The institute office is a busy hub of activity even in the winter. Board and committee members, off-season staff, casual visitors, delivery people, occasional friends, and of course Renfrew Museum staff and board too, flow in and out. It’s a rare day or even hour that someone isn’t passing through.

In this spirited atmosphere useful ideas are born and exchanged. Lively discussion about the institute and its work often turns to its relevance with local, regional and even world issues. Almost everyone admits however, that in our non-profit, mission-driven arena, it’s easy to get discouraged. For example, with development encroaching on all sides of Renfrew, it seems that our efforts to help people become “…stewards of their natural and cultural worlds” isn’t working. Well, I believe it is, though in smaller increments than we realize.

Picture this…a smiling instructor puts a magnifier in the hand of each student in her group. “Hands and knees now. Let’s find them,” she says, “…the little wonders, smaller than a dime.” A moment passes, then it starts to happen—first one child, then another. “I found one of those diamonds!!” [dewdrops in the sunlight] “Me too!” “Whoaaa, look at this leaf, it’s got hair on it!” “I don’t see anything.” The pouty frown looks up. “Try again. Let me help.” Now instructor and child are close together, on hands and knees, faces buried in the grass. “There, see that?” “You mean that red thing?” “Yeah, cool, huh?” “Hey, it’s moving!!” Another smiling instructor (they always do at Renfrew—smile, that is) hands each child a wad of wool fleece. “Now we are going to wash wool, just like kids would have done 200 years ago.” Hands go into washtubs of chilly water, wool wads squish and splash, soap foams in the water. Giggles galore. “This is fun!” “Mine feels really soft!” “That’s weird looking soap.” “Different than your soap at home, right? It’s hand-made…like 200 years ago.” “It smells funny.” “That’s because it’s made of lard.” “What’s that?” “Animal fat.” “No way!” At Renfrew Institute we are helping children—and adults—
Endowment Corner—Building a Foundation for Our Future

Our sincere THANK YOU to the following members and friends who made contributions to Renfrew Institute’s endowment fund in response to our winter supplemental giving campaign. Contributions are still coming in, so additional names will appear in the next newsletter.

The fund grew by $11,100 this year and now holds more than $58,500! Of course we have a long way to go to reach our goal of one million dollars. Please keep Renfrew Institute in mind for next year and, if possible, put a few dollars aside for this fund again. You will receive the request in December 2007.

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 renfrewwmi@internet.net

The following is a list of endowment donors for 2006-07 (to date):

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Mike & Denise Beck
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George & Martha Buckey
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Anders-Stimson Family
Harry & June Anderson

Endowment Corner—Building a Foundation for Our Future with George P. Buckey, Chair, Endowment Trustees

Plant Natives, Remove Invasives

In the last issue of this newsletter, the Downstream article featured “DEQ or Developmental EQ (Eco Equality in Developments). Here’s another tip for homeowners living in developments.”

Brochures produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources explore how to landscape with native plants, and how to identify and deal with invasive plants. Both brochures are available at Renfrew Institute.

Stop by to pick them up, or call us at 717-762-0373 and we’ll mail them to you.

NOTE: Winter-creeper should not be confused with the native burning bush or wahoo, a native SHRUB in woods at Renfrew, with slightly similar but much smaller purplish-RED seed pods with tiny GLUT red fruits inside.

—Doris Goldman

See related article, right

Downstream

with Doris Armstrong Goldman, PhD, Renfrew Institute staff

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.

Winter-Creeper: Crisis Weed in Our Park

A few years ago we tried to recruit volunteers to pull up some of the invasive plants in Renfrew Park. The attempt fizzled, but the aggressive plants have not. In these few years, the worst offender, creeping euonymus or winter-creeper, Euonymus fortunei, has spread so fast that the situation is now critical.

Just a few years ago, winter-creeper, an evergreen from Japan, was a vigorously spreading ground cover mostly confined to the Edmajoda Trail. But the plants have matured and started climbing the trees. This is when winter-creeper starts producing fruits. The fruits are yellow woody balls that pop open to show bright reddish-orange berries (actually “arillate seeds”) inside, and the birds love them.

So now winter-creeper has spread to all parts of the park. What is the problem? The plant isn’t native, so has no almost no insects or disease here to control it. It is evergreen, a dense ground carpet and has thick woody vines that strangle trees. This plant kills wildflowers. The wildflowers that the Edmajoda Trail bottomland woods that is now carpeted with winter-creeper shows what will happen in other parts of the park. The spring wildflowers there have largely disappeared: wild ginger, jack in the pulpit, spring beauties, trout lily or dogtooth violet, blue and white violets, and Virginia bluebells.

Winter-creeper is also stopping tree reproduction, and may start killing mature trees. Luckily, two native shrubs are still holding on as their roots are covered by winter-creeper: spicebush, and bladdernut. Spicebush has small yellow flowers in spring and red fruits in early fall. Bladdernut spreads along the creek by thick horizontal roots. It is easy to spot in the winter by its dangling papery fruits.

WE MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE WINTER-CREEPER. At the very least, we need help to cut down the fruiting vines and dispose of them. Since the Winter-creeper makes a nice vine for holiday decorating, we have encouraged local park-goers to pull the vine and take it home. Just check in with us at the Visitor Center (call first to be sure we are there) to make sure you are pulling the right plant. A word of caution: the plant MUST be burned or disposed of in the trash when discarded.

A different weeding effort at Renfrew is focused on another invasive, garlic mustard. Thousands of school children visit the park during our fall and spring programs. Pulling garlic mustard has become a regular practice as classes walk from activity to activity. Garlic mustard is all over the park, and the kids are not making much of a dent in it, but the effort is fun and very educational.

Garlic mustard is a winter annual. In the fall, roundish, slightly scalloped, evergreen leaves come up. In the spring, a 2 - 3 foot flower stalk grows small white flowers with four petals. These soon turn into thin long mustard pods full of seeds—the pods look like leaf stems.

The entire plant smells like garlic and mustard, and releases chemicals that tend to kill wildflowers. When time permits, children pull up the flowering plants, root and all, and put them in a garbage bag. Garlic mustard cannot simply be pulled and left on the ground—pulled plants often bloom and even form seeds before they die.

Invasive plants are problematic throughout the world. Renfrew is particularly vulnerable because it is an island of preserved natural land, impacted by past land uses and transacted by the Antietam Creek. Wetland areas surrounded by developed multi-use landscapes are havens for invasives.

We can’t prevent these unwelcome newcomers from trying to move in, but we can mount an effort to keep them from taking over. You can help, here at the park and in your own yard.
Renfrew Institute is pleased to announce new underwriting support

Renfrew Institute is pleased to announce new underwriting support from several area individuals and businesses. Cornerstone Dentistry, Paul & Diana Cunder and Jack Gaughen Realtor ERA lent support to bring Windjammer Hot Air Balloons to our fall fundraiser, Pumpkin Festival. The wind was certainly jammin’ on event day—in fact, it was too windy to launch the tethered rides we had planned as part of our festival, but Windjammer has pledged to return on another day to fulfill our fantasies of getting up, up and away.

Beauchat & Beauchat Law Office has provided underwriting support for the institute’s annual lecture series. The series alternates annually between environmental and cultural topics. This year, the series is titled Energy: Challenges, Solutions, and Visions. Firm attorney Ann Rota contacted our office after having attended an institute adult education program to inquire about how her firm could participate in funding our activities. This kind of spontaneous support for the work we do in the community is one of the best compliments we can receive. Thanks to Ann for exercising the initiative in establishing this new partnership.

B. Marie and Jack B. Byers have made a gift in support of institute environmental program, Wake Up Earth. It’s Spring. Over the course of this two-hour program, kindergarten students explore, through sensory experiences, changes that take place in the natural world during spring. At the conclusion of their journey, they discover a golden hat and a note reinforcing the concept that the sun provides energy for plant Earth.

The Bybastes have long supported education in the region. Marie is former Washington County Board of Education president and current Executive Director of the Discovery Station in Hagerstown. She and her husband Jack previously supported our work through their donor directed fund with the Community Foundation of Washington County.

Lumetra member and enthusiastic supporter Patricia O’Connor recently made two designated financial gifts. Upon reading the last issue of Streamside, Pat communicated her compliments, saying, “Streamside is an excellent newsletter. Very well done, good content, presents a clean, clear, polished appearance.” This is truly a compliment coming from Pat, who is an articulate word master, demonstrated through communications associated with her involvement in “community care” issues. Pat is a devoted community activist, lending her voice and energies to local land preservation and watershed protection projects, with an eye on the future and a heart dedicated to sustainable living.

New Sponsorships

Renfrew Institute, with Sherry Hesse

Her second gift follows just that logic, as it supports institute’s educational enrichment program, Discovering Wetlands. During this upper elementary experience, students define and explore the wetland communities of Renfrew Park. They learn the three major types of wetlands and examine the plants, animals, soils, energy flow and water chemistry of these special ecosystems. They learn why wetlands are valuable to humans ecologically, aesthetically and economically. Discussions take place, involving problems that threaten the survival and well being of wetland ecosystems throughout the Chesapeake Bay region. Also newly supporting Discovering Wetlands topics is the mountain View Reclamation, a Waste Management Company based in Upton. Cheryl Shields, Community Relations Director for the company, continues to be an enthusiastic supporter of institute programs that expose young people to watershed education. Already the sole underwriter of the after school group Waterstriders, Mountain View extends its support with this new gift that will help regional school students enjoy the Discovering Wetlands experience. Shields never hesitates when an opportunity arises to demonstrate her commitment to community enrichment through youth education.

Jeff and Shirley Rock have once again expanded their support of the institute. The Rocks have been associate members since 1991. Last year, they offered additional support of this newsletter. This year, their generosity has grown to include support of the environmental program, Lifesavers of the Chesapeake Bay. Shirley has often been seen accompanying daughter Kelsey to Renfrew Institute visits throughout her elementary school years. Those visits helped to familiarize Shirley with the continuum of programs she and Jeff now support as designated underwriters.

Lifesavers of the Chesapeake Bay takes fifth grade students into the trails of Renfrew—miles away from the Chesapeake Bay, to certain institute members that flow through the Antietam Creek. During their two-hour visit, students journey to learning stations that help them learn about the geology, biology and ecology of the Chesapeake Bay. They discover its relationship to themselves as watershed residents, and ways they can help and protect the unique estuary, which is so important to the region economically and aesthetically. They also learn what helps the Bay also helps the Antietam and our own local watershed.

Raising Clothes:

Wool Culture of the Pennsylvania Germans

The last issue of Streamside featured an article about flax production of the Pennsylvania Germans. This issue will explore their wool culture. In the textile arena, wool was second to flax on the early 1800s Pennsylvania German farm. It complemented linen and provided warm clothing and household textiles used in the winter months.

History of Wool

Like flax, wool has been part of man’s history since early days. Sheep were among the first domesticated animals. Spinning wool evolved later than spinning flax and cotton. Wool was first used as fur pelts and also in a felted form. Felted wool may be the world’s oldest textile. The first sheep are said to have arrived in the Americas with Columbus. During our colonial period, England discouraged the wool industry in the colonies. After the American Revolution, leaders like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson encouraged the establishment of Merino herds to improve the quality of wool.

Pennsylvania German Applications

Wool played a significant part in the Pennsylvania German culture. Processing wool was not as strenuous as processing flax, and every member of the household was involved. Sheep were raised primarily to clothe the family, and most flocks consisted of ten to fifteen sheep, a ratio of one to one-and-a-half sheep per family member. These operated sheep were small, long-legged and narrow creatures, and were valued first for wool, then for milk (used in cheese-making) and lastly for meat.

Spinning

The wool season began in May. The farmer, sometimes with hired help, sheared his flock using hand forged iron shears. It took years of experience to become skilled with hand shears. One shearer weighed approximately three pounds—enough for one person’s basic woolens for a year. Most everyday clothing of the Pennsylvania German farm family was made of wool, linen or linsey-woolsey (cloth made of the combination of the two fibers). After shearing, fleece was spread on boards along with the soapy water to remove the oil (lanolin). Proper water temperature and gentle agitation were important so the wool did not felt. Once the wool dried, any remaining burrs, sticks and other debris were picked out and it was ready for carding. Carding combed the fibers lengthwise and prepared the wool for spinning into yarn. Hand carders, which resembled brushes for dogs or horses, were used until the early 1800s. Hand carding was tedious and carding mills began to take over this part of the process. Locally, a carding mill operated at Five Forks, just north of Waynesboro.

Spinning (continued on pg. 9)
Zany Umbrella Circus Performer Lights Up Youth Festival

Spring is near, and that means gearing up for Renfrew Institute’s 18th Annual Youth Festival on Sunday, May 27 from 1 to 5 p.m. This year’s wet and wonderful, with many “drippy” activities planned. Rain or shine event, of course! [Rain site: Waynesboro Area Middle School.] The festival provides a variety of workshops and activities for youngsters. In addition, Ben Sota of Zany Umbrella Circus will perform My Grandfather’s Circus, a one-man show created to honor Sota’s grandfather, who “had fun creating a circus out of the dust bowl during the Depression of the 1930s,” Sota said.

My Grandfather’s Circus includes many staples of a traditional traveling circus: sota rides a unicycle, balances on a tightrope, rides the unicycle on the tightrope while juggling balls—and he may even juggle knives. Additionally, everyday family objects come to life and find exciting new places.

Sota studied his trade at the San Francisco Circus Center and at the Trapeze Arts School, and has juggled on streets from Amsterdam to San Francisco. Having performed for children in Katrina-ruined New Orleans and in Afghanistan, he is considered by many to be the “Ambassador of Smiles.”

Includes 2005-06 members and new/renewed for 2006-07.

= Honorarium—onation for special time, talent and/or materials.

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Missing Pieces

We are saying “farewell with best wishes” to Edna Rice who has taught environmental programs at Renfrew Institute for the past eight years. Edna has decided to hang up her “Redbud” wooden cookie name tag to enjoy traveling and spending time with family and friends. This is a second retirement for Edna. She first retired from elementary teaching in the Waynesboro Area School District in 1997. We learned to know her as a fifth grade teacher at Fairview Elementary. It was a perfect fit for her to join our environmental staff following her public school career. Edna’s care for the Earth is evident in her teaching and in her personal life.

Edna will surely be missed. Her soft-spoken warmth, good humor and gentle way with children are special gifts. Her contributions—good ideas and handmade props, from concept banners to drawing straws, will remind us of her key role as a “program keeper” for Earth Encounters and other programs. We guess we will have to let our puppet Marvin, from the first grade program Marvin Visits Earth, know that Redbud is going on some trips too! [Marvin visits Earth from outer space and helps first graders learn what life forms on this planet need to survive.]

Edna brightens the room when she arrives. In spite of health adversities she has been a positive and nurturing force on our staff. Her triumph over breast cancer has been an inspiration to everyone. As a career educator, she has given thousands of children the benefit of her teaching talents. We are very grateful that a portion of that time and effort could produce the most amazing results!

Minute Possibilities, Amazing Results

Helpful Hints for Food Buying

If you are concerned about…

1. Pesticides residues in food

- Buy organic peaches, celery, potatoes, spinach, apples, cherries, nectarines, peaches, pears, red raspberries, and imported grapes.

2. Pollution (like mercury) in fish

- “Organic” wild or farmed fish high in fat or as many contaminants as “non-organic.” Limit your family’s intake of all seafood (even the innocuous canned tuna) to not more than once a week.

3. Madd cow disease or hormones and antibiotics in food

(See montereybayaquarium.org for additional seafood safety information, including their free downloadable Seafood Watch Pocket Guide.)

Note of Interest—From the University of Minnesota, via the National Catholic Rural Life Conference website: Antibiotics, especially tetracyclines, administered to cows and pigs show up in their manure and in cabbage, corn, and onions fertilized with this manure.

Compiled by Doris Armstrong Goldman, PhD

New Underwriting Support

Several community businesses have added momentum to our new spring fundraiser, the Recycle-Reuse Yard Sale. Held in conjunction with Earth Celebration Day and Festival of Art on April 21st, the event will be underwritten in an effort to boost the bottom line. This year will mark our second annual, with support from Drug Books ’N Things; Karen’s Custom Framing; Kay Hoffman, Store Manager Sherwin Williams Waynesboro; Mother Martin’s Coupings; and Total Vac. The theme of the fundraiser reminds us of one way we can care for our planet and encourages the sustainable practice of recycling household goods. You can support the effort by joining us on the 21st to sniff out some treasures, or set up a table of your own as a vendor. Enjoy some good “nibbles!” while you are here in the park. Food stand proceeds will also support the institute.

Mountain Valley Real Estate will once again be a prominent sponsor of summer activities here at the Institute. Owner Carol Young has responded with enthusiasm each time she is asked to consider support for our activities. This summer, Carol has chosen to support Nose to Nose with Nature and the Heritage Craft series. Nose to Nose explores nature’s best spots in the park with a Renfrew Institute environmental instructor. Tools like magnifying lenses, bug boxes, and make-your-own “nature’s kaleidoscopes,” plus stories, secret missions, music and games will add to the fun and adventure. Designed for children completing grades K–3, the program will be held from 9:30–11 am, on Wednesdays in July.

In addition, Mountain Valley will help to underwrite the growing series Heritage Crafts. This week-long series of half-day workshops features “crafts from the past” to fascinate and challenge kids looking for interesting hands-on projects this summer. A different craft each day allows participants to attend one or all of the daily offerings. With instruction from local artisans, students will learn how to create useful and beautiful items while learning the traditional heritage crafts of piercing and cutting tin, quilting, scherenschnitte, pottery and basketry.

The series will take place during the last week in July.

Carol’s commitment to Renfrew Institute’s work with children was born out of her Renfrew experiences with her daughter. She has frequently throughout our scrapbooks of school programs and community events. We sincerely appreciate Carol’s enthusiasm for our work and commitment to our mission. 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 their future involvement.

Tracy Holdiday

Melodie Anderson-Smith
**Sponsor Spotlight**

**Allegheny Power**

**Energetic Supporters**

Beginning in 2001, Allegheny Power supported the work of Renfrew Institute through its adoption of the institute’s second grade environmental education program Earth Encounters. Allegheny remained the sole underwriting supporter of the program annually through last year.

During the two-hour Earth Encounters experience, students are launched on a quest in search of the nine “parts” of nature. Puzzle pieces depicting the parts of nature are used to guide young naturalists on their quest. Their journey leads them along a woodland trail on which they “encounter” opportunities to get up close to the living and non-living parts of nature. Concepts such as the ecological cycles of water, soil, air and energy flow from the sun are explored with interactive lessons. The trail then leads to discoveries of plants, animals, insects and fungus. The final discovery is the “me” piece of the “nature’s parts” puzzle, which is equipped with a mirror to remind each visiting student that he or she is an important part of nature, and reliant on its parts for life on planet Earth.

Renfrew Institute board member and Allegheny PowerEnergy employee Ed Miller, Jr. initiated a change of Allegheny’s support to underwrite the cost of blue crabs for the institute’s annual Chesapeake Bay Supper fundraiser. “There are so many wonderful programs and events that we could have chosen to support,” Miller said. “We ended up selecting the Chesapeake Bay Supper to support everything that Renfrew does for all the elementary school children as well as the local community. We are honored to be part of it!”

The Chesapeake Bay Supper, which will enjoy its tenth anniversary on June 29th, is the institute’s largest fundraiser of the year. Proceeds from this important event support the mission of Renfrew Institute by subsidizing the costs of its non-profit educational and community event activities.

Underwriting of the crabs represents quite a boost to the bottom line and helped the institute not only realize, but surpass last year’s event income goal. Miller, Manager of Customer Support for the company, has been instrumental in this partnership.

Steve Delamater is a jazz fan! Steve has long been a supporter of the arts in our local community through his business, McDonald’s of Franklin County. When he was approached about supporting Renfrew Institute’s Jazz Festival, which draws a regional crowd of over 500 annually, Steve was happy to help. Beginning in 2004, he lent support to the concert featuring saxophonist Eric Alexander, along with guitarist Paul Bollenback, bassist Chris Berger and drummer Montez Coleman. Then in 2005, internationally renowned saxophonist Bud Shank was on the scene, thanks in part to McDonald’s of Franklin County.

Last year, the institute had an opportunity to host, for a second time, a giant in the jazz world. Saxophonist David “Fathead” Newman came with a performance fee to match his notoriety. When Steve was approached about increasing his support in order to reach an artist of “Fathead’s” caliber, he was able to make it happen. Through this added generosity, Renfrew Institute was able to “bring Fathead back.” Newman had made an appearance in the early days of the jazz fest in 1994, alongside guitarist Paul Bollenback, bassist Chris McNulty, vocalist Ed Howard on bass and drummer Steve Johns. The ensemble provided an afternoon of great jazz for an enthusiastic 2004 Jazz Festival audience.

Steve Delamater relates some personal motivations for his generosity “I feel the arts are very important to a community. It is a way for people of all ages and all walks of life to come together,” he said. “I hope that everyone will take the opportunity to experience and enjoy the talent we have been able to bring to this community.”

Don’t Miss Renfrew Institute’s **TENTH ANNUAL Chesapeake Bay Supper Fund Raiser**

Invitations will arrive in spring. Tell your friends and come out & support Renfrew Institute with a great evening of food, fun & frolic! Help us grow the bottom line on this fabulous fund raiser! Just send us $150 to underwrite the cost of revising & printing the event programs. We will gratefully acknowledge your donation in print on the program.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 6:00 PM • WAYNESBORO COUNTRY CLUB**
Members & Sponsors (continued from pg. 7)

Family continued

Mr. & Mrs. Craig Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ragon
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Scherer
Mr. & Mrs. J. Zook

Associate (pg 259 to 999)

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June & Harry Anderson
Dan & Ann Altenburg
Pete & Carol Bailey
Charlotte Ballstreiter
Alberta R. Bixby

Robert A. Bixby

Mary Lou & Paul Beals
A. J. & Kate Benchoff
L. Joe & Linda Miller Benchoff
Mary Louise Benchoff
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Educator (pg 259 to 999)

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Falling Spring Elementary PTA
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Diece Hickman
Barbara Keale
Brenda Kugler
Lewis R. Parrett
Bonnie & Jeff Rhodes
Beckie & Joe Sarino
Janet Smedley
South Central Tae Kwon Do
Cindy & Terry Sullivan
Dr. Tothman & Barra,
Orthodontics
Mrs. Robert A. Zimmerman

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The Accockey Win Oakdale
Locke Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Antietam Watershed Association
Conococheague Institute
The Conococheague Mill
First Data Merchant Services,
Inc.
First National Bank of
greatian
Atlantic Capital
GRC General Contractors, Inc.

Garden Living, in memory of
J. Warren and Jessie Louise

Students (pg 10)

Tommy Gay Cantwell
Mark Fries

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culture:**

Pumpkin Fest Balloon Rides

Chesapeake Bay Supper Sypder
Jeff, Shirley & Kersey Rock -

Streamside: Lifeflows of the Chesapeake Bay
Chesapeake Bay -

Earthkeepers
Cowan Family Pharmacy -

Chesapeake Bay Sypder
Cedar Ridge -

Chesapeake Bay Sypder
Congo Churchland Park -

Chesapeake Bay Sypder

Antietam Watershed Association

Antietam Watershed Association is going strong, and we owe a lot of our success to the hard work of our partners like Renewf.org.

The Institute serves as the headquarters for AWA’s stream monitoring program, which gathers data for AWA and provides resources for the community. This dovetails nicely with the work of the Institute’s WaterStriders program and extends to the community the teachings of both the Lifeflows of the Chesapeake Bay and Accessing Wetlands school programs.

AWA recently reached an important milestone in our quest to protect the Antietam Creek and its flood plain. The Washington Township Supervisors decided to entreat the planning for Antietam Meadow Park to AWA. The park is the land behind the Welty Medical Center that was once farmland, and will now connect with the Washington Township Boulevard, and eventually beyond. Walking trails will be incorporated in the Meadow design. This land was turned over to the township by the developers of the property. The township is also supporting AWA by including a line item in the township budget for an annual donation.

Until now, most efforts on the center

Branch of the Antietam. With the recent approval of our application for a 319 Grant through the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) —distributed and monitored by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) —the federal funding portion of the West Branch. We were awarded $75,000 for the study.

AWA was also awarded a grant to design a brochure that translates results from the study to the public. The brochure was developed in 2005. To date, AWA has been awarded $181,000 in grants. We hope to continue in partnership with Renewf.org to educate the public in the good stewardship of the Antietam Creek watershed.

AWA now has a permanent home at 23 West Main Street, Waynesboro. Look for the logo on the window! You can also visit us on the web at www.antiwm.org or call us at 762-9417.

Pat Heerling

RenoWAL REMINDER: Please check the back page of this newsletter. If you see a green Checkmark (like this one here), that means you have not yet renewed your membership for 2006-2007. If you would like to renew, please contact gentleman. Thanks!
Wool Culture of the Pennsylvania Germans (continued from pg. 5)

A good spinner could spin two miles of yarn a day, walking about four miles. After the yarn was spun it was wound into skeins either on a reel or a hand-held niddy noddy. The yarn was then ready to be dyed.

Dyeing

Among the Pennsylvania Germans, most wool dyeing was done by professional dyers. Imported dyestuffs were readily available, and local plants were also cultivated or gathered for use as dyes. Imported dyestuffs included indigo, madder, logwood, cochineal and fustic. Native dyes included walnut hulls, butternut bark, sumac skins, Queen Anne’s Lace and goldenrod. The colors produced by natural dyes were muted and not like the bright synthetic dyes of today.

Yarn was dyed after it was spun. Woven cloth or knitted articles such as stockings were dyed (piece dyeing). Unspun wool was also dyed. Dye penetration took thoroughly in this technique, giving us the phrase, “dyed in the wool.”

As with dyeing, most Pennsylvania German weaving was done by professionals. Weavers were usually men, while women did most of the handspinning at home. To supplement their incomes, many rural weavers owned small farms, and/or worked as day laborers during the harvest season.

When one thinks of weaving of the past, the coverlet usually comes to mind. A late 18th-century arrival, a coverlet was a bedcover usually woven of two-ply wool and cotton, often comes to mind. A late 18th-century arrival, a coverlet was a bedcover usually woven of two-ply wool and cotton, or wool and linen. The most common early coverlets were woolen and plain weave. Later coverlets were made on more complex looms and woven in intricate patterns with names such as “M’s and O’s.” Coverlets exhibited regional differences and variations, so that Pennsylvania German coverlets differed from New York or New England examples. All were treasured possessions and often passed on to the next generation.

Wool was also woven into winter clothing, alone or in combination with linen (linsey-woolsey). Much of the wool and linsey-woolsey cloth was “fulled” after it was woven. This important finishing process was performed at a water-powered fulling mill. Fulling compacted the fibers and created a tighter, more even, heavier piece.

Wool was woven into winter stockings and mittens as well.

The End of an Era

Mechanization ushered in a new era. The textile industry had been slowly changing for some time and the folk textile era ended in the 1870s. Professional handweavers could not compete with factories, so if they stayed in the weaving business at all they began to weave carpets. In this way, 19th century looms became known as “rug looms.” Local fulling mills shut down. Carding mills began buying wool to be processed and sent to the cities. There was a decline in the raising of sheep. Spinning wheels were relegated to the attic. Families and communities no longer worked together on the processing of wool and flax. The homespun era was over.

Weaving

All are weighed, photographed and charged by weight. The plant is a peak-demand facility (not in constant use), but the idea of recycling the methane is encouraging—electricity from trash! It was enlightening (and discouraging) to learn that the electricity produced at the plant goes into the “national grid” and might not be used locally. The Striders thought that local use of the energy would be the only sensible thing to do.

Unfortunately, our national power grid doesn’t work that way. Everyone agreed that Mountain View was doing its part to at least put into practice this energy saving idea. The hope is to increase and improve the use of this technology in the future.

Mountain View also promotes recycling of household trash. Bins are provided for the general public at the entry gate. For general trash, authorized haulers and citizens with pick-up truck loads are permitted to use the landfill. Approximately 150 trucks enter the site daily. All are weighed, photographed and charged by weight. Hazardous wastes are not permitted. Vehicles pass through a tire wash as they exit to prevent contaminants from going with them.

Our sincere thanks to Cheryl Shields for providing this excellent educational experience and for facilitating her company’s continued sponsorship of the WaterStrider program over the last five years. The program was even mentioned in the tour video as a community outreach supported by Mountain View Reclamation.

We are grateful for the commitment this company has made to Renfrew Institute and to other organizations and communities within its service area. For more information on arranging a landfill tour for your group, you may reach Cheryl Shields at 717-593-9948.

On Monday, January 22, students from Renfrew Institute’s WaterStriders program enjoyed a field trip to Mountain View Reclamation, Waste Management’s landfill near Upton, Pa. Local streams and ground waters are protected from waste pollutants through state-of-the-art landfill technologies. The Striders learned how Mountain View ensures ecologically safe waste management.

Cheryl Shields, Community and Municipal Relations Representative of Waste Management, led the tour. She began with a video giving an overview of the landfill operation. WaterStriders with accompanying parents and siblings learned much about municipal waste and what happens to it after it is picked up by the garbage truck. Many of the Strider families haul their own trash to the transfer station in Washington Township. That trash also makes its way to the landfill.

Following the video the group boarded a bus (provided by the company) and began a drive-through tour of the landfill. Cells, the areas of the landfill that are constructed to hold trash, are excavated and lined with special materials that trap pollutants. Gas (mostly methane) produced from decomposing material within the cell, is caught and either burned off or used to fuel an electric power plant nearby.

Our bus dropped us off at the power plant where two of its employees gave us a look at its 48-engine interior space. The plant is a peak-demand facility (not in constant use), but the idea of recycling the methane is encouraging—electricity from trash! It was enlightening (and discouraging) to learn that the electricity produced at the plant goes into the “national grid” and might not be used locally. The Striders thought that local use of the energy would be the only sensible thing to do.

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Thanks to Allie Kohler and Charlene Good—Outgoing Board Members

Allison (Allie) B. Kohler left the Renfrew Institute board at the end of June, 2006. We extend our sincere THANK YOU to Allie for his six years of dedicated service, including one year as Board President. As required by the institute’s bylaws, board members must step off the board after two consecutive three year terms.

During his time on our board Allie was very active and “hands-on.” As chair of the Facilities Committee he helped move needed projects to completion including ordering, hauling, painting and installing replacement pickets in the four-square garden fence.

Allie also chaired the Renfrew Exploratory Facilities Ad-hoc Committee (REFAC), a joint Renfrew Museum and Renfrew Institute task team charged with researching and recommending solutions to the combined long-range facility needs of the two organizations.

In addition, Allie facilitated the completion of the institute’s own long-range strategic plan, begun under the leadership of former board president, Tim Rahm. Allie picked up where Tim left off to take the project to its finish. Allie invested much time and energy into this endeavor and concluded the task during his last year on the board. Thanks to Allie and Tim and to all the other board members past and present who contributed to this major accomplishment.

Allie was also a regular and active attendee and helper at institute events. From adult programs in the winter to weekend events and fundraisers in the spring season.

Planning for Spring

Renfrew Institute faculty members (shown left to right) Stephanie Koher, Sherry Hesse and Robin Shipman work on an activity box project for kindergarten students. The entire teaching staff spent an intensive week in January evaluating and processing all of the institute’s nineteen school programs. Ideas for program improvements are now being implemented in preparation for the spring season.

Cherlene Good has also stepped down from the institute’s board. Cherlene served for three years and contributed time and talent to several active committees including Youth Education, Adult Education, Pumpkin Fest and Membership.

As chair of the Youth Education Committee, Cherlene helped the group plan new activities for children, most notably the Heritage Craft summer workshops. As a talented craftswoman, Cherlene was able to teach several workshops and recruit other resource people too. She made demonstration boards to attract participants and organized the entire program. The workshops were very successful that first summer and continue as an annual program with new workshops as well as old favorites.

The addition of a bake sale table at Renfrew’s annual Pumpkin Festival was Cherlene’s initiative. Her hand-made baked goods, cookie decorating project for kids and extra-ordinary decorative touches made this addition a beautiful, fun and profitable component of the festival. We hope Cherlene continues to be part of this major Renfrew event.

Our sincere THANK YOU to both Allie and Cherlene for their commitment to our organization and for all the time they devoted on its behalf.

Melodie Anderson-Smith

Summer Institute 2007

LOCATION: Renfrew Park, 1010 East Main St., Waverly, PA

Summer activities are made possible in part by contributions to the Today’s Horizon Fund by JG Industries, Inc., the Estate of Charles E. Smallwood, and by an Anonymous Donor

Children’s Summer Stories

Tuesdays, June 26–July 31, 1 pm

Make possible with in-kind support from Civatees, Inc.

Children gather under the tree near the Visitors Center to listen to stories and enjoy related hands-on activities.

Pre-school and up. Free. Pre-registration not required. In case of inclement weather, call to confirm.

Wednesdays in the Park: Nose to Nose With Nature

Wednesdays, June 27–July 25, 9:30–11:30 am

Explore nature’s best spots in the park with Renfrew Institute’s environmental instructors. Check out those weird, wild, wonderful creatures and plants that help make our life on earth possible. Tools, stories, and activities will take the fun and adventure. Bring old sneakers or walking shoes.

For children completing grades K–3. $5 per child per session. Enrollment deadline: July 7

Old Friends Are Worth Saving

Monday, July 16, 8:30–11:30 am (Rain date: Friday, July 20)

Adult and child workshop (Children must attend with an accompanying adult)

Here’s a program for adult & child to do together! Parent/child, grandparent/grandchild, any adult/child pair may register. Through exploration of the 1800s Royer farmstead (now Renfrew Museum & Park), participants discover a new awareness of old buildings, learn to listen to the stories they can tell us, and understand the importance of preserving them. Hands-on experiences include an opportunity to be the “people-powered tools” of the 1800s & its assembly logistics. Age: for children completing grades 5–8. Limit. 12 Fee: $5 per adult and $5 per participant. Registration deadline: July 4

Sun & Earth: Into the Woods

Tuesday, July 17, 9:30–11:30 am

Amazing wonders can be discovered when you move quietly through the woods. Use your senses to explore Renfrew’s trails with our experienced biologist!

Wear sneakers or hiking shoes. No sandals please. For children completing grades 4–8. $3 per child. Pre-registration not required. Meet at Visitors Center.

Bugs & Blossoms: Into the Garden

Thursday, July 19, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

Through an enriched integration of science and history, experience typical summertime activities of an 1800s farm child. “Work” and play activities are garden-centric and introduce children to the fun of gardening. Enjoy being outdoors and interacting with nature. Activities include hands-on garden tending, harvesting, and preparing food to accompany lunch, and making a garden-related craft. This program will occur rain or shine. In the case of inclement weather the program will move inside and the children will participate in crafts and rainy day activities typical of the 1800s, such as cooking an indoor garden salad. For children completing grades 2–6. Limit. 12. Fee: $3 per child. Enrollment deadline: July 9

Heritage Crafts: Summer Workshops For Youth • July 23–27

Underwriting support provided by Mountain Valley Real Estate

Created in honor of a woman’s own quilt block & fit the rim. (Note: Workshop Extended 1 Hour) Age: 5–12. Limit: 24. Materials fee: NONE. Instructor: Susan Matson

FRIDAY, JULY 27, 9:30–11:30 am: “BASKETRY”:


SCHERENSCHNITTE: SCISSOR CUTTING

Learn the time honored art of paper cutting. Scherenschnitte is a Swiss technique to create such things as both certificate’s love letters. By your hand at this fancy folk art technique. Age: Completing grades 4–8. Limit: 12. Instructor: Jack Handshaw

MONDAY, JULY 23, 1–4 pm: “TIN COOKIE CUTTERS”:

Students will learn to make a tin cookie cutter to use as a cookie cutter. Age: 4–8. Limit: 12. Materials fee: $5. Instructor: Bob North

MONDAY, JULY 23, 1–4 pm: “PIERCING TIN”:

In this popular workshop, students explore a tin-foiled craft, learn to work with metal and create a special pierced project (nightlight to candle-shade). Age: Completing grades 3–8. Limit: 12. Materials fee: $3. Instructor: Bob North

TUESDAY, JULY 24, 9–11 am: “QUILTING”:

Create a heirloom work of art that will be a beautiful gift and will be the author’s own quilt block. Age: Completing grades 5–8. Limit: 12. Materials fee: NONE. Instructor: Karen Manderson

WED., JULY 25, 9 am–12 noon: “BASKETRY”:


MONDAY, JULY 23, 9 am–12 noon: “BASKETRY”:


Basic workshop for K–20 students $25 per session. Additional materials fees may apply, see individual descriptions.

Attend One or More Craft Workshops! All Sessions Meet at Visitors Center.

Created in honor of a woman’s own quilt block & fit the rim. (Note: Workshop Extended 1 Hour) Age: Completing grades 5–12. Limit: 24. Materials fee: NONE. Instructor: Susan Matson

Register by July 9

Heritage Crafts Workshops Take Place on the Renfrew Grounds

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays

Underwriting support provided by Mountain Valley Real Estate

Museum and Renfrew Institute task team charged with ordering, hauling, painting and installing replacement help moved needed projects to completion including:

1. Renfrew Park’s bike path
2. Renfrew House’s side door
3. Renfrew Institute’s entryway
4. Renfrew Institute’s Garden Entrance
5. Renfrew Institute’s back door
6. Renfrew Institute’s monument
7. Renfrew Institute’s fence panels
8. Renfrew Institute’s road signs
9. Renfrew Institute’s utility box

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In addition, Allie facilitated the completion of the institute’s own long-range strategic plan, begun under the leadership of former board president, Tim Rahm. Allie picked up where Tim left off to take the project to its finish. Allie invested much time and energy into this endeavor and concluded the task during his last year on the board. Thanks to Allie and Tim and to all the other board members past and present who contributed to this major accomplishment.

Allie was also a regular and active attendee and helper at institute events. From adult programs in the winter to weekend events and fundraisers in the spring season. Allie was there to lend a hand and to show his leadership support.

Fortunately we will still benefit from Allie’s dedication to Renfrew as a whole. He was recently appointed to Renfrew Committee Inc. (RCI) and Renfrew Executive Committee (REC), the governing and management boards of Renfrew Museum and Park. He will continue to chair the REFC committee and is remaining on a couple of institute committees as well.

Charlene Good has also stepped down from the institute’s board. Charlene served for three years and contributed time and talent to several active committees including Youth Education, Adult Education, Pumpkin Fest and Membership.

As chair of the Youth Education Committee, Charlene helped the group plan new activities for children, most notably the Heritage Craft summer workshops. As a talented craftswoman, Charlene was able to teach several workshops and recruit other resource people too. She made demonstration boards to attract participants and organized the entire program. The workshops were very successful that first summer and continue as an annual program with new workshops as well as old favorites.

The addition of a bake sale table at Renfrew’s annual Pumpkin Festival was Charlene’s initiative. Her hand-made baked goods, cookie decorating project for kids and extra-ordinary decorative touches made this addition a beautiful, fun and profitable component of the festival. We hope Charlene continues to be part of this major Renfrew event.

Our sincere THANK YOU to both Allie and Charlene for their commitment to our organization and for all the time they devoted on its behalf.

Melodie Anderson-Smith
There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.


EVERYONE in Waynesboro owns a farm—Renfrew. Come, be inspired and learn!

**Thanks**

...to Katie Fox for help coping and collating public hand-out materials.

...to Pat Heefner for weekly help in the institute office.

...to Mary Ann Payne for continuing work on program materials, the institute's photo albums and other tasks.

Special Thank You

...to Lowell's Nursery, Inc., for donating daffodil bulbs planted by kindergarten EarthSeekers during their fall visit to Renfrew.

...to Harold Blubaugh and CBM Systems, Inc., for giving us a “good deal” (including Harold's free personal delivery service) on those very expensive ink cartridges for our color laser HP printer.

...to Paul, Diana & Matt Gunder for donation of Horse Heaven logo to be used as prizes for winners of new member recruitment game.

**New Copier Copier Copier Copier Copier**

Renfrew Institute thanks Pat and Jay Heefner for a donation in support of the purchase of a new office copier machine. Renfrew Institute and Renfrew Museum partnered on this purchase in order to share resources and expenses, and we offer a big THANK YOU to Pat and Jay for getting us started! We love our new machine! Additional funding will be required to meet the total cost (call us if you’d like to help.)
Our Wish List…
- Card tables—used, in good condition
- Book: *Children’s Special Places: Exploring the Role of Forts, Dens, and Bush Houses in Middle Childhood* by David Sobel
- Old untreated lumber, any length (for 4-square garden beds)
- Outdoor tent canopy—mesh or waterproof, new or used (in good condition)
- Walkie Talkies—new or used (in working order) Prefer rechargeable. Sorry, cannot use older styles.
- Additional underwriting sponsorship for this newsletter ($500)
- Funding for 40 additional rain ponchos for use by school groups ($400)
- Funding for 2 leather aprons ($60 each) and/or 2 reproduction draw knives ($50 each) to be used for upcoming woodworking programs

Wish List “Thank Yous”
- Pat O’Connor: Underwriting sponsorship for this newsletter
- Doris Goldman: Temporary loan of coffee maker for office
- Karen Manderson: Coffee maker for office

Don’t forget to renew your membership for 2006–07! An “Earth Stamp” here means we’re missing you!

Beyond the Wish List…Thank You Too!
- Tracy Hollday: Books—*Wings & Seasons* by Gunner Brusewitz; *Life of the Woodpecker* by Alexander F. Skutch; *Owls of the World* by John A. Burton; *Birds in the Garden* by Mike Mockler; *For the Birds: An Uncommon Guide* by Laura Erikson; *Gardening: A Gardener’s Dictionary* by Henry Beard & Roy McKie; *A Summer in the Life of Wild Mallards* by Kent Olson; Plantcraft by Richard Mabey.
- Pat O’Connor: Six font folding table (like new!) and the following books—*The Drop in the Drink: The Story of Water* by Meredith Hooper; *The Life Cycle of Butterflies* by Judy Burris & Wayne Richards.
- Anita Pfeuffer: Table loom.
- Joanne & Stan Schoonover: Books—*Dye Plants & Dyeing: A Handbook* from Brooklyn Botanical Garden; *Archaeology in the Upper Delaware Valley* by W. Fred Kimay, III
- Joe & Debbie Chukla, Becky Dietrich, Phil & Christine Marne and Kristin Zaruba: Cash donations.
- Phil & Jerry’s Meats & More: Lebanon bologna “tastes” for 20 classes of students participating in the institute’s farmstead program, *From Field to Table.*