughout the process. Marc is hosting our site and has been instrumental in asking all the right questions at the right time.

Institute PR director, Andrea (Andi) Struble, editor of this newsletter and graphic designer herself, will take over management of the site after she completes a course in web design this winter. Andi will take some time to “ease” into the care of the site as she learns the technology involved. Meanwhile, we have been spending many hours meeting with the consultants, writing text and gathering photos (and permissions) in order to fill the site with essential information. Please check it out, give it a spin and then give us your feedback!

That’s not the only technology news. We now have a beautiful new iMac computer! Our 5-year old eMac died in October, taking all of my email addresses and archives with it. Thankfully, all documents and photos were backed up or rescued. We knew the old eMac was about to go and had made an advance plan. Again the board came to the rescue early with approval to make the computer purchase. Thanks to last year’s unexpected bequest from the Elizabeth Strite estate, coupled with several *Today’s Horizon Fund* donors, we were able to handle both the website and computer expenses without jeopardizing our programs. Thanks to ALL of you who support us with your donations large and small!

On other fronts the Institute is thriving and doing! Another successful school program season closed on November 7, with 196 classes and 4,239 student visits recorded. We welcomed our regularly attending schools and one new one, Oak Hill School.

The spring session will begin April 1st and promises to be another vibrant season of programming. The Institute teaching staff will come together in February to put all programs through our rigorous evaluation process. This activity happens every two to three years and always energizes the staff, creating new ideas and improvements

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## George Buckey— A Man for All Seasons

George Buckey has been with Renfrew Institute (RI) from the very beginning. Buckey was serving on the board of Renfrew Museum & Park (RM) at the time of the Institute's inception, and before long was also a board member for the Institute.

"Dudley Keller [RI's first president] was very involved at that time, and we worked closely together in fund-raising for the Fahnestock Barn," Buckey recalls. He eventually became the Institute's second president.

Over the years, Buckey has worn so many hats for both Renfrew Museum and Renfrew Institute, it's hard to tell where one leaves off and the other begins.

"The two organizations are separate, but in many ways are connected at the hip," Buckey says. "A lot of people progress from the Institute board to the Museum board, or vice versa. This is good. These folks understand the connections and interdependence of each organization."

Buckey was instrumental in RI developing separately. "The Institute school programs grew so fast, and were being run in part by volunteers. It was clear that a paid staff was necessary, and better to have a separate organization." [RI was granted separate non-profit status in January 1990.]

Fundraising and financial health have always been important to Buckey. "At work, I was used to paying considerable attention to the bottom line. I guess that just transferred over to my involvement with Renfrew."

The bottom line was a factor in the creation of Renfrew's Pumpkin Festival. Buckey recalls, "We needed to raise funds for both organizations. James Smith [then curator of RM] and I were inspired by area 'fall fests' and a pumpkin festival sounded good." Buckey co-chaired the event, a role he continued in until 2008.

Tracy Holliday, RI Assistant Director, recalls Buckey's extraordinary dedication and service through thick and thin, including his arrival each year with straw bales in the trunk of his car, and the time he was rear-ended with the Pumpkin Fest soup kettles on board.

Buckey served on the joint Museum/Institute Renfrew Exploratory Facilities Ad-hoc Committee for the assessment of future facility needs for both organizations, which contributed ideas to both RI and RM as respective strategic plans were completed.

In addition, he was chair of Renfrew's Park Committee for several years. "That committee had the

greatest interface with the Institute, and was the main conduit of information between the two groups."

His involvement with both groups continues. Buckey is currently Chair of the Institute's Endowment Trustees and a member of the RI Development Committee. He is still a member of Renfrew Museum's board of directors.

Buckey is originally from Union Bridge, Md. A Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, he was in Japan near the end of World War II. He later graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in commerce in 1950.

That same year, Buckey entered a Sales & Service Training Program at Landis Machine Co. in Waynesboro. He worked there 37 years, becoming president in 1975.

Buckey became interested in Renfrew Park after Emma Nicodemus bequeathed the property to Waynesboro in 1974. In the early '80s, LeRoy Maxwell asked him to serve on the Renfrew board. "I've been around so long now I'm becoming the historian for Renfrew," Buckey jokes.



George Buckey (right) helps John Frantz (center) and George Kirk unload a truckload of pumpkins for one of Renfrew's annual Pumpkin Festivals. Buckey created the idea of the Pumpkin Festival 17 years ago.

Somehow, Buckey found time for other volunteer work. He is a past-president of the United Way, and served as Chair of their Industrial Division for 24 years. He has been active in Rotary for more than 50 years, and was instrumental in the formation of Waynesboro's Industrial Museum over the past decade; he is president of that board.

Buckey and his wife, Marty, have two daughters. Betsy lives in Ocean View, Delaware, with a son and daughter; Mary Marshall works for SAIC in Gaithersburg, Md.

Marty has also been an active volunteer at Renfrew. Both are avid bird watchers, and Buckey enjoys saltwater fishing at their vacation home in Fenwick, Del.

Reflecting on more than 30 years of involvement with Renfrew, Buckey said, "Most people recognize that Renfrew—both the Museum and the Institute—are wonderful assets for the community of Waynesboro. It's been nice to have been able to work on something with long-standing benefit to our area."

But Buckey is not one to rest on his laurels. "There is still much work to be done," he said. "For example, it would be really wonderful to have a new facility on the property that could be used for meetings, events, office space and other uses. This would expand the services we could offer the public, and allow us to better utilize the existing visitors center."

RI Director, Melodie Anderson-Smith said, "George has been steadfast in his care for Renfrew Institute. He and Marty have been so generous over the years with financial gifts. But mostly I have depended on George for advice, over and over again. He has been a major leadership force for us and for the museum."

## Downstream

by 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.

## Chesapeake Promises

Editorial

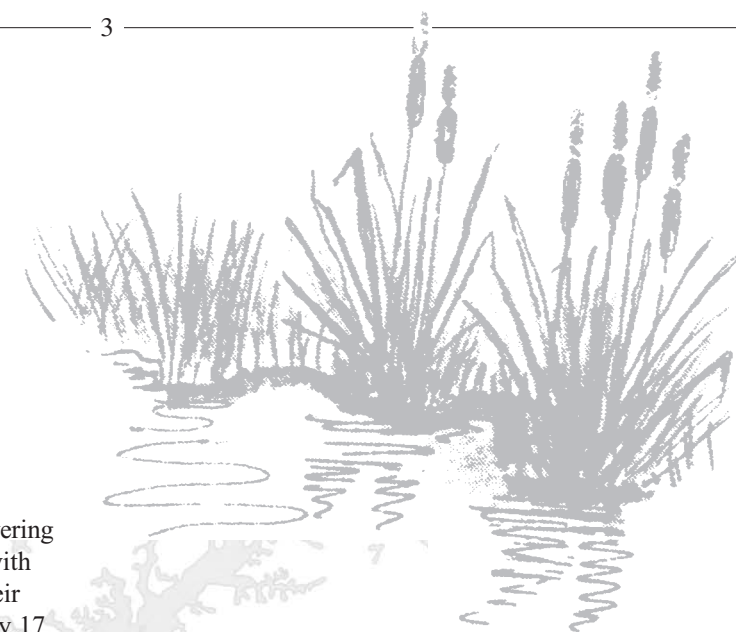
Our amazing watershed—64,000 square miles covering parts of six states and the District of Columbia—with small and large waterways lacing and racing to their common destination, the Chesapeake Bay. Roughly 17 million of us, along with our plant and animal fellows, depend for our very lives on the quality of the water flowing through our mutual watershed ecosystems. Why then, are we so complacent, and often even negligent, when it comes to making good land use decisions that effect our own critical water supply? Could it be that the wake-up call hasn't been loud enough?

In a bold move, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) recently gave the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a 60-day notice requiring the EPA to respond to a series of claims about the agency's failure to meet its obligations under the federal Clean Water Act and the Chesapeake 2000 agreement to clean up the Bay, or face a federal lawsuit.

There is obvious frustration and yes, even anger, among those who have worked so tirelessly for decades to improve water quality in the Bay, only to see a worsening situation. The irony here is that the EPA, though certainly not an innocent bystander, reflects the complacency of its constituents, and that includes all of us.

I have been involved in the educational effort to "save the Bay" for more than 25 years. I remember the beginning of the Save the Bay movement, the enthusiasm of the environmental community and the excitement of Bay, river and creek lovers everywhere. The original Chesapeake Bay Agreement was signed in 1983 by the governors of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, the mayor of D.C., and the administrator of the EPA. There was elation and hope. The Chesapeake Bay Program was established, political will seemed strong and the attention of the world was on the pending success of these initiatives.

Additional agreements were signed in 1987 and in 1992, each strengthening the resolve that the Bay would be clean by 2000. But the mark was missed. A renewed agreement, signed in June of 2000 and full of provisions for well-funded research, new nutrient reduction benchmarks and support for grassroots efforts, promised a clean Bay by 2010. But now, one year out, we know that mark too, will be missed. The talk these days is of moving the missed target to 2020. Unfortunately, the talk now seems



weak and disjointed, the hope and elation nearly gone.

Frustration is apparent at all levels of the clean-up effort. We know that nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus, primarily from fertilizers) along with sediment are the major culprits behind most water quality problems. According to a letter in the November 2008 issue of the Bay Journal, "Last year, 318 million pounds of nitrogen flowed into the Bay, compared with 250 million pounds in 2000." Even allowing for annual fluctuations in rainfall, run-off etc. "...the Bay is nowhere near the 175 million pound annual limit on nitrogen pollution" set by the 2000 agreement (Roy A. Hoagland, CBF Vice President of Environmental Protection & Restoration).

Locally there has been increased awareness and positive action on the part of our own municipalities and citizens, but still there is frustration in meeting the needs of all stakeholders. How can we balance the loss of farmland to development? How can we insure the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) on the farmland that remains? How can we "get folks on board" to prevent storm water run-off in our own neighborhoods? Back to the educational scene...what are we to tell the children? How can we assure our local kids that we adults haven't given up?

I guess we need some hope...and a promise. First, we know that a bunch of little efforts add up to big results. If every little corner of the Bay watershed (every little subwatershed) focuses on its own solutions to its own water quality problems, then the entire watershed and the Bay WILL improve. We are in luck that one of the most successful watershed associations in the country is our own Antietam Watershed Association!

AWA is based right here in Waynesboro and it is leading the way for us. If you haven't joined yet, please do! Membership is only \$10 and your support is needed (forms available at Renfrew or go to [www.antietamwatershed.org](http://www.antietamwatershed.org)). Renfrew Institute is a partner and the AWA Stream Monitoring Program is headquartered at our office. AWA has the support of local governments and has been

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## Welcome New Board Members

Renfrew Institute is pleased to welcome four new board members. Maxine Beck, Matt Gunder and Denny Koons were elected to the board in July, and in November, Steve Graham was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Tom Singer, who stepped down in order to accept a new professional opportunity in Ohio.

**Maxine Beck** was born and raised in Waynesboro. She graduated from West Virginia University with a bachelor's degree in secondary education Language Arts, and completed her master's degree in English at Shippensburg University.

Maxine was assistant director of the Waynesboro Day Care Center before she began teaching English at Waynesboro High School, where she worked for nearly 18 years. Maxine recently retired in order to travel more with her husband Steve, and also to help with the care of their children, grandchildren, and aging parents.

The Becks have a son, Steve Jr., in Burke, Va. with two daughters; a daughter, Kathy, in Portland, Ore., with a son and daughter; and a son, Brian, just recently returned to Waynesboro with his wife and daughter.

"The Beck family has consistently been involved in community organizations and has been a supporter of Renfrew since its inception," Maxine said. "I welcome the opportunity to become more familiar with all of the wonderful programming and facilities they offer."

Maxine is chairman of the Membership committee and also serves on the Adult Education, Pumpkin Festival, and Bay Supper committees.

**Matt Gunder**, another Waynesboro native, has the distinction of being the first institute board member who actually attended institute programming as a school student!

"Renfrew Institute began offering programs for school children right around when I was at that age—I believe it was fourth grade," he said. "I don't remember all the details but I certainly recall coming to Renfrew for the programs, and enjoying them."

That early association influenced Matt's interest in Renfrew and in the Institute. In addition, he is active in other community organizations. "Being local, I am involved in quite a few community activities, both personally and professionally," he said.

Matt attended Shippensburg University and became a professional realtor in 2003. He participates in several community service activities through his company, Jack Gaughen Realtor ERA, Waynesboro. "We contribute food baskets to human services for area families around the holidays, hold an annual yard sale to benefit Muscular Dystrophy research, and conduct other community-related

activities through the year." Matt also serves on the Waynesboro YMCA board of directors, and is active in the Rotary Club.

Matt lives "just two minutes from Renfrew," he said, and is looking forward to serving on the Membership, Nominating/Governance and Bay Supper committees.

**Denny Koons** also grew up in Waynesboro, so Renfrew Park has long been a familiar place. Working at Pumpkin Fest introduced Denny to Renfrew Institute. "I am active in Rotary, and we helped with Pumpkin Fest several times," Denny said. "Over the years, I got to know George Buckey and some of the other volunteers, and became interested in the Institute."

Denny earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Shippensburg University, and is Assistant Vice President Senior Financial Advisor for Merrill Lynch in Hagerstown.

A past-president of Waynesboro Rotary Club, Denny also serves on the financial committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Waynesboro. He lives in Mont Alto with his wife, Janette, who works at Waynesboro Hospital.

The Koons have a son who lives in Mont Alto with his wife and daughter, and a daughter who is majoring in elementary education at Shippensburg University.

"I enjoy volunteering in the community and helping out whenever I can," Denny said. He is looking forward to serving on the Development, Membership, and Recycle/Reuse Yard Sale Fund-raiser committees.

**Steve Graham** recently moved back to Waynesboro after living away for many years. Even from afar, Steve maintained a relationship with the Institute and Museum. An avid collector of antiques, he has made extensive donations to Renfrew Museum's collection and contributed items for use in the Institute's school programs. He currently serves on the Museum's REC (Renfrew Executive Committee).

For the past six years, Steve has hand-delivered a generous donation of fresh Virginia clams for the Institute's annual Chesapeake Bay Supper fund-raiser.

Steve holds a degree in psychology from Mount St. Mary's College. He was the director of the Salisbury Zoo from 1972-77, then director of the Baltimore Zoo from 1978-1982. From 1982-92, he was director of the Detroit Zoological Parks Department.

His interest in animals led to many years of experience on safari in Africa including trips to Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Tanzania and Rwanda.

Other ongoing interests include the environment, history and education. Steve's committee assignments are yet to be determined but he is looking forward to working on behalf of Renfrew Institute.



(L to R) Matt Gunder, Maxine Beck & Denny Koons recently joined the institute's board of directors, along with Steve Graham, not pictured.

## 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.

### The Royer Tannery

Visitors to Renfrew Park often arrive in the lower parking lot and walk through the picnic area, where tables are arranged in inviting spots under the trees and near Antietam Creek. It is a lovely place to stroll or picnic.

However, 200 years ago, this spot was anything but bucolic—a busy industrial site occupied the space.

Daniel Royer purchased the property now known as Renfrew Museum & Park in the late 1700s. Royer's farmstead was typical of an industrial farmstead of the time. In addition to farming, the family operated a gristmill, a limekiln and a tannery. The tannery, located next to Antietam Creek near today's picnic grove, was a profitable operation that contributed much to the family's financial stability.

Royer learned his trade from his father Samuel, who also owned a tannery in the region. In turn, Daniel Royer's son, David, learned the trade. He operated the Royer tannery after Daniel's death in 1838.

It was a large and successful operation. In 1850, the tannery processed 3,500 hides; the same year, 300 cords of tanning bark were used. More than 40 in-ground vats were likely required to handle such a large quantity.

A tannery of this size probably employed eight or nine men, and would have included a tan shop and other sheds, a bark mill, a water source, and tanning vats. It was not unusual, as in the case of the Royer property, for the house to be near the tannery—imagine the smell!

#### Archeological Dig Reveals Tannery

In the late 1980s, archaeologist Will Sheppard and his team excavated the tannery site. Much of what we know about the Royer tannery was learned during that process. Upon completion of the project, the site was covered again to protect the remains of the tannery.

Sheppard also conducted extensive research on the tanning process, which he described in "A Good Summer's Tan: A Report on the Excavation of the Royer Tannery Site 1987-1988." According to that report, the tanning process involved several phases, which could take up to two years to complete! [Editor's note: the following information on the tanning process was largely gleaned from Sheppard's report.]



#### The Tanning Process – First Steps

Before any tanning process could be implemented, an animal had to be slaughtered and the hide removed. The butcher fleshed the carcass and the "back" [hide] was then treated with sea-salt, saltpeter or alum to prevent spoiling during transportation to the tanning house. Once the back reached the tanner, he commenced the labor-intensive tanning process.

First, the tanner removed the horns, ears and tails from the back and placed the back into running water (i.e. river or stream) for 30 hours to remove blood, salts and impurities.

#### Into the Lime Pits

Next, the back was placed into a used (weak) lime pit overnight, then allowed to dry beside the pit for three or four days.

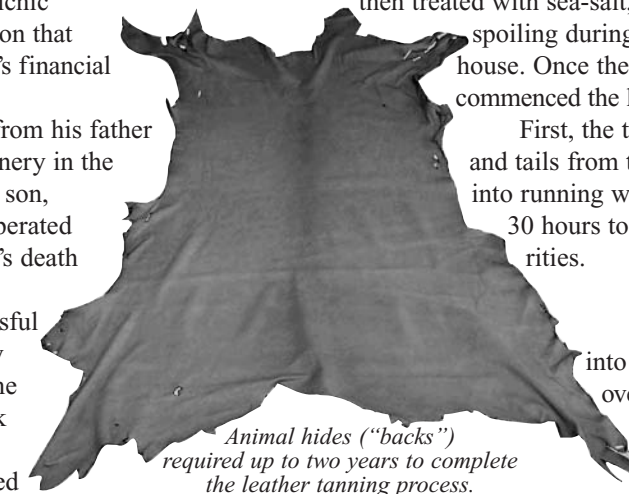
The back was then placed into a "strong" lime pit for two days, and then allowed to dry for four days.

For the next six weeks, the back was first placed into and then removed from a "strong" lime pit twice a week.

After this six-week process, the back was placed in fresh lime for eight days and allowed to dry for eight more days. This cycle was repeated over a period of 12 to 18 months. In hot weather, fresh lime was required every second week. When frost was on the ground, the pits could be left unreplenished for three months. During this entire series, the back was scraped over a wooden leg or horse at four-, five-, and six-week intervals, to remove hair.

#### Tanbark and Tanning Vats

After all the hair was removed, the back was washed in running water and scraped again over a wooden horse, then rubbed with a wet-stone to remove water and lime.



Animal hides ("backs") required up to two years to complete the leather tanning process.

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## 2008 Bay Supper Raises More Than \$15,000!



The 11th Annual Chesapeake Bay Supper was held on June 27, 2008, at the Waynesboro Country Club. This wonderfully successful annual event was attended by 202 hungry diners who ate their fill of steamed hard shell crabs, clams and other goodies. We were delighted to see a lot of new faces this year.

The dinner and auction netted \$15,512.87—our best ever!—and remains the top fundraiser event for the Institute.

Once again, **Allegheny Power** made a significant contribution in underwriting the cost of the crabs. And **Steve Graham** kindly repeated his donation of littleneck 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 now for next year's Supper: **Friday, June 26, 2009!!** If you'd like to be a part of the Bay Supper Committee, we would love to have you. Just call the Institute at 717-762-0373.

~The Bay Supper Committee

### Thank You...

Thanks to everyone who supported the supper including the following...

#### SPONSORS

Advanced Financial Security, Inc.  
Noelker & Hull Assoc., Inc.  
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Dr. Ronald F. Schultz  
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Today's Horizon Fund Contributors—JLG Industries, Inc.,  
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& Anonymous Donor

#### PATRONS

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Drs. Sharon & Melissa March	Charles & Undine Warner
Ed & Ann Miller	Bob & Linda Zimmerman

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

Thanks again to Steve Graham for providing the littleneck clams

Appreciation to Dave & Jane's Crab House, Fairfield, PA, for procuring, preparing and delivering the crabs

### More Thanks...

#### SILENT AUCTION DONORS

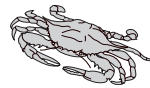
Leonora Bernheisel	Lisa Kline~NuVogue Studio
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Raymond Gehman	Ann Miller
Steve Graham	Harry & Jill Morningstar
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Pat & Jay Heefner	River & Trail Outfitters
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#### HEADS/TAILS DONORS

Pat & Jay Heefner  
Dick & Joann Hersh  
Papa John's Pizza  
Rolling Mill Restaurant  
Susan Small/The Lodge at Blue Ridge Summit



And...A huge **THANK YOU** to these planning committee members & their helpers:

Event Chair: Pat Heefner

Emcee: Allie Kohler

Auctions/Heads & Tails Game: Joann Hersh (Chair),  
Diana Keilholtz-Gunder, Allie Kohler,  
Cheryl Plummer

Decorations: Bay Supper Committee, Ann Miller  
& Jordan Trostle.

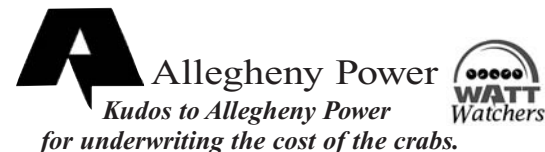
Invitations: Eunice Statler (Chair), Shirley Faith,  
Barbara Gaydick, Pat Heefner, Jo Ann Kohler,  
Angela Grove Weagly

Food & Arrangements: Jo Ann Kohler (Chair),  
Waynesboro Country Club—Executive Chef  
Geoff Sutton, Ronda Kleppinger & Staff

Window Dressing: from the Hersh & Kohler gardens

Balloon Ties & Helium Courtesy of  
John Ingels, Eichholtz Flowers, Waynesboro

WASH All-School Production (2007) "Seussical" Fish  
Created by Sue Kuhn & Angie Minnick



"Allegheny Power is proud to support Renfrew Institute and their environmental education programming, provided in part by the Chesapeake Bay Supper fundraiser. Allegheny Power also encourages our customers to use energy wisely. Our Watt Watchers program features information on energy conservation and efficiency. Conserving energy has two important benefits—reducing your bill and reducing the impact on the environment." —Edward C. Miller, Allegheny Power Regional Sales Manager & former Renfrew Institute board member

## Renfrew Institute is Pleased to Announce New Underwriting Support

In order to keep the proverbial wheels turning as we deliver programming to a growing community, it has been necessary to grow our operating budget. This responsibility requires that we successfully accomplish a couple of fundraising events throughout the year.

This past year's efforts received a boost from several local businesses. **The First National Bank of Mercersburg** provided underwriting support for our April event, the *Recycle/Reuse Yard Sale*. Waynesboro branch office manager, Maria Myers was familiar with Institute programs as a parent of participating children, so responded with enthusiasm to my invitation to become involved on behalf of the bank. Not only did she pledge financial support, but also donated cases of water for our food stand and appeared with her daughter on event day to volunteer. We are grateful for this new partnership and look forward to First National Bank of Mercersburg's, and Maria's, continued involvement with our spring event.

Also instrumental in this year's *Recycle/Reuse* success was new sponsor **Advance Auto Parts**. Store Manager Aggie Stell and Division Manager John Hummel wheeled right into the role of new underwriting supporter. Their contribution helped defray costs associated with organizing, promoting and administering the event.

Hummel remarked upon learning of our work and mission that he looked forward to continuing this new partnership into the future, citing a desire for Advance Auto Parts to create relationships with organizations that serve the communities where they do business.

Renfrew Institute's 1st Annual *Salamander Scramble 5K Fundraiser* also benefited from the generosity of area businesses. Event chair and institute board member, Bob Correll made a donation on behalf of **WACCO Properties, Inc.** Bob gave "blood, sweat and dough" to bring the effort to life. His commitment to the run brought him here on the trails twice a week to lead 'fun runs.' He offered advice on training strategies, arrived bearing iced drinks for fatigued runners, and then "wrote the check" to help cover expenses such as team t-shirts. Sincere thanks to Bob for his generosity of spirit and hard work that brought the *Salamander Scramble* to a dashing conclusion.

Also lined up to support the *Scramble* effort was **Kevin Ledden, Certified Professional Horticulturist**. Although Kevin managed to escape the rigors of speed-work and trail runs, his financial support helped offset administrative expenses in the event's inaugural year. We are grateful for his commitment to our first annual effort. It is our hope that others will follow the lead of these two

*Scramble* fans, by joining the athletic challenge of the 5K run, or settling for a less physically exerting workout with the checkbook. [See pg. 14 for more about the *Scramble*.]

For nearly two decades, **Eunice Statler** has been an ardent supporter of Renfrew Institute. Over the years, she has served in countless volunteer positions,

through two terms of service on the Institute's board of directors and beyond.

Eunice was instrumental in planning for the Institute's 10th Anniversary Celebration in 2000, has assisted with membership mailings, supported many a Pumpkin Fest, served cookies and lemonade in the August heat of Jazz Fest, and created, along with her "crabbie" committee cohorts, the perfect ambiance for our annual Chesapeake Bay Supper Fundraiser. As she has attended her Bay Supper responsibilities, we have also enjoyed watching Eunice's loyal "crabbie" assistant, granddaughter Jordan, grow tall, poised and beautiful.

Having made numerous generous donations for special projects and the

endowment fund, Eunice has once again extended her support beyond an annual membership gift. In a warm note that accompanied her recent membership renewal were instructions to use her "extra" donation in any way we felt useful, in memory of her late husband, **Charles Statler**. We have designated this generous gift in support of Summer Institute's program designed for our youngest naturalists, *Nose to Nose with Nature*.

Initiated in summer 2005, *Nose to Nose* offers a free-wheeling exploration of some of the most magical spots in the park to children aged kindergarten to grade 3. Institute faculty members lead an expedition, equipped with hand lenses and other cool "tools," in search of bugs, rain puddles, animal tracks, and weird and wonderful plants and critters that populate the nature trails and stream banks. Participants have waded knee deep into the rippling West Branch of the Antietam, engaged in fairy hut construction projects, and been seen in the far flung corners of our forest trails. The program has attracted repeat visitors and grown tremendously in popularity year by year. [Please see related photo on page 13.]

Eunice's gift will help us keep the *Nose to Nose with Nature* participant fee low, so that the experience is widely accessible, while permitting us to meet our expenses for staffing and administering the program. It is a great pleasure for us to help Eunice honor Charles's memory in this way. It is an equal pleasure to enjoy her friendship and enthusiastic involvement with the work and mission of Renfrew Institute.

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gifts  
New Sponsorships



## Sponsor Spotlight

### Angela Grove Weagly

Angela Grove Weagly has been a devoted supporter of Renfrew Institute beginning with her first annual membership gift in 1997. Since then, her embrace has widened to include service on the Institute's membership committee, which has placed her at numerous community events in the role of Renfrew Institute ambassador. Many occasions for volunteer help in assembling newsletter or membership mailings have found her, good naturedly, amidst tall stacks of envelopes and sheets of tricky self-adhesive labels.

In addition to annual membership and endowment contributions and volunteer service, Angela has demonstrated generosity on many occasions when a specific financial need has been identified. One such occasion arose when a decision was made by the membership committee to

purchase a display board for use at public events. This tool would professionalize the presentation of Institute materials and ease the assembly task for those preparing and exhibiting during community gatherings. Angela heard the committee



Angela Grove Weagly engages a family during a recent Pumpkin Festival as they wager a guess on the weight of the giant pumpkin.

ponder only briefly how the purchase of this board would be funded before stepping forward with an offer to contribute the dollars needed. It has proven to be a valuable addition to our effort to help others learn more about the Institute's activities.

Angela has made several monetary gifts, which have been instrumental in providing for varied funding needs of the organization. Following the death of her sister, Joyce Ceyler, in 2004, a portion of these gifts has been designated each year in support of the Institute's Earth Celebration Day in memory of Joyce and in honor of her brother-in-law, Richard Ceyler. A frequent attendee of the event, Angela knows the rich opportunity her gift helps to provide for folks from throughout the region to celebrate spring, and to connect with Earth's wonders and many local resources for stewardship and recreation.

Angela reflected on what has moved her to involvement with the Institute. "I will be forever thankful to

Mrs. Nicodemus, an unforgettable woman, for her treasured gift to the community and surrounding areas. I am especially proud that her gift has grown to encompass thousands of students and families whose lives are enriched through Institute programs."

We recognize the love and care Angela has for Renfrew Institute and its work in the community, and deeply appreciate her support of our activities, and her ready laughter and friendship.



## Sponsor Spotlight

### Jeff & Shirley Rock

Shirley and Jeff Rock first became supporters of Renfrew Institute in 1999 after attending programs with their young daughter. Kelsey was only 8 then—attending Summitview Elementary School, enjoying yearly outings at the Park, listening to "Mother Nature" and a cast of outdoor educators. She is now a high school senior, concluding her Waynesboro learning experiences and about to embark on the journey to college and beyond. According to her mom, she has grown into a curious and environmentally aware young woman, with a special interest in sea life that Shirley recalls was introduced during her participation in the institute's program, *Lifesavers of the Chesapeake Bay*. She enjoys being outdoors, a trait she shares with her parents.

Waynesboro has always been home for Jeff, who grew up here, but was active in the military for a 20-year career. Shirley hails from our northern neighbor, Canada. Growing up a "country girl," she found a special resonance in the Institute's programs that encouraged appreciation for the natural world. An avid gardener, she has been fulfilled both personally and professionally by getting her hands in the dirt.

In the years following her visits to Renfrew Institute programs with Kelsey, Shirley has often returned to the park trails for walks in the woods that she says help her remember "what it was like to be a kid, kick the leaves and relax in a place away from town life and concrete." These are exactly the values institute programs are designed to inculcate in our visitors, both young and old.

Several years ago upon reading *Streamside*, Shirley responded to a "funding needed" item on the wish list. She indicated that her family had been fortunate and wanted to share with an organization that had been important in their lives.

"There are so many non-profit organizations helping people in need and constantly searching for funds, and we all want to help in some way, but doing what we could to support Renfrew made it feel closer to home.

(continued on page 9)

It's also so important that we all learn what we can about the past, today's environment, and how each and every one of us can make a difference in the future of the world around us.

Renfrew's programs do this by welcoming our children to learn—and introduce the rest of us to a beautiful park to enjoy whenever we can!"

Shirley was careful to mention that experiences such as climbing into the giant leaf during the environmental education program *Green Energy*, as fourth grade students have done, can leave indelible memories with children...that they form a bond with the natural world and with Renfrew they will never forget. As we chatted, I was filled with gratification upon hearing true realization of the goals of Renfrew's educational programs and mission.

We're grateful for the generosity the Rocks have offered Renfrew Institute through support of *Streamside* and the *Lifesavers of the Chesapeake Bay* program over the years. We are also grateful for the joy with which they have embraced the lessons gleaned through Kelsey's annual journeys.



## Sponsor Spotlight

### William & Kathleen Kaminski

For nearly two decades, William and Kathleen Kaminski have been supporting Renfrew Institute through annual membership gifts. In recent years, the Kaminskis have made donations beyond their membership. During the summer of 2006, I received a note and a check from Bill, who had read in *Streamside* of the need for additional underwriting support for our first grade program, *Fall Walk*. He indicated that he wished to honor the memory of the late Margaret Keller with a gift in support of the *Fall Walk* experience. Keller herself had been an ardent supporter of the institute's educational programs for children, and Bill expressed pleasure in being able to help young students connect with the natural world, while honoring the memory of his friend.

Bill and Kathleen have sustained their support of



Students study a map of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed during the environmental program, *Lifesavers of the Chesapeake Bay*.

*Fall Walk* annually since that time. In addition, as a result of another *Streamside* tip, a cash donation was made in order to purchase a drawknife for Summer Institute's *Old Friends Are Worth Saving*. For the past two summers, that tool has been pressed into service by young visitors to hand craft wooden pegs used in assembling a traditional log structure. The construction project lasts most of a day, and takes budding historians and architects on a journey into the past, helping them develop first-hand knowledge of the labors involved in "raising" a building. Though the structure is temporary, the experience provides an opportunity for a team of young learners to put their shoulders into the work of seeing a building "grow" from sill plate to roof, through their newly acquired skills.

Both Bill and Kathleen have an abiding love and wonder for the beauty of the natural world. Kathleen, Wilson College Professor of Education, enjoys hiking the woodland trails of Franklin County with friends, and her dog, Sofia. Bill, semi-retired from the legal profession, has

relished putting his heel to the land, clearing brush, planting trees and creating a personal haven as he has transformed their Blue Ridge Summit surroundings into a retreat worthy of Thoreau's musings.

"Kathleen and I were fortunate enough to acquire what remained of an original working German farm in Franklin County, Pa. and Frederick County, Md. in 1989.

Largely due to our relationship with Renfrew, and the interest it kindled, we have undertaken a slow and exhaustive renovation of the foundations of the original farmhouse, two outbuildings, the barn, and a breeding pen.

All artifacts recovered as a result of these excavations are ultimately destined to go to Renfrew as our expression of appreciation for the joy and enrichment our association with Renfrew has brought us."

We are grateful to Bill and Kathleen for sharing their appreciation for the natural world and cultural history of the region, expressed through their personal endeavors as well as their support of Institute youth education programs.

Tracy Holliday



Students from Mrs. Yost's class at Mowrey Elementary explore changes in the fall woodlands with institute faculty member Stephanie "Firefly" Kober.

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.

## New Sponsorships

continued from page 7



PenMar Development Corporation Executive Director Rich Rook recently visited Renfrew Institute to observe environmental educational programming; Rook is pictured back row center, along with first grade teacher Mary Black, second from right, and her students and parent chaperones from Cascade Elementary School. PMDC has provided broad program support to Renfrew Institute through the Today's Horizon Fund.

Renfrew Institute is delighted to announce a new partnership with **PenMar Development Corporation** (PMDC), through its community enhancement initiative. PMDC has become a contributor to Renfrew Institute's *Today's Horizon Fund* with a donation of \$15,000 for use over a five-year period.

The *Today's Horizon Fund* was created to provide the Institute with unrestricted dollars for use in general operations. As its name implies, this fund allows the institute to address current operating needs, with an eye toward an expanding community horizon.

PMDC was established in 1997 by the state of Maryland. Its purpose is to oversee the economic re-development of Fort Ritchie (located in the northeastern corner of Washington County, Md. near the Pennsylvania border) from a U.S. Army base to civilian use. The Fort is being re-developed by Corporate Office Properties Trust

## Becky Dietrich Receives Environmental Artistry Award

Becky Dietrich of Mont Alto, Pa. received Renfrew Institute's 2008 Environmental Artistry Award, presented by Art Festival Chairperson, Bridget Brown at Earth Celebration Day & Festival of Art on Saturday, April 19, 2008.

Becky is a beloved and admired local artist and historian who has been a life-long champion of arts, culture and history in our local communities and the region. Becky is not only an accomplished artist herself, but has put her energy and enthusiasm into promoting other artists and encouraging youngsters and oldsters alike to express their creativity.

Brown commented, "Bec has always been such an enthusiastic and vocal supporter for local artists, encouraging and nurturing their growth on a routine basis. Her own love of creating art positively influences those around her."

**Congratulations, Becky!**

as a mixed-use corporate center. Plans include office, retail and some residential development.

Executive Director, Rich Rook, commented, "The PMDC board of directors is very pleased and proud that they are able to help support the wonderful educational opportunities that are available through Renfrew Institute to children of all the surrounding communities. The lessons on environmental and social responsibility are invaluable to these children and will have a life-long impact."

As the horizon changes for the Fort Richie community, PMDC's continued existence will ensure transition of the site to the private sector conforms to expectations of the parties. Meanwhile, thanks to a genuine commitment on the part of Rook and the currently seated board of directors, the community will indeed be enhanced.

**Alice Kretzer Mellott** moved to Washington Township in 1956 when she and her late husband, Charles (Bud) Mellott purchased a dairy farm on Honodel Road. As farmers, the Mellotts held great respect for the land that sustained them, just as it sustained the Royer family on the farmstead that existed at the site now known as Renfrew.

In the time since the Mellotts established their farm, four generations of Mellotts have visited Renfrew and attended institute programming. Children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and recently, great-great-grandchild Logan, who attended *Nose to Nose with Nature* this past summer, have represented generations of Mellotts who developed a relationship with the natural and cultural world through visits to Renfrew.

In learning from her daughter, Pat Shew (who serves on the Institute's board of directors) that funding support was needed for this newsletter, Mrs. Mellott acknowledged the connection Renfrew Institute has had to her family, and is glad to support its mission by underwriting *Streamside*.

We're grateful to have Mrs. Mellott's help as we communicate to our membership about institute activities.

Tracy Holliday



Becky Dietrich (center) is congratulated by Bridget Brown (left) and Melodie Anderson-Smith after receiving the Environmental Artistry Award during Earth Celebration Day in April.

## Drum Roll Please...

continued from page 1

and sometimes even a new program!

Adults, teens and families were engaged in various fall activities with us this year. A packed registration of 50 people (with waiting list) met PSU extension educator George Hurd in September for an excellent adult workshop on backyard composting. This will be offered again on May 7, 2009. We are already accepting registrations.

The family Owl Walk on November 13 also had full registration. Despite the misty night, 63 adults and children followed Institute staffer, Lori Schlosser into the woods and wetland meadow for a magical evening. The observant crowd was delighted by the vocal and visual appearance of Renfrew's resident screech owl, swooping in low and landing on a branch just above the owl watchers' heads! An adult/teen owl walk (age 15 and up) is scheduled for February 19. If you are interested, call now, as the limited registration is sure to fill.

Pumpkin Festival on October 18 was a major success for our two organizations (Renfrew Institute and Renfrew Museum & Park). Ideal weather and a large crowd made the day perfect and the proceeds high. Our thanks to everyone who attended or volunteered!

Stay tuned...there are many more Institute programs, workshops and events coming your way this winter and spring. Check out the calendar on page 22 and plan to join us! Best wishes to all for a happy & healthy new year!

Melodie Anderson-Smith

## Thanks

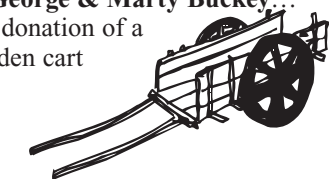
- ...to **Andrew Payne, Sarah & Kurt Schlosser** for helping staff member, Lori Schlosser, wash sit-upon cushions. [see related photos on page 15]
- ...to **Riley Ledden** for help with office mailings
- ...to **Bob & Martin Goldman** for repair work on the composting toilet building
- ...to **Pat Heefner** for weekly help in the institute office.
- ...to **Mary Ann Payne** for preparing student materials used in the school programs.
- ...to **Roy Struble** for assisting with PR mailings

## Special Thanks...

- ❖ **Pat Brezler**...for donation of Maxtor 200GB external hard drive
- ❖ **George & Marty Buckley**...for donation of a garden cart



"Now I have some back up!"



Young nature explorers wade into Antietam Creek at Renfrew Park during the summer program, Wednesdays in the Park: Nose to Nose With Nature. The program is geared for children aged kindergarten through third grade. Eunice Statler has provided underwriting support for the popular program.

## Antietam Watershed Association Still Growing...



Antietam Watershed Association

The AWA continues to grow. Community support has been phenomenal and our partnership with Renfrew Institute is such a vital part of our success. The stream monitoring program is headquartered at the institute and is always looking for more monitors. [Call the Institute at 762-0373 for more information.]

Washington Township has given AWA much input into the design of Antietam Meadow Park, located along N. Welty Road. Work there began in earnest last month. The review of the West Branch has been completed, and we are moving into the next stage, which will include restoration projects. If you live along the West Branch, please contact us. We are looking for sites.

A backyard riparian buffer program is moving forward. Patrick Brezler, our treasurer, has developed a wonderful presentation about AWA and our watershed.

Groups may arrange to have a program. Call 717-762-9417 for more information, or visit our website, [www.antietamws.org](http://www.antietamws.org).

Next general meeting, Wed., January 21, 2009, 7 p.m., at Washington Township Municipal Offices on Welty Road.

Pat Heefner



# Summer Fun at Renfrew

Summer Institute once again brought many kids and much positive energy to Renfrew Park from late June through July 2008. There were busy hands and lots of learning going on amidst all the fun!

*Summer Stories* captivated young children each week under the tree near the Visitors Center.

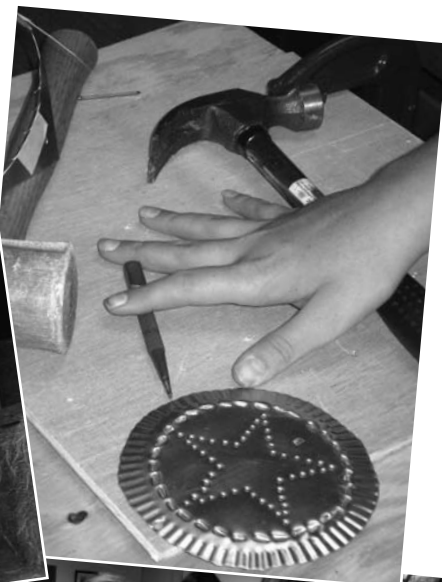
*Nose to Nose with Nature* offered fun and frolicking—in the stream and around the park—for children from K to grade 3.

Older kids enjoyed their nature-walk venture *Into the Woods* again this summer.

*Old Friends are Worth Saving*, a workshop on historic preservation, introduced youth to the old buildings at Renfrew. It included an opportunity to try some “people-powered” tools and assemble a log cabin.

Always popular, the *Heritage Crafts* series presented eight workshops this year. Workshops included Tinsmithing, Quilting, Leatherwork, Basketry, Pottery, Fun with Fibers and Scherenschnitte. Students created and took home a multitude of beautiful handmade projects.

A new feature of Summer Institute this year was special programming for groups, such as libraries and the YMCA. Options included a cultural history program or an environmental program—*Into the Past* or *Adventures in Nature*. Scheduled in advance, several organizations arranged group visits and enjoyed programs full of fun!



## How Does a Salamander Scramble?



Some faster than others, as we learned during the Institute's 1st Annual Salamander Scramble 5K Fundraiser. A team of 15 runners was fielded to compete in Waynesboro's

Summer Jubilee Firecracker 5K road race on July 4.

Under the leadership of institute board member, Bob Correll, each runner raised funds in support of institute programming through pledges from friends and family.

Participants gathered for a series of pre-race conditioning "fun runs" on the trails in and around Renfrew Park. With several elite competitive runners, the team also included less experienced runners with recreational or fitness-oriented goals.

Artist Tom McFarland, who created the cool Scrambler logo (shown above) for team t-shirts, showed up on race day to cheer the team on. Results were worthy of cheers, with several team members medaling in their age divisions. Medalists include Ironman competitor Sarah Boward, second place open class female (19.14), Michelle Benchoff, third place open class female (21.12), and Lauren Meckley, second in W 16-19 age class (22.23). Three members of *Team Salamander* swept the 60-plus age class: first place Peggy Weller (28.19), second place Beckie Sariano (30.15) and our own Melodie Anderson-Smith in third place (30.50).

This inaugural effort slightly exceeded the event's

income goal of \$2,500, thanks to the enthusiasm of *Team Salamander*, as well as underwriting support by **WACCO Properties, Inc.** and **Kevin Ledden, Certified Professional Horticulturalist.**

"Renfrew Institute plans to make the *Salamander Scramble* an annual event," said committee chair Correll, "and will gladly accept new team members and additional sponsors for 2009." Interested persons should contact Tracy Holliday at the institute for information, 717-762-0373.

An assemblage of runners has continued to gather weekly following the *Scramble* upon an invitation by



Renfrew Institute's "Salamander Scramble" team wore bright green t-shirts with an original logo designed by local artist and teacher, Tom McFarland.

Runners included (left to right) front: Melodie Anderson-Smith, Diane Wilson and Lauren Meckley, center: Tammy Blakey, Bea Bocalandro, Peggy Weller, Beckie Sariano, Sarah Boward, John Kelley, Michelle Benchoff, and rear: Tracy Holliday, Fred Skroban, Bill Pflager and Bob Correll. Team member Stephanie Kober, not pictured, ran as a satellite affiliate in a "remote location."

Correll to build the foundation for a local running club. Diane Wilson has provided leadership and enthusiasm as she introduced local running aficionados to the universally recognized Harrier Hash Hounds game. This friendly competition features a "hare" setting off ahead of the field of "hounds," who follow a chalk line trail of clues in pursuit of the hare. The game provides an opportunity to enjoy friendly competition in the companionship of others for a good training run.

While salamanders scramble both fast and slow, the *Salamander Scramble 5K Fundraiser* proved to be an extremely gratifying experience that united a community of

runners—old friends and new—around the cause of fundraising for Renfrew Institute. We are grateful for the energy and zeal each participant brought to the team and hope this may be the beginning of a "long running" tradition.

Tracy Holliday

## Recycle/Reuse Yard Sale—Success!

A warm sunny day drew lots of visitors to Renfrew Institute's 3rd Annual Recycle/Reuse Yard Sale on Saturday, April 19. Fifty vendor spaces were filled with "treasures." Sales went well and food was plentiful with unusual items such as Ploughman's lunches (bread, apple, and cheese in a cloth napkin), pita bread and hummus, the ever-popular hot dog and yummy baked goods.

The event continues to grow and combining it with Earth Day activities was a wonderful idea. Profit this year was \$2,568.19. Institute table sales netted just over \$300, vendor spaces brought in \$520, but food sales were the biggest money generator, bringing in more than \$1400.

Thanks to all who helped make the event a success. Local businesses were very generous and donated bread,

apples, cheese, rolls, doughnuts, hummus and coffee and tea. Individuals baked pita bread, brownies, cookies, and even energy bars. Board and staff members donated good used items for the sale table. Most importantly, many people gave of their time on Saturday to help make it all a reality—we couldn't do it without you!

**Business Donors to the 2008 Yard Sale Food Stand...**  
**Applebees Neighborhood Bar & Grill**  
**The Butcher Shoppe • Dave's Wholesale Produce • Food Lion Store 1663 • Frank's Pizza • Henicle's Market • Johnnie's Restaurant Supply • Krumpe's Do-Nut Shop • Martin's Famous Pastry Shoppe**

**NEXT YARD SALE:**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009**

## Chesapeake Promises/Downstream

continued from page 3

successful in partnering with farmers and developers to solve watershed protection issues. Your membership lends support and strength for AWA's community efforts.

Second, if you live along the creek, AWA is about to launch an incredible new program called Buffer in a Box. You can receive training and materials to establish your own backyard vegetation buffer along your stream "reach" (your section of stream) for a very minimal cost. Call or email us for more information.

Third, we can encourage our elected officials to make sound decisions with regard to land use issues. Ordinances enforcing effective vegetation buffer zones along our streams are already under consideration and need to be put in place as soon as possible. Incentives are needed for building developments that not only meet local regulations for storm water management, but exceed the requirements with innovative technologies and common-sense solutions. Farmland preservation, supported at the county and state level, can be strengthened by helping farmers recoup the costs involved in keeping the farm a farm and to preserve the agricultural heritage so important to our area.

Fourth, we can celebrate our watershed. Through festivals, fairs and a myriad of public events, we can bring attention to the value of our water resources for

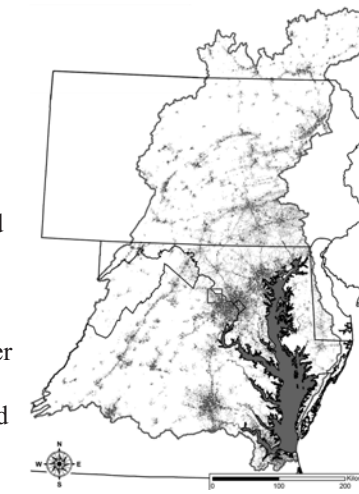
work, for play, for life. Celebration brings hope and commitment.

And now, a promise: Renfrew Institute will continue to provide the educational programs and celebrations that foster watershed awareness and action. We will help our kids learn about the Bay, about the Antietam, about wetlands and watersheds and our stewardship responsibilities in our own backyards. We will celebrate Earth Day, spotlighting those businesses and agencies that can help us use water wisely and take care of our aquatic resources. We will feature the artists and musicians who touch our hearts and remind us of the beauty of nature and its life. We will offer lectures, workshops and field trips to enrich the environmental knowledge of our adult audiences. We will partner with others, like AWA, to broaden the scope of our local initiatives.

Further, we will listen to YOUR ideas for new programs and activities. We will welcome YOUR involvement. We will provide a hub for YOUR inquiries and discussions. We will help YOU connect

with answers. Let us hear from you, attend our programs, join our efforts to preserve our cultural and natural heritage. Who knows, working together we just might save the Antietam Creek...and that, along with all the other "saves," I promise you, WILL help save the Chesapeake Bay.

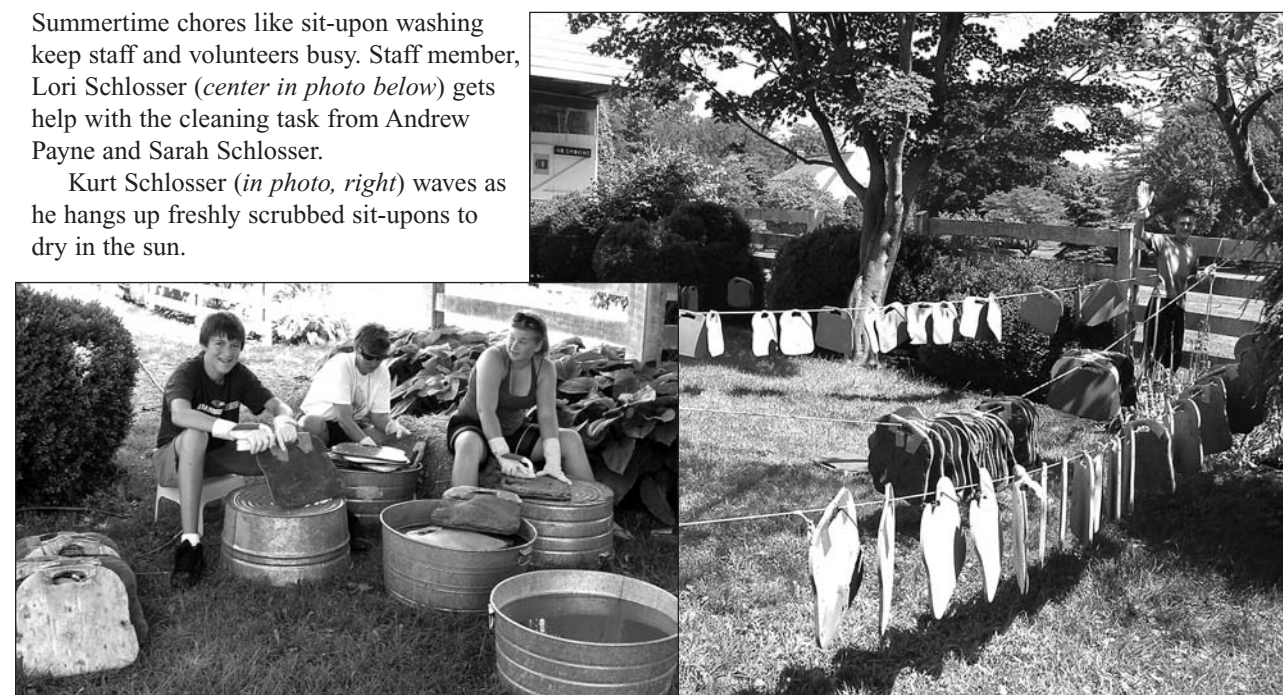
**See 'Positives & Negatives for the Bay' for related information on page 22.**



## Scrub-adub-dub, Sit-upons in a Tub

Summertime chores like sit-upon washing keep staff and volunteers busy. Staff member, Lori Schlosser (center in photo below) gets help with the cleaning task from Andrew Payne and Sarah Schlosser.

Kurt Schlosser (in photo, right) waves as he hangs up freshly scrubbed sit-upons to dry in the sun.







## EarthSeekers Heads to the Bay!

The *EarthSeekers* program is about to expand to new territory in our Chesapeake Bay region. The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) located at Edgewater, Md., will launch a sister program soon at its Philip D. Reed Education Center on the Rhode River, a sub-estuary of the Bay.

During a visit to Renfrew in August the SERC education staff learned what it takes to set up an *EarthSeekers* headquarters at a nature center. Renfrew Institute Executive Director Melodie Anderson-Smith hosted SERC School Programs Coordinator, Jane Holly, Outreach Coordinator, Karen McDonald, and docent, Carla Downs for lunch in the park followed by a walk-through of the *EarthSeekers* nature center sessions.

Holly knew of the program through attendance at a workshop presented by Anderson-Smith at the Maryland Association of Outdoor and Environmental Educators at Rocky Gap State Park in March of 2008.

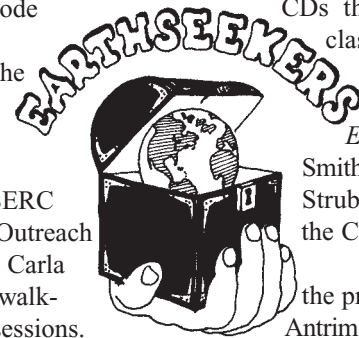
Holly followed up with email communication to Anderson-Smith and plans were made for the August meeting in Waynesboro. Both organizations are excited

about the collaboration that could lead to the development of Bay-related activities to add to the *EarthSeekers* curriculum.

For now, local efforts are focused on completion of CDs that will include the nature center manual, classroom teacher manual and materials for home-based sessions, along with complete instructions on how to set up an *EarthSeekers* program anywhere. Anderson-Smith and Institute publicity director, Andrea Struble have been working on the documents for the CDs over the past three months.

After many years of experience running the program at Renfrew and at Greencastle-Antrim's Tayamentasachta Center for Environmental Studies, the local *EarthSeekers* co-authors, Anderson-Smith and Charles White are looking forward to accelerated release of *EarthSeekers* to the field of environmental education.

For more information about *EarthSeekers* please call Melodie at RI office 717-762-0373 or email her at renfrewinst@innernet.net.



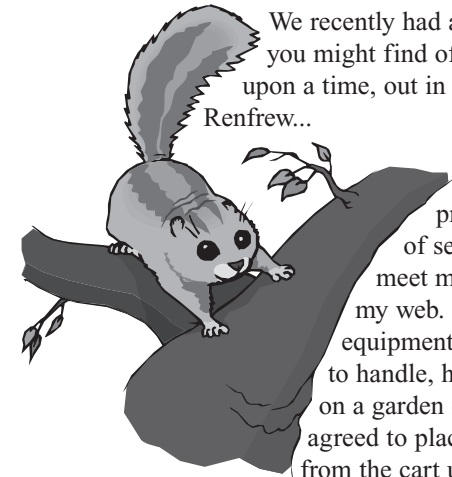
Renfrew Institute Executive Director Melodie Anderson-Smith (in baseball cap) hosted Jane Holly (above, right), Karen McDonald (upper left), and Carla Downs from the The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) for lunch in the park followed by a walk-through of the *EarthSeekers* nature center sessions.

Photo credits: Carla Downs (SERC)

## Squirrel Bait

by Sydney The Spider (aka Robert North—"Uncle Tietam"—institute faculty member)

*Editor's Note: Sydney's Wonder Web is a second-grade program during which students learn about the nine parts of nature and how they are interrelated. Students help puppet character Sydney, the spider, make her web complete. Uncle Tietam is Sydney's assistant for the program. Upon completion of their quest, young naturalists earn a bead necklace, which they assemble to help them remember the discoveries they made.*



We recently had an experience that you might find of interest. Once upon a time, out in the forests of Renfrew...

Uncle Tietam had come out to prepare for a group of second graders to meet me and learn about my web. Since much of the equipment is too big for me to handle, he brought it out on a garden cart. He had agreed to place certain things from the cart upon my web.

Also, he would place other

things in the various places that the children and he would visit. This is the way the group learns about the "web" of connections among the nine parts of nature.

Uncle Tietam said that he'd brought his lunch along, so that between the morning and afternoon sessions he could grab a bite to eat. Once he was all set up for the morning class, he bade me good-bye and set off for the visitors' center to greet the students.

And a critter passed by among the branches overhead. Soon I heard the happy sounds of children approaching. Uncle Tietam returned with his charges. He and I introduced the class to the parts of nature and their interdependencies—but oh, there was a missing part of nature, and four missing banners. Mother Nature's assignment said that I must have all of these items to make my web complete...

With this explanation, we invited the children to take a walk with Uncle Tietam through the natural areas of Renfrew to look for the missing items. As they did so, they engaged in activities to illustrate four ways that the parts of nature are dependent upon other parts.

This all took a little more than an hour. The children were then to return and add the banners and missing part of nature—themselves!—to my web, to satisfy Mother Nature.

And, again, a critter passed by among the branches overhead—and paused, and sniffed, then descended from the tree.

He walked and hopped about with his nose in the air, nearer and nearer to Uncle Tietam's cart. Then, up into the cart he jumped. I heard scrabbings and little happy snufflings. The rascal jumped down with part of Uncle Tietam's lunch and made his way into the nearest pine tree. A ways up, he paused, stowed his loot, and came

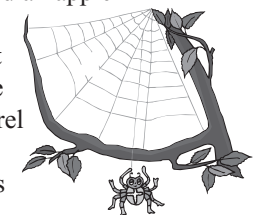
back for more! Knowing his business, he quickly made off with something in a little plastic bag. This item being too bulky for climbing, he ran off across the lane and into a thick clump of bushes and trees. At this point, I heard excited shouts from the children as they returned after their lessons.

Uncle Tietam later told me: "One of the children shouted, 'Uncle Tietam, there's a squirrel—what does he have in his mouth?'"

"Sydney," he says to me, "I could tell right away that he had a granola bar Aunt Tietam had made for my lunch. I had to make a professional decision about chasing that squirrel or attending to the children—and duty called. You know that we came back to your web and completed the session, necklaces and all."

As they were about to leave, one of the children blurted out, "Uncle Tietam, is that your apple up there?" Sure enough, the squirrel had parked an apple in the forks of the pine tree. After the children left, Uncle Tietam poked it down with a long stick. He even ate around the small part that the squirrel had enjoyed.

Since all this, Uncle Tietam is more careful about his lunch.



Sydney, the Spider



### Uncle Tietam's Squirrel Bait Granola Bars

- |                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 9 c. Rice Chex, crushed          | 26 oz. marshmallows    |
| 6 c. oatmeal                     | 1 1/2 c. peanut butter |
| 6 whole graham crackers, crushed | 3/4 c. honey           |
| 1/2 c. wheat germ or milled flax | 1 1/2 c. choc. chips   |
| 1 c. butter                      |                        |

Mix Chex, oatmeal, graham crackers and wheat germ (or flax) in a large bowl.

Melt butter in saucepan; add marshmallows and melt, stirring constantly. Add peanut butter; stir well.

Turn off heat and add honey. Pour mixture over the dry ingredients and mix well. Add chips and mix.

Pour mixture into one large and one small jelly-roll pan; spread and press.

Cool until hardened, then cut into bars.

Note 1: We refrigerate or cool these to avoid stickiness.

Note 2: Make sure squirrels don't know you have them!

~Aunt Tietam

## The Royer Tannery *continued from page 5*

The cleaned backs were layered in tanning vats with a layer of tanbark between each one. Water was allowed into the vat. The backs would be removed and the tannin strength increased five times for strong backs, and three-to-five times for weaker backs. [Tanbark, harvested from local trees, contained natural tannins; the astringent properties of tannin aids the tanning process.]

Backs were left in the tanning vats for varying periods of time. After removal, the back was air-dried and stretched using weights, usually in a temperate location such as the attic of the shop.

### Finishing the Leather

Currying was the finishing process, and involved shaving the flesh side of the hides and oiling the leather. The tanner could do this work, or send the backs to a currier. The finished leather—

a product of nearly two years' labor—was sent to craftsmen such as shoe wrights, tailors and harness makers. Leather was an important commodity, and necessary for many everyday items.

Skins more fragile than those from oxen or cattle—from dogs, goats, sheep and deer—were often processed with a method called "tawing." This alternate process did not use tannin, and yielded lighter-colored leather. Tawing was employed with finer hides and the leather produced was appropriate for creating delicate items.

In both tanning methods, nothing was wasted. Parts of the hide not processed for leather were put to other

uses. The horns were saved for buttons and combs. Hair became an ingredient in plaster and mortar, and was used in upholstered furniture. Scraps of flesh, extra pieces of hide and hooves were made into glue.

David Royer, Daniel Royer's son, died in 1860 and the tannery ceased operation around 1862. It took two years for the remaining hides to be completed before the tannery closed for good.

Thanks to a recent gift from William H. Gelbach, Jr., new interpretation of the Royer tannery has begun.

Renfrew Institute began its interpretation of the tannery with a leather workshop for area youth in July.

The workshop was part of the summer Heritage Crafts series, which introduces children to the crafts of our ancestors. Under the guidance of invited artist Ed Beard, students created leather pouches to take home, and visited the

Royer tannery site to learn about its history. We look forward to continuing the interpretation of the tannery for both children and adults.

### References:

- Early American Life* (February 1975), The Art and Mystery of Tanning.
- Sheppard, William. *A Good Summer's Tan: A Report on the Excavation of the Royer Tannery Site 1987-1988*. 1989.
- Sheppard, William. *The Tanner and Boundary Maintenance: Determining Ethnic Identity*. 1988.



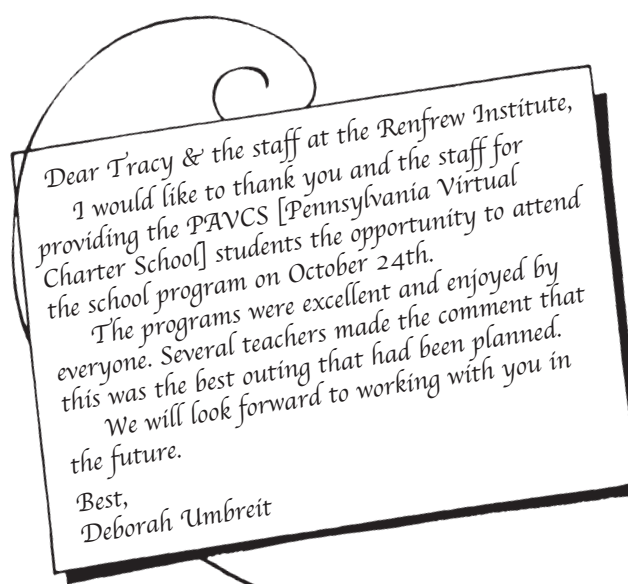
Area artist Clyde Roberts created this interpretation, in watercolors, of what the Royer tannery may have looked like, with the tan shop, tanning vats to the right, and workers going about various phases of the tanning process. Image courtesy of Renfrew Museum & Park.

## Board of Directors

Renfrew Institute's 2008-09 Board of Directors gathered for a group photo. Front (l to r): Pat Shew, Maxine Beck, Linda Zimmerman, Pat Heefner, Liane Miller Benchoff. Back (l to r): John Schall, Denny Koons, Matt Gunder, Dick Hersh, Tom Singer, Richard Mohn, Mike Cordell, Bob Correll.



Not pictured: Marc Desrosiers, Steve Graham, Sherri Plummer, Donna Steiner. The Institute recently bid adieu to four board members, and welcomed four new members—see related articles on page 4 & page 23.



## 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

Joann Baker  
First National Bank  
of Mercersburg  
A. Owen Freas III  
Matt Gunder  
John & Kira Hamman  
M&T Investment Group—  
Emma W. Hutton Trust  
Rhonda McFarland  
Alice Mellott

Ray & Ginnie Miller  
PenMar Development  
Corporation  
Annette Saylor  
Fred & Beth Skroban  
William H. Smith  
Ed & Irene Steinberger  
Robert & Betty Waring  
Kirk Wishard

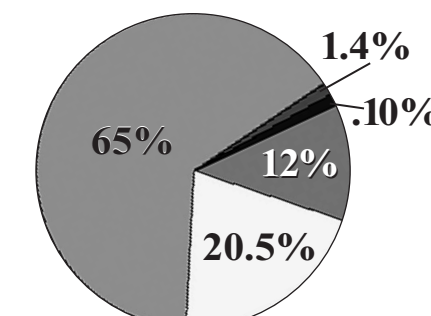
## Renfrew Institute's Financial Health

### Renfrew Institute Financial Statement 2007-08

(July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008)

Operating Income		Operating Expenses	
Memberships	\$33,316	Salaries, Benefits, FICA	\$128,427
Capital Income	2,000	Capital Expense	494
Bequests, Memorials	19,416	(Visitor Ctr. storage furniture)	
Student Fees (inc. adult/teen wksp)	28,786	Community Events	6,864
Grants/Sponsorships	43,400	Fund Raisers	10,912
(educational programs/publications)		Suppl., Printing, Postage	15,028
Grants/Sponsorships	8,009	(programs, office, newsletter, etc.)	
(community events)		Professional Devel.	1,471
Grants/Today's Horizon Fund	12,000	Admin./Consult. Fees	1,450
(devel. support)		Phone/Internet/Equip. Maint.	1,780
Fund Raisers (Pumpkin Fest,	36,194	Insurance	3,294
Haunted Farm, Bay Supper)		Misc. (petty cash, bank fees)	157
Other (special projects,	10,286		
interest, misc. donations, etc.)			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$193,407</b>	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$169,877</b>

### Renfrew Institute Assets as of 6/30/08



12%—Checking Account—\$19,497  
.10%—Petty Cash—\$100  
20.5%—M&T Securities (reserve/holding)—\$32,890  
65%—Endowment Fund/Margaret Keller Fund—\$103,936 (these two combined)  
1.4%—Accounts Receivable—\$2,249  
1%—Prepaid Expenses—\$1,809

**TOTAL ASSETS: \$160,481**

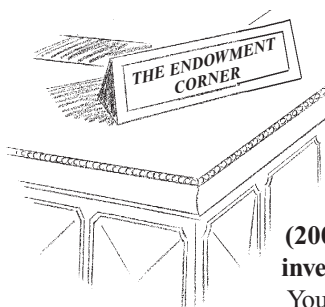
## Endowment Fund Update

We are very inspired by the strong giving of our members and friends for this fund every year. In spite of difficult economic times, we hope you will be able to help in some way. Thank you!

Thanks also to our endowment trustees, **George Buckey, Lynn MacBride and Christopher Richwine** for their care and management of the fund. **Donations last year (2007-08) totaled \$43,789.10! Total donations into the fund since it began in 1999 plus investment interest as of June 30, 2008 = \$103,396!!**

You should have received a mailing in December 2008 for our annual supplemental giving campaign for the fund. Enclosed is our brochure, *Legacy Giving*, which encourages potential donors to consider several options for planned giving to Renfrew Institute. Please look over the brochure and see if a legacy giving option might be a good fit for YOUR future as well as for Renfrew Institute's.

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 more information, please call our office 717-762-0373 or email us at [renfrewinst@innernet.net](mailto:renfrewinst@innernet.net).



## Positives & Negatives for the Bay (continued from *Chesapeake Promises/Downstream*, page 15)

- + PA voters approved a \$400 million bond referendum to help pay for wastewater treatment plant upgrades in the Bay watershed as well as statewide water and sewer infrastructure improvements.
- Nitrogen pollution due to precipitate from the air is increasing rapidly as a result of population growth and increased numbers of vehicles in the watershed.
- Blue crab populations have declined 70% in the past 15 years, with the soft shell and peeler crab industry declining 41% since 1990.
- Bay oyster populations are still at historic lows. A non-native oyster is being considered for introduction.
- + PA could become a national leader in "next generation" biofuels made from crops that provide better erosion control, require less fertilizer and produce more BTUs than corn.
- +/- New computer models for assessing region-wide water and pollution flows are much more accurate and realistic, but are expected to show that the Bay cleanup will take even longer than expected.

Sources: 2008 Bay Journals (March, Sept., Nov., Dec.); Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin; PA Dept. of Environmental Protection

## Winter/Spring 2008-09 Calendar of Events

### Basketry Workshop

Saturday January 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Visitors Center [Snowdate Saturday, January 31]. Underwriting support provided by Beauchat & Beauchat, LLC of Gettysburg Susan Matson will teach participants how to create a "Loaves or Letters" basket. Instruction in basic weaving techniques; color accents may be added. Options include creating a closed base and/or adding hand-carved oak end handles. Workshop fee: \$25/members of Renfrew Institute, \$30/non-members. Pre-registration required. Ages 15 and up. Basic materials fee: \$9. Additional materials fee for handles: \$15.

### Special Program – Galileo's New Universe

Thursday, January 22, 7 p.m., Visitors Center [Snowdate Thursday, January 29]. Presented in partnership with Tri-State Astronomers. Underwriting support provided by Beauchat & Beauchat, LLC of Gettysburg Dr. Lawrence Marschall, W.K.T. Sahn Professor of Physics, Gettysburg College presents a lecture celebrating the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first use of the telescope. The program includes his discoveries and how astronomy has advanced since his time. Free & open to the public. Donations accepted.

### Creatures of the Night – Owl Walk for Teens/Adults

Thursday, February 19, 6:30 p.m., meet at Visitors Center Underwriting support provided by Beauchat & Beauchat, LLC of Gettysburg

**NOTE: Limited enrollment of 50. Please register ahead.**

Institute faculty member, Lori Schlosser, conducts this outdoor walk to areas of Renfrew Park most likely to attract owls, including the Screech, Barred and Great Horned owls. Open to adults ages 15 and up. Dress warmly and bring flashlights. FREE, but donations accepted.

### Star Party

Thursday, Feb. 26 (date to be confirmed). Weather permitting. Viewing will run from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Presented in partnership with Tri-State Astronomers. Underwriting support provided by Beauchat & Beauchat, LLC of Gettysburg View the night sky with the experts! Tri-State Astronomers will set up telescopes in the backyard of the museum house.

### Spring Lecture Series (3-part) "Ecological...Economical...ENERGY"

Thursdays March 5, 12, & 19 [to be confirmed] 7 p.m., Visitors Center Underwriting support provided by Charles & Undine Warner and by Beauchat & Beauchat, LLC of Gettysburg The "hottest and coolest" information about solar, wind and geothermal alternatives for producing home energy. Learn how to save money and live more sustainably. Admission FREE (donations accepted). Request our flyer with all details.

### Buffer in a Box Training Workshop

Tuesday, March 31, 6:30 p.m., Visitor Center Presented through a partnership with Antietam Watershed Association & The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Homeowners who live along streams in our area will learn how to build a backyard vegetative buffer area along their creek or other water feature. The "Box" given to each household will provide plants and full instructions. Seating is limited and pre-registration is required. Small fee to be determined. Call for details or check the AWA website: www.antietamws.org

### Renfrew Rocks! – Geology Seminar & 2 Field Trips! "From the Sea to the Swamp"

**SEMINAR: Thursday, April 2, 7 p.m., Visitors Center  
ADULT FIELD TRIP 1: Saturday, April 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Gettysburg area (battlefield geology)**

**FAMILY FIELD TRIP 2: Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Perry County (fossil hunt)**

Presented in partnership with the Franklin County Rock & Mineral Club. Underwriting support provided by Beauchat & Beauchat, LLC of Gettysburg Jeri Jones, geology professor and consultant, presents this informative and enjoyable geology experience. Free slide talk on Thursday (donations accepted). Field trip transportation by bus only, provided. Fee per each field trip: \$25/members of Renfrew Institute, \$30/non-members.

### Bird Walks at Renfrew

Saturdays in April & May, 7:30-10 a.m. Underwriting support provided by Beauchat & Beauchat, LLC of Gettysburg Guest leaders will join veteran birder Willard Rahn to launch bird walks along the hiking trails at Renfrew Park. Meet at Renfrew's lower parking lot off Welty Road. Free to the public.

### 15th Annual "Renfrew Fun Fly"—All Ages Welcome

Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m., 4 p.m. Underwriting support provided by Buchanan Auto Sales Kite flying (10-4) and kid's kite workshop (11 a.m.-noon) with kite man, Bill Flohr, in the meadow behind the museum house. Workshop material fee, \$1. Free flying (bring your own kite).

### Earth Celebration Day & Festival of Art 2009 Plus~ Recycle/Reuse Yard Sale

Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (Yard Sale 9 a.m.-3 p.m.) Underwriting support provided by Angela Grove Weagly in memory of Joyce Grove Ceyler and in honor of Richard D. Ceyler; and by IESI PA Corp. More info coming in Spring issue of *Streamside!*

**More programs for spring are being planned.  
Call 717-762-0373 for complete listing.**

## Departing Board Members

We extend our thanks to four departing board members who have completed terms or moved from the area.

As is our tradition for departing board members, **Debbie Pflager** was given a wooden cookie award to honor her service. The cookie dubbed her, "Queen of Everything" for good reason. She has been an extraordinary worker in so many aspects of Renfrew Institute's life. As co-chair of the annual Pumpkin Festival, Debbie has led the way through years of organization and volunteer recruitment. She is still at the helm, giving the event her enthusiasm and energy. Debbie also chairs the Recycle/Reuse Yard Sale held each year in April.

Debbie began her involvement with the Institute as a member of the teaching staff. Known to the children as Ooltowah (meaning "owl" in Cherokee) Debbie taught many of our environmental and cultural programs before resigning to take a full time position as technology coordinator in the Waynesboro Area School District. She came to the Institute board in 2002 and served on many committees and projects.

**Jim Rock** served the Institute from 2002 to 2008, wielding the gavel as president during his last two years. Jim's wooden cookie award gave him the title of "Builder of Futures." His quiet leadership and generous spirit contributed much to the Institute. Jim was especially helpful in addressing the needs of the staff. Providing pro bono service from his construction company GRC Contractors, Inc. Jim's carpenters repaired the four-square garden terrace wall and completed a major "box-in" job helping to quiet a noisy restroom exhaust fan that vibrated the desks in the institute office. In addition, Jim served on the joint museum and institute Renfrew Exploratory Facilities Ad-hoc Committee, which helped both organizations look into the future with regard to overall facilities needs.

**Diana Keilholtz-Gunder** brought her "cheerleader" spirit to the board along with a strong sense of ambassadorship. Her role on the membership and development committees helped the institute open new doors to generous sponsors and prospective members. Diana's

visits to the Institute office were always filled with smiles and praise for the work of the staff. In addition, Diana brought ideas. The Institute's inaugural Membership Building Reception was her brainchild. She guided its development and provided gracious, accomplished hostess skills to bring the event to fruition. One of Diana's most important contributions was her leadership of the silent and live auctions for the annual Bay Supper fund-raiser. She carried this out for several years, securing great items and displaying them beautifully. Diana also served on the Institute's strategic planning committee bringing excellent vision and ideas to help steer the Institute's future. Diana's wooden cookie award read, "Goodwill Grower."

**Tom Singer**, who served on the board since 2005, recently accepted a new professional opportunity in Cincinnati, Ohio. His resignation from the board came just as he was about to begin a new three year term. We will miss Tom, but are pleased to welcome Steve Graham into Tom's seat.

As chair of the Development Committee, Tom was involved in promoting the Today's Horizon Fund, designed to generate multi-year large gifts in support of general operations and program development work not covered through other funding. He successfully recruited the charter donor to the fund, JLG Industries, Inc.

Tom also served on the Finance Committee bringing a quick wit and even quicker mathematical skills to budget meetings. He was chair of the personnel committee helping to identify and support the needs of the staff. We wish Tom well as he begins his new chapter in Cincinnati.

### RENFREW INSTITUTE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda F. Zimmerman, *President*  
John Schall, *Vice-President*  
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Dennis L. Koons  
Richard A. Mohn  
Cheryl S. Plummer  
Patricia A. Shew

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Melodie Anderson-Smith, *Executive Director*  
Tracy Holliday, *Assistant Director/Grants Administrator*  
Sherry Hesse, *Director of Cultural Studies*  
Beverly McFarland, *Accounts Manager*  
Andrea Struble, *Director of Public Relations*  
Doris Goldman, *Faculty*  
Nancy Hall, *Faculty/WaterStriders Instructor*  
Stephanie Kober, *Faculty*  
Robert J. North, *Faculty*  
Pamela Rowland, *Faculty*  
Lori Schlosser, *Faculty*  
Beth Skroban, *Faculty*  
Nora Slick, *Faculty/Summer Institute Coordinator*

Thank you to the following who have each made a special donation to Renfrew Institute

*in memory of...*

**Warren Large**  
by Steve Graham

*in memory of...*

**Don Shade**  
by Audrey S. Eshelman

*in memory of...*

**Robert Matt**  
by Angela Grove Weagly

## Our Wish List...

- ❖ Card tables—used, in good condition
- ❖ Book: *Animal Tracks*, Peterson Field Guide
- ❖ Book: *An Instant Guide to Weather*, by Eleanor Lawrence & Borin Van Loon; Gramercy Books, 1992.
- ❖ Book: *Chipmunk Song*, by Joanne Ryder; Lodestar Books, E.P. Dutton, NY. (Hardback please)
- ❖ Book: *Beetles*, Peterson Field Guide, by Richard E. White
- ❖ Book: *Soil! Get the Inside Scoop* by David L. Lindba; Soil Science Society of America; available online at [www.societystore.org](http://www.societystore.org) or by phone 1-608-268-4960 (item #: B60913) OR donate \$23 to Renfrew Institute for purchase of the book (includes \$3 S&H) and we will order it!
- ❖ Funding for replacement items in period clothing for instructors—any amount appreciated!
- ❖ Additional underwriting sponsors for this newsletter, educational programs or community events

## Wish List “Thank You”

- ❖ **Pat O’Connor:** Additional underwriting sponsorship of this newsletter! See front cover. Also the following books—*What Are Wetlands?* By Bobbie Kalman; *Leapfrogging Through Wetlands* by Margaret Anderson, Nancy Field and Karen Stephenson; *On Meadowview Street* by Henry Cole; *What Do You Do With a Tail Like That?* by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page; *Uncover Frog* by Aimee Bakken.
- ❖ **Marc Desrosiers:** Books—*A Field Guide to the Ferns and Their Related Families* by Boughton Cobb; *Grasses* by Laura Brown; *Children’s Special Places: Exploring the role of Forts, Dens and Bush Houses in Middle Childhood* by David Sobel.

## More Wish List “Thank You”

- ❖ **Edna Rice:** Book: *Children’s Special Places: Exploring the role of Forts, Dens and Bush Houses in Middle Childhood* by David Sobel. [Note: We will use 2 copies of this very special book. Thanks, Marc and Edna!]

## Beyond the Wish List...Thank You Too!

- ❖ **Kathy Bourdeau:** Book—*Colonial Children’s Games, Pastime & Toys* by Alice Morse Earl
- ❖ **Charlene Good:** Book—*Where in the Wild? By David M. Swartz and Yael Schy*
- ❖ **Steve Graham:** Textile equipment for school programs; Books—*Making Pottery Figures* by Marjorie Drawbell; *Common Trees of PA; An Introduction to Pottery* by Linde Wallner; *All the Birds of Eastern & Central North America, Audubon Guides* by Richard H. Pough.
- ❖ **Paul Beals:** Tape recorder, Foxfire books and magazines, electric leaf blower, desk chair floor mat
- ❖ **Nathan Goldman:** –Donation of hand carved rustic kraut stomper for the school program, *From Field to Table: Pennsylvania German Food Preparation and Preservation*
- ❖ **Phil & Jerry’s Meats & More:** Lebanon Bologna tastes for 22 classes of fifth grade students participants in the farmstead interpretive program, *From Field to Table*.
- ❖ **Kim & Dan Sheffler:** Large laminated maps for use during Youth Festival and other community events
- ❖ **Anita Pfeuffer:** Straw hat for use by farmstead faculty members
- ❖ **Ivy Hill Farm:** Price break on fresh cider for annual Pumpkin Festival
- ❖ **Sally Sussman:** Shopped for, purchased, donated and delivered plush carpets to warm concrete floors beneath the desks of Institute staff members

# Streamside

Renfrew Institute for Cultural and Environmental Studies

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[www.renfrewinstitute.org](http://www.renfrewinstitute.org)

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