Streamside

Newsletter of the Renfrew Institute

Summer 2003 Issue:

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Our Mission... Can we measure the effort?

unning along Buena Vista Road in Blue Ridge Summit, PA (my favorite place for weekend exercise) I find peace in the rhythms of foot and mind. There on a recent Sunday, I pondered the mission of Renfew Institute and thought over an exciting proposal to measure how well we are doing. I posed that familiar question, "Are we achieving our mission?" Then I remembered an important bit of knowledge I picked up during an inspiring workshop at Juniata College in June—

"We shall never achieve harmony with land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty of people. In these higher aspirations, the important thing is not to achieve, but to strive. It is only in mechanical enterprises that we can expect that early or complete fruition of effort which we call 'success.'" [Aldo Leopold, noted conservationist, Round River, 1949.]

The workshop, a two-day training session on the Leopold Education Project, gave me enough fuel to develop another whole facet of programming at Renfrew Institute. For now, let's just look at the quote above. Leopold insists that we measure our efforts (toward matters of "high aspiration") in terms of striving rather than achieving. I doubt anyone would argue that Renfrew Institute's mission fits into

the realm of "high aspiration" since our purpose is to guide people (kids and adults) in the Cumberland Valley region to become serious caretakers (stewards) of their natural and cultural worlds! Practically speaking, can we really expect to achieve that? I don't think so. But I'm still inspired to show up

MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the Renfrew Institute for Cultural and Environmental Studies is to guide the people of the Cumberland Valley Region to become stewards of their natural and cultural worlds."

at Renfrew and forge ahead with the institute's work. So are the other staff members, and so too, are loads of volunteers (including many of you reading this). The fact that staff and volunteers enjoy themselves in this work is beside the point. Somehow, we keep on investing in this organization's mission.

Perhaps Leopold's belief is our guideline. We believe in our mission and we believe we can strive toward achieving it, even if it's unrealistic to think that we will ever totally get there—to "mission accomplished." This speaks to me and probably to lots of other educators struggling with today's demand for quantifiable results in education. How do we measure things like stewardship in students of all ages who are complex, emotion-driven humans? How do we know we are making a difference?

(continued on page 5)

From the Desk of Tim Rahn, President

On Dollars & Sense



In June, the Board approved the institute's annual operating budget with little fanfare. The budget projects income of nearly \$110,000 for the year. Expenses for the year are anticipated to be nearly \$120,000. After you do the math, you can see that we approved a budget with a deficit.

The fact that the budget was approved with a deficit may not seem that unusual in this era

when personal and public debt is common—perhaps too common. We don't react with astonishment because it seems so commonplace.

Let me say up front that the institute's budget deficit does not reflect ill on the financial health of the organization. We have a solid foundation that can withstand an occasional deficit. And I'm not trying to paint a picture of doom and gloom, either. However, as members and friends of the institute, it is important that you are aware of our financial situation.

As members and friends you should also know that the board and staff are making every effort to hold the line on expenses. For example, salaries have been frozen and staff team program evaluations, critical to maintaining the quality of our programs, were postponed last winter. The staff conducts these evaluations every other year.

While the budget was approved with little fanfare, we did discuss the deficit. The board Finance Committee, chaired by John Blubaugh, had also discussed a plan to increase income, which boils down to one simple message: we need to increase our development efforts.

The Finance Committee's plan revolves around three ideas to generate additional income:

• Develop a new fund raiser

- Edmination of the Contraction of the Contraction

• Implement a summer camp for youth

THE ENDOWMENT

CORNER

Acquire more grants and program sponsors

The Development Committee, chaired by Steve Rost, will be investigating ideas for a new fundraiser. The hope here is to create a unique event that reflects the mission of the institute.

In the coming months, the Youth Education Committee, chaired by Charlene Good, will be meeting with staff to evaluate ideas that can be used to create a pilot summer camp. The thought is to start with something small to measure its potential, but still generate some

The staff, led by efforts from Melodie Anderson-Smith and Tracy Holliday, does yeoman's work to bring in significant income through grants and, in particular, program sponsors. The board plans to investigate ways that we can support the staff's efforts and search for additional grants and sponsors.

It is doubtful that any one of these ideas will make up the difference between income and expenses. Taken together, they should come close to putting a major dent in the shortfall.

Where do members and friends fit in? One, we need your ideas! If you have an interest in any of our proposals, step forward and see where you can help. Two, support our fundraisers when they happen—not only through financial contributions and attendance, but by helping with the event or by letting your friends know about it. Many of you are already going the extra mile in your support. We thank you and ask that you stick with us.

Our deficit presents a challenge, not an obstacle, to our continued success. Both the staff and the board enter the year with optimism and the knowledge that we have great members and friends. At the same time, we can always use more ideas and people willing to help us work toward supporting our mission.

If you are interested in helping with any of the projects mentioned—or if you just have an idea to share please contact a board member or Melodie Anderson-Smith at the institute via phone or email. (762-0373 or renfrewinst@innernet.net)

Endowment Corner—We Asked...You Gave!

We are pleased to announce that the response to last spring's supplemental giving campaign to benefit Renfrew Institute's Endowment Fund was phenomenal!! In an effort to raise \$1,000 to meet the board's annual commitment to the fund, seventy-nine contributions from members, board, staff and friends totaled \$6,200!

Our sincere THANK YOU to all of you who donated. Please keep Renfrew Institute in mind next spring and put a few dollars aside for this fund again. If you did not give earlier and would like to do so now, please make your check payable to Renfrew Institute (memo "endowment") and send to: Renfrew Institute, 1010 E. Main St., Waynesboro, PA 17268. A list of endowment donors will appear in the next issue of Streamside.

Downstream

with Angela Zimmerman

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.

Wildfire Prevention: Beneficial or Destructive?

Summer brings to mind picnics, amusement parks, fireworks and swimming. Unfortunately, summer also can mean droughts, heat waves and forest fires. It is common to hear about fires in the West sweeping through acres of land. One fire burned 60,000 acres in a single day last year. Why are there so many fires with such widespread destruction? Believe it or not, Smokey the Bear may be partly to blame.

Fires are a natural part of many ecosystems, including grasslands and forests, and can help keep them functional. According to an article by Carla Turner for Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) News Online, fires serve many purposes. Thick layers of dead matter such as leaves, logs and needles are reduced during fires. Once the overhead canopy is eliminated, seeds and roots have increased sunlight to begin their growth. The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) states that fire can reduce insect and disease infestations as well as release nutrients needed by vegetation.

Some types of plants actually depend on fire for renewal. For example, the lodgepole pine and jack pine seeds can only be scattered after a fire. The cones of these trees are sealed with resin which melts during a wildfire and allows the new seeds to disperse. Without fires, these seeds are never released. In a CBC Radio broadcast, reporter David Hoth visits an area of jack pine forest which was dying due to a plant parasite. The forest was in dire need of renewal. A fire could reduce the number of dead trees as well as release the new seeds for a healthier forest. Hoth also observes a stand of aspen trees that burned two years ago. Although the old trees had been killed in the fire, new aspens were growing from the dead trees' root systems. Already the young trees were a meter tall.

Even though fires have ecological benefits, many of the fires we hear about on the news are fires that are out of control. One example is the Hayman fire which burned 138,000 acres outside Denver, Colorado in July 2002.

The Nature Conservancy did a survey on the area affected by the Hayman fire. In 55% of the area burned, most of the trees were killed. Eight species, including the Mexican spotted owl and the Pawnee montane skipper butterfly, may no longer be able to survive in the area due to habitat loss. Seeds may be unable to disperse from any surviving areas because so much area was destroyed by the wildfire. Invasive plants have already been observed. Besides the ecological damage, the economic damage was significant. Many homes were destroyed. Extinguishing the fire cost more than \$39 million, and it may take another \$150 million to restore the area.

So why are these fires so destructive? It is partly due to



North America, USA Today states that forests, particularly in the West, experienced frequent and mild fires every two to thirty-five years. Since undergrowth and dead matter were cleared out frequently, the fires were less severe and many trees were able to survive. But, during the 20th century, the Nature Conservancy points out that people "mastered the art of fire suppression." Part of this trend was Smokey the Bear. Fires were viewed as horrible things that destroyed habitat and killed species. People became overprotective.

As attitudes towards fires shifted, dead matter built up and forests became thicker with vegetation, creating a large supply of fuel. Fires such as the Hayman fire are so destructive because it has been so long since any undergrowth and dead matter have been reduced. The fires burn hotter and spread farther than they would have naturally. Trees that may have survived before are scorched, plants are unable to bridge the expanse of land left by the fire, and endangered species suffer when huge areas of habitat are destroyed in just a few days. The good intentions behind Smokey the Bear helped set the stage for the massive destructive fires we have today.

Although fires are needed to help maintain healthy, functioning ecosystems, the conditions of our forests no longer allow for natural wildfires. In order to help preserve both valuable ecosystems and residents' homes, many agencies have developed strategies to reduce the threat of uncontrollable wildfires.

Two types of management were described by the National Fire Plan. This organization is hoping to "manage the impact of wildfires on the communities and the environment." One method that has been used is prescribed fire. This is when a controlled fire is intentionally set in order to accomplish specific management goals, such as reducing dead matter. The fires have predetermined boundaries and may help prevent larger, more destructive fires in the future.

The National Fire Plan recently funded a 6,200 acre prescribed fire in Missouri. The fire was used to restore part of a savanna ecosystem in the Mark Twain National Forest. Prior to 1900, fires occurred every three to four years in the area, and it was feared that an uncontrolled fire would

Renfrew Museum and Park Welcomes New Curator



James Ross

Renfrew Institute joins Renfrew Museum in welcoming James Ross to the post of curator/director for Renfrew Museum and Park. Jim began employment with Renfrew Committee Inc. (RCI), the governing body of the museum, in early July. Though Renfrew Museum & Park and Renfrew Institute are separate organizations, the staff members of each interact daily for the benefit of the visiting public at Renfrew, from school

kids to weekend tourists. Already we are exchanging some exciting ideas and plans for the future of Renfrew.

We wish Jim and his wife, Amy, much happiness in this new endeavor. Amy will be working as an elementary teacher in the Waynesboro Area School District. A copy of the letter Jim wrote for the museum's newsletter, Der Wetterhan, is used here with permission.

Dear Renfrew Family,

I wanted to thank everyone for the heartfelt welcome I have been receiving since starting my new position. The entire extended Renfrew family seems to be a hard working and close-knit group and I am proud to have the opportunity to represent all of you.

I have spent my entire life absolutely fascinated by the subject of history. After serving in the United States Coast Guard out of high school, I pursued and received a degree in American History from Bloomsburg University. My first museum position was as a museum educator at the Fort Myers Historical Museum in Florida. I then accepted the position of Public Programs Coordinator with the Manassas Museum System. Most recently, I served as the Executive Director of Rock Ford Plantation in Lancaster.

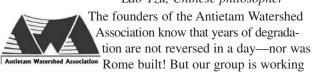
I believe that Renfrew Museum and Park is at a critical juncture in its development. All of us can agree that Renfrew has remarkable potential. A short walk around the property left one word in my mind—"opportunity." With our remarkable property, collection and people, I genuinely believe Renfrew can become a formidable regional tourist attraction.

My early goals are simple. Working with the Long-Range planning committee, I will look at ways to develop a "tourist friendly" site that offers an experience that no other attraction in our region offers. Secondly, I plan on launching an aggressive marketing campaign that will be aimed at bringing people into Waynesboro who enjoy heritage based

I look forward to meeting all of you and hearing your personal visions for the future of Renfrew Museum and Park.

Antietam Watershed Association

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." —Lao-Tzu, Chinese philosopher



to protect the Antietam watershed and the Chesapeake

Bay region affected by our seemingly lazy, meandering stream.

Formed as an educational group in 2000, AWA is evolving into an advocacy group to foster a positive influence on the practices of private citizens, municipal authorities and businesses in the watershed. We received a grant from the League of Women Voters to create educational brochures, and our application for non-profit status is in the pipeline. Rob Schnabel, a water-

AWA's major goal is to make consideration of Antietam Creek and its watershed a priority in policy decisions. For instance, when construction permits are



shed restoration scientist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, speaks about riparian planting. AWA board member Bruce Francis looks on, left.

issued by governmental bodies, water usage and stream preservation should be of primary concern. We also hope that private citizens will consider the same when designing and treating their lawns, using water, etc.

The health of Antietam Creek has deteriorated in some sections, and AWA wants to help restore its integrity. It will be a very long haul. Our goal is that through educational outreach programs and group projects we can have a positive impact on the stream's future. We are grateful to Renfrew Institute for partnering with us; the institute's expertise is critical to the success of this venture.

Pat Heefner, AWA Secretary

In October (date TBA), the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) will sponsor its second local riparian planting. AWA's first partnership with CBF was at the Landes farm in Waynecastle, and was a rousing success. Come join us in our efforts to improve the quality of life in our area, and for those in the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed.

For more information, please call, write or visit AWA's website. antietamws.org

New members Antietam Watershed Association welcome! P.O. Box 331, Waynesboro PA 17268 717-762-9417

Next meeting: Wed., Oct. 8-Washington Twp. Municipal Bldg. Next project: October (date to be announced) streamside planting project with Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Watch newspaper for details.

Four New Institute Board Members



(Left to right) Liane Benchoff, Donna Steiner, Linda Zimmerman and Charlene Good

Renfrew Institute welcomes four new board members, Liane Miller Benchoff, Charlene Good, Donna Steiner and Linda Zimmerman. The four women share common interests in children and education which have influenced their careers and activities.

Liane Benchoff has a long association with Renfrew. Her father, Ed Miller, was Renfrew's superintendent of buildings and grounds for nearly half a century. Benchoff is a Learning Support Teaching Assistant for the Waynesboro Area School District (WASD). She chaired the Trinity United Church of Christ Nursery/Play School and is past-president of the Waynesboro Area Senior High School (WASHS) Basketball Boosters.

Charlene Good is a third grade teacher at Fairview Elementary in Waynesboro. She is Choir & Handbell Director at Waynesboro Church of the Brethren, and is actively involved in the Waynesboro College Club, Waynesboro Historical Society, Community Concert Association (board member) and the WaynesboroFest Committee. She has a special interest in education, music, needlework and crafts.

Donna Steiner is a children's counselor at the Frances Leiter Center in Chambersburg. She is a member of the National Board of Certified Counselors and the Hood College Alumnae Association, and has served on the boards of Waynesboro College Club and the Maryland Symphony Orchestra Guild. Steiner has a great interest in youth education. "I have worked with children nearly my entire professional life, and believe I could offer insight into programming...appropriate for different ages and abilities," she said.

Linda Zimmerman is a WASHS German teacher. She is a member of the American Association of Teachers of German, and is on the board of the American Cancer Society. Zimmerman is especially interested in youth programming. "Through my own children and educational background, I am in touch with student interests and effective presentation," she said. "As a former Renfrew committee member...I developed a deep appreciation for Renfrew's contribution to our community."

Our Mission—continued from page 1

To help answer these questions, Renfrew Institute is embarking on a bit of research that should prove helpful, insightful, even provocative.

Under the direction of Shippensburg University geo-environmental studies graduate intern Holly Smith, and with the cooperation of the Waynesboro Area School District and St. Andrew School, we will investigate at least one "stewardship-related" aspect of the institute's environmental programming and assess its effectiveness with students who have experienced our programs over the course of their six to seven elementary school years. [Please read *Focus on Research*, page 13.]

Am I worried about what we might discover? Not at all. I don't expect to find that our institute "graduates" are now avid naturalists carrying messages of environmental concern on their t-shirts. A few might be, most won't. They are students of many interests and pursuits. Moreover, conservation-mindedness is not promoted in our culture. It is perceived as going "against the flow" of our product-rich lifestyles. If we can, however, discover a link between the institute's programs and positive student attitudes toward environmental stewardship in general, and especially toward caring for their Renfrew, then we are striving in the right direction.

I think our research results will prove valuable as a springboard for additional research and more focused program development. It will help us know how to assess other aspects of our programs, both environmental and cultural. Hopefully, it will demonstrate to the schools that coming to Renfrew for these programs is worthwhile for students—that it helps them deepen their relationship with their community, which can help them grow into caring, active citizens. The sense of place is a powerful concept for humans. We are drawn to places that have meaning in our lives. Renfrew is such a place. Is it a place where stewardship can be nurtured, even measured?

Our commitment to the mission of environmental stewardship, in the broadest sense—care of the Earth and its life—finds expression through our commitment to the stewardship of Renfrew Park. I look forward to seeing the data on our efforts to strive toward this "high aspiration."

> [Note: For information about the Leopold Education Project, see their website: www.lep.org

> > Melodie Anderson-Smith

THANKS To Our Departing Board Members

We thank these four departing board members for their contributions of time and talent to help Renfrew Institute thrive. Barbara Bowersox reorganized and energized the membership committee and its activities, Chris Richwine served as vice president and chair of development, Jeff Rhodes chaired the school relations committee and helped with adult education. Eunice Statler chaired the nominating committee, prepared policy documents and was always there when we needed help, from preparing mailings to working in the corn maze.

Sponsor Spotlight— Citizens Bank of Southern Pennsylvania

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Sponsor Spotlight* is a new 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.

Thanks to Citizens Bank of Southern Pennsylvania, Renfrew Institute recently hosted the 14th annual Youth Festival, themed *Fun Unplugged*. Citizens became the sole sponsor of this event with an initial gift in 1991.

Since then, many happy participants have enjoyed the festivals. The day is built around a theme which changes annually. Past themes have included *Nocturnal Notions*, *Citizens of the World*, and *Patterns*, to name just a few.

Youth Festival features hands-on activities for children of all ages. A number of activities are hosted by a large corp of volunteers, who plan and orchestrate workshops that have ranged from creating clay sculptures to kayaking on the east branch of the Antietam.

Professional entertainment is featured at the end of the afternoon, thanks to the funding provided through Citizens' support. This year's participants were treated to a performance of the perennial favorite, *Peter Pan*, by The Traveling Lantern Theatre Company.

The 'Traveling Lantern' is a Shakespearean metaphor for the sun traveling across the sky. Our performers were traveling as well since they began their journey in California at the beginning of the summer and

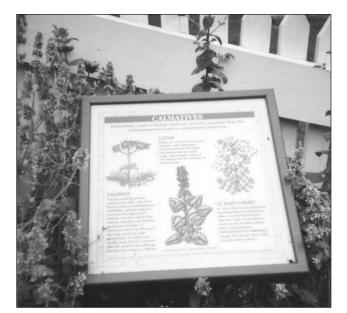


Peter Pan encounters Captain Hook in the Traveling Lantern's theatrical presentation of Peter Pan at the 2003 Youth Festival.

"performed" their way across the country. Their rendition of *Peter Pan* was beautifully costumed and energetically performed with audience participation. Several members of the audience were invited to don costumes and join in the fun. Those of us looking on were delighted by their enthusiasm!

We are grateful to Citizens Bank for their long time support. John Blubaugh, the bank's senior vice president, says, "It is a pleasure to sponsor Renfrew Institute's Youth Festival. At Citizens Bank of Southern Pennsylvania, we strive to support our local communities and participate in worthwhile educational programs, such as Renfrew's Youth Festival, that lead to the betterment of the community. We look forward to partnering with Renfrew for many years to come."

Tracy Holliday



The Calmatives sign details the soothing powers of various plants.

Four Square Garden Interpretive Signs

Next time you're at Renfrew, take a walk to the four square garden, located on the west side of the Fahnestock House, to see the new interpretive signs. The signs, placed throughout the garden, interpret four categories of medicinal uses of plants in the early 1800s: Analgesics, Calmatives, Healthful Diet and Infections. Our own Doris Goldman provided the artwork and text. Icon Graphics, Hagerstown, Md., designed the layout, GS Images, Hagerstown, printed them, and Hopewell Manufacturing, also of Hagerstown, made the frames and posts. Board member Allie Kohler placed the signs in the garden. Funding was provided in part by grants from Waynesboro Internal Medicine, Mont Alto Family Practice, The Baltimore Life Companies, and an anonymous donor. Thanks to all who helped to make this project a success. The signs are beautiful!

School Was Out, But Water Striders Were In!

Renfrew Institute's water quality monitoring group, Water Striders had a great time getting down and dirty—or should I say wet—this summer. Throughout the summer, this small and dedicated group of students met weekly on Tuesdays to conduct water quality sampling on East Branch Antietam Creek.

The warm summer days offered great opportunities for the group to get in the water to test streamflow, search for aquatic organisms, study geology and enjoy the adventures of the creek. Sampling was even conducted on one adventure at several sites along Antietam Creek to compare water quality and observe how land uses impact various water quality parameters. *Water Striders* students also helped plant new seedlings along the creek's banks, a measure that could influence water quality in the future.

Weekly results of *Water Striders* testing are sent to Dickinson College's ALLARM program, which monitors watersheds around the state (check it out at www.dickinson.edu/storg/allarm).

The group's most adventurous journey of the summer (thanks to the expertise of our guide, Doris Goldman) took us to an acidic vernal pond on South Mountain in search of a federally endangered bulrush. We found the bulrush, along with a ton of huge spiders, a snapping turtle, a black racer and lots of mosquitoes! The afternoon proved to be quite a learning experience and a lot of fun!

Although summer is winding down, we hope that *Water Striders* will continue to grow as volunteers contribute time, energy and enthusiasm to the program. We're always looking for a few more hands and a few more adventures. Call Renfrew Institute if you are interested in more information!

Jenne Esser



(Left to right) Water Striders Mark Fries, Laura Fawks and instructor Jenne Esser stand in a vernal pond on South Mountain, pointing to the federally endangered bulrush they found there. The group's excursion to the pond was led by Doris Goldman. (Water Striders not shown in photo: Mike Bloom, Emily Ledden and Laura Rock) See related photo on page 12.

What did the Water Striders Find?

Below is a sampling of the Water Strider findings this summer in East Branch Antietam Creek (at Renfrew's picnic grounds):

- Average pH: 7.5
- Dissolved Oxygen range: 2.5 8.0 ppm (parts per million)
- Maximum Water Temperature: 23° C (8/12/03)
- Maximum Nitrate (NO₃) Concentration: 0 ppm
- Maximum Phosphate (PO₄) concentration: 4 ppm (6/11/03)
- Measured Discharge by Students: 97 cfs (cubic feet per second) CONCLUSION: The creek appears to be a very healthy aquatic ecosystem with a diverse variety of life and little to no water quality degradation.

Our Potomac Watershed— One Rainy Spring

The Potomac River (into which our Antietam Creek flows) contributed about 22% or 29 billion gallons per day (bgd), of the

total fresh water (144 bgd) which surged into the Chesapeake Bay during March 2003. The total inflow to the Bay that month (from all sources) was 149% of the historical average of about 96.2 bgd.

[U.S. Geological Survey, Potomac Basin Reporter– Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, March/April 2003]

Eagle Scout Project to Benefit Renfrew

Martin Goldman, a local boy scout seeking to earn his Eagle Scout rank, is planning a project that promises to be beneficial for Renfrew's staff, students and visitors. The letter below explains the project in detail.



My name is Martin Goldman and I am working toward obtaining the rank of Eagle by doing an Eagle Scout Project at Renfrew Park. I will construct a small building behind the Fahnestock Barn that will fit in historically with the surrounding structures. This building will house two electric-powered waterless

composting toilets. One toilet will accommodate a wheelchair. The facilities will be available for classes taught in the area and for public events. Moreover, the composting toilets are clean, efficient and environmentally friendly.

This project is estimated to cost about \$5,500. If you are interested in helping with this worthwhile endeavor, please send a contribution (payable to Renfrew Museum and Park) to Renfrew Museum, 1010 East Main Street, Waynesboro, PA 17268. Please designate your gift for "composting toilet project."

Contributions in any amount are appreciated. Thank you for your support!

-Martin Goldman

o

Gortex and Linen

by Sherry Hesse



April with wet snow! This first day turned out to be one of many wet teaching days.

Believe it or not, institute teachers managed to hold most classes in spite of the weather. The staff became masters of flexibility. With amazing good humor, everyone made the appropriate accommodations to provide an enjoyable, educational day for each new group of visiting school children. I am grateful to work with such a resourceful, positive and talented staff.

As teacher of the program Raising Clothes: Wool Culture of the Pennsylvania Germans, I was the luckiest of the instructors. I perfected my inside wool class, handing out instructions and supplies inside, and dashing outside only long enough to wash wool under the shelter of the Visitors Center overhang. I actually became spoiled, and on the few clear days we enjoyed, thought to myself, "you mean I have to carry all these supplies outside?"

Others were not so lucky. Programs like Wake Up

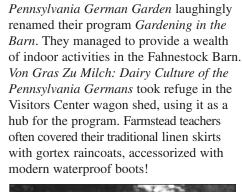


Earth, It's Spring and Marvin Visits Earth were forced inside the Visitors Center o complete nature activities on the carpet.

With dry space at a premium, we used every available

inch. On one particularly wet day, I taught Wool Culture inside while an environmental program was in session

across the room. Outside, another class used the wagon shed. The overhang area was fully occupied, with Lifesavers of the Chesapeake Bay at the far end, my wool tubs in the middle, and Earth Encounters water balloon throwers (from the water cycle activity) at the other end.



Teachers of Four Squares: The



At the end of the teaching day, the Visitors Center became a "drying out" spot. Wet ponchos hung from makeshift clotheslines and sit-upons were arranged in herringbone patterns for quick drying. Earth Encounters puzzle pieces or other

props were spread out to dry before morning. On May 28 I heard on the radio that April 27 had been the last completely sunny day—and through it all, the institute's school programs continued to run with a smile.



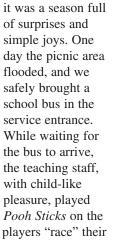




bridge. (In this game from the Winnie the Pooh stories, players "race" their sticks from one side of the bridge to the other. The sticks are dropped in on

the upstream side, and whichever stick emerges on the downstream side first wins.)

Wet or dry, Renfrew is home to a variety of "critters." It was a delight to teach in the sun after a month of rain, and a pleasure to discover a turtle, toads and birds deer walked across the clearing and showed off for my kindergarten group. During a first grade dairy class, a skunk visited the wagon shed and decided to take a nap. Teachers quietly moved the class the skunk. Another day a teacher spotted a pair of eyes peering at a group of children from a hole in a tree; she later returned to discover a raccoon in the hole.



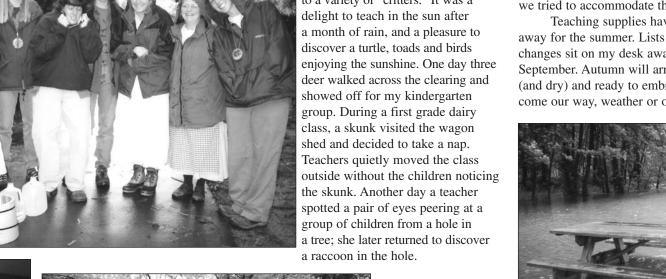
Rain and all.



phone conversation regarding "putting the pant leg in the mail." A child lost his zip-off pant leg, and it was found in the park and returned.

Through it all, our staff performed beautifully and classroom teachers and parents were supportive. Bus schedules (and our full schedule) are difficult to change, so teachers were glad to come and seemed pleased that we tried to accommodate them.

Teaching supplies have been cleaned up and put away for the summer. Lists of prop repairs and program changes sit on my desk awaiting completion before September. Autumn will arrive with the staff refreshed (and dry) and ready to embrace new challenges that come our way, weather or otherwise.









BAY SUPPER TOPS GOAL!

¥ If you attended the sixth annual Chesapeake Bay Supper fund-raiser on Friday, June 20 at the Waynesboro Country Club, you probably felt the momentum of an event that has at last "rounded the corner." Two important goals were met that night. More than 100 people attended—101 to be exact—and

the \$5,000 profit goal was surpassed, netting \$5,603. In addition, improved background music and a special volunteer performance by guitarist, Tom McFarland and vocalist, Susan Shull Murphy (dressed in a bright orange crab costume) delighted diners with water-related songs and sing-alongs.

At a post-event evaluation meeting, the Bay Supper team, co-chaired by Murphy and Pat Heefner, concluded that the supper is a viable fund-raiser with achievable results. The institute's board of directors couldn't agree more. The consensus is "let's roll for next year!"

Soooo, if you missed it in 2003, plan now for Friday, June 25, 2004, 6 PM so that you and your table-mates can be part of the seventh annual supper. The Waynesboro Country Club is already reserved and the event will spill over into the adjoining dining room so there will plenty of space to increase attendance. Tables can be reserved ahead if you have a group of family/friends that would like to come together.

A huge **THANK YOU** to the following members of the planning committee: Susan Shull Murphy & Pat Heefner–Event Co-chairs Reda Robinson & Diana Gunder-Silent Auction Ann Miller-Decorations Eunice Statler-Invitations JoAnn Kohler-Food & Facility

Thanks also to Steve Graham of Pungoteague, Va., formerly of Waynesboro, for his contributions to the silent auction and his donation of 1,000 little neck clams (steamed for the supper)! This was a sumptuous addition to the menu that also included barbecue chicken, clam chowder, cole slaw, pasta salad, corn bread and mixed berry shortcake. Added thanks to Susie Murphy for serving as emcee and to Tom McFarland for sharing his musical talent. Thanks to Andrea Struble for donating her time to prepare the computer master for the invitations and to James Smith and the Nicodemus Center for Ceramic Studies for printing the color covers on the programs (ink costs reimbursed to NCCS).

Bidding on the silent auction was more than double last year—a total of \$2,855 for nearly 40 attractive items. Water trips including rafting and an all-day Bay sailing adventure, ceramic art and a beautiful hand-made quilt topped the list. Garden items, books, antiques, dinners, art works, pottery, glassware, golf lessons, hand-crafted



Bay Supper committee members, left to right; Pat Heefner (cochair), JoAnn Kohler, Eunice Statler, Tom McFarland, Diana Gunder, Ann Miller and Susan Shull Murphy (co-chair).

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

SPONSORS

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"Dynamic duo" Susie Murphy (in a bright orange crab suit)

* Renfrew Institute has been awarded a grant of \$2,500 in support of our annual Jazz Festival. The grant was funded by the Franklin County Hotel Tax **Grant Program**, a new program initiated this year by the Franklin County Commissioners to bolster Franklin County tourism efforts. The institute is grateful for this new support as it permits us to continue offering this event to the public admission free. The roster of performers included, once again, internationally acclaimed jazz guitarist Paul Bollenback, accompanied by Joe Locke, Sponsorships vibes, Ed Howard, bass, Steve

Wilson, sax, and Billy Hart, drums. We enjoyed another spectacular performance in the beautiful outdoor setting of Renfrew Museum and Park.

* Morgan Stanley, Hagerstown, Maryland has contributed \$500 in support of the publication of this newsletter, Streamside. Branch manager, Suzanne Hayes awarded this gift which will partially underwrite the cost of producing two issues of *Streamside* during the year. The institute is pleased to receive this contribution and welcomes Morgan Stanley to our family of underwriting supporters.

* The Citigroup Foundation has contributed \$1,000 in support of the institute's farmstead program *Growing* Clothes: Flax Culture of the Pennsylvania Germans. This gift will partially underwrite the cost of delivering the program in the coming fall (2003) for area fourth grade students. During the flax culture program, students have an opportunity to learn how the early settlers of the region relied on the natural world in producing linen cloth from the flax plant. Participating children will experience first hand some of the jobs required to transform flax stems into thread, including braking, scutching, hatcheling and simple spinning using a drop spindle. The Flax Culture program is one of our oldest, and continues to be one of our most popular with area fourth grade students from the Waynesboro Area School District and beyond. We are



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

Citigroup Foundation Vicki Hess Tess Kongkeattikul *Lori & Eric Schlosser, Sarah & Kurt *Serpi Family *Slick Family

Morgan Stanley Mary & Tom Steel *Bill Wells Regret new member omission (last issue):

*Dorothy Fawks

We regret the inadvertent omission of long-time member, recently deceased, Joseph E. Bowling from the membership list printed in the previous issue of Streamside.

delighted to receive this new support and offer special thanks to institute board member **Steve**

Rost. Senior Vice President of Investments at Salomon Smith Barney, who was instrumental in securing this funding.

***** Citicorp Financial Services, Inc. provided \$1,000 in support during the past spring for the environmental program Discovering Wetlands. The institute is grateful for this gift which partially underwrote the cost of a hands on exploration of Renfrew's wetland during the 2002-03

Helping Renfrew Institute Grow... program season. During this program, sixth grade students

> learn the three major types of wetlands and examine the plants, animals, soils, energy flow and water chemistry of these special ecosystems. Students use models to see how wetlands act as "sponges" and "filters." They learn why wetlands are valuable to humans ecologically, aesthetically and economically. They discuss problems that threaten the survival and well-being of wetland ecosystems throughout the Chesapeake Bay region. Thanks to Citicorp for supporting this important work as we introduce "wetlands science" and stewardship to our youth population.

...to John Frantz and Ron Harbaugh for installing new seating and shade umbrella holders at the 4-square garden in preparation for spring 2003 school programs.

...to Mark Fries and Katie Keller for help with miscellaneous office and program tasks.

...to Charlene Good for creating replacement materials for the school program, Earth Encounters.

...to Pat Heefner for her tribute to Renfrew Institute which appeared as a "letter to the editor" in the 5/12/03 issue of the *Record Herald* newspaper (copy on file in our office).

...to Claire Hunter, Dottie Fawks and Jean Cashin for donating their time this summer every Tuesday for six weeks to read stories and lead craft activities for the Children's Summer Stories series. Thanks to Claire and the Colorworks for sponsoring the event.

...to Colleen Larson for continuing to help out in the office every Wednesday.

...to Frank Larson for cutting and drilling 450 wooden cookie nametags for the kindergarten children who will begin the environmental program *Earthseekers* in September 2003.

...to Karen Manderson for creating a hand-made bonnet for the Nancy Royer doll used in the Dairy Culture of the Pennsylvania Germans school program.

...to Mary Ann Payne for continuing to assemble or create student materials for the educational programs.

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items, basket gifts, and original t-shirts were also offered. and Tom McFarland on guitar entertained at the Bay Supper.



What Teachers & Parents Say About Earthseekers

Earthseekers is Renfrew Institute's environmental program for kindergarten students.

"I have observed carry over into other outdoor activities. The children are verbally and physically being attentive to nature. The program has been a highlight

of these past few years. Thanks for including us."

—Marilyn Griffin, teacher, Guilford Hills Elem, Chambersburg

"My kindergarten children thoroughly enjoy their trips to Renfrew. These excursions provide hands-on activities which are meaninful and exciting to children of this age. In the classroom there are many links to learning because they have had these experiences."

—Mary Ann Miller, teacher, Hooverville Elem, Waynesboro

"This will be my third year taking K students to Renfrew for Earthseekers. I think the program is a wonderful way to teach students about their five senses and about appreciating the environment. My students always <u>love</u> going. It is an age-appropriate curriculum."

—Shimae Benchoff, teacher, Fairview Elem, Waynesboro

"[Earthseekers] teaches us what we don't think about much! How do the wonders work? What makes the clouds move?—the little things we take for granted."

—unsigned by parent, Mowrey Elem, Waynesboro

"My daughters have enjoyed your activities. Earthseekers exposes children to the wonders and beauty of nature with supervision. Please Please continue this program—It's Great!"—Chris & Joe Bradley, parents, St. Andrew School, Waynesboro



"Cool! It's a snake!" Water Striders Laura Fawks and Mark Fries found more than they were searching for on a summer expedition to South Mountain. See related story on page 7.

Tributes—a way of recognizing someone special through a gift to Renfrew Institute

Gifts may honor a friend or loved one for a birthday, wedding, or other special occasion. Memorial donations are also appropriate. An acknowledgement of your tribute will be sent to the honoree or in the case of a memorial gift, to the family. If you wish to designate your donation for a specific purpose, please call or e-mail to request our guidelines (717-762-0373 or renfrewinst@innernet.net)

Two levels of giving are offered:

- ♦ Star Tributes may be made in any amount to \$100.
- *♦ Cygnus Tributes* begin at \$100.

[Cygnus is a constellation of stars representing a swan in flight.]

A Cygnus Tribute in honor of
Claire E. Barnett has been given
by a loved one. Claire is a frequent
visitor to Renfrew who loves the park and
enjoys the serenity and beauty of nature during her walks.

New Brochure Arrives!

By the time you read this newsletter, 4000 new promotional brochures will have arrived at the institute's office at Renfrew. If you are a member of Renfrew Institute you received one in your 2003–04 membership renewal packet.

Thanks to underwriting sponsorships, the project is at last finished! As stated in the brochure, funding was provided...

...in part through a grant from Maxwell Law Offices in memory of their client, Emma Geiser Nicodemus. As a bequest, she gave her home and 107-acre property, now known as Renfrew Museum and Park, to the community of Waynesboro. Funding was also provided through a gift from an anonymous donor.

Designed by Andrea Struble, the full-color brochure presents Renfrew Institute, its mission and activities in a concise and attractive format. It will be used to promote the institute at local events and regional outlets, as an enclosure for responses to program inquiries, and as an information piece to help recruit new members, sponsors and grantors.

To ensure that we model our mission of environmental stewardship, the brochure is printed on 100% recycled paper using 100% vegetable inks. Our thanks to Graphics Universal, Inc. of Greencastle, PA for excellent service and quality.

E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGE

New email address for Renfrew Institute, effective immediately: renfrewinst@innernet.net



he level of scholarly research at Renfrew Institute jumped two big notches recently with the arrival of two graduate interns from Shippensburg University. Jennifer Esser and Holly Smith have joined the institute staff to pursue work which will help each of them achieve a masters degree in geo-environmental studies.

Jennifer Esser is spending her internship with the institute this summer and fall, assisting with several ongoing projects. She is providing adult leadership for the afterschool middle and high school program, *Water Striders*, and has successfully recruited several new students to help with water quality testing, riparian plantings and other stream related activities. Esser also is beginning a research project to explore the geologic formations underlying Renfrew Park and the relationship between that geology and the human culture that has developed here. Her findings will be used to develop an educational brochure that will be available to park visitors in spring 2004.

In addition, Esser will be completing another portion of her education at Renfrew Institute—as a student teacher. To earn a teaching certificate in environmental education, Esser will conduct a spring 2004 two-week unit of study on watersheds (again with the focus on geology) for seventh grade students of science teacher Brian Fett at the Waynesboro Area Middle School. She will also teach environmental programs as part of the institute's teaching staff during our spring 2004 school programs.

Holly Smith has undertaken an educational research project which will contribute valuable new information to Renfrew Institute and to the field of environmental education. Long have we sought to conduct scholarly research on the effectiveness of the institute's educational programs with school children. Smith is working to provide the beginnings of such research which will be shared through national journal publication and presentations at conferences.

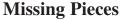
In an abstract for the upcoming Pennsylvania Geographical Society 2003 Annual Meeting in Erie, Pa., at which Smith will present a paper, she writes, "This presentation explores the development of an evaluation instrument (or instruments) to measure the impact of a component of Renfrew Institute's environmental education programming on the students, staff and parents of Waynesboro [Area] School District and St. Andrew School, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania." Smith plans to enlist the volunteer help of a sampling of local teachers, students and parents to assess through questionnaires, interviews, case studies or other means, the short-term and in some cases, long-term impact of various aspects of Renfrew Institute's environmental educational programs. She also hopes to work with the institute in the future as a consultant, building on this research with new projects funded through grants.

Jennifer Esser and Holly Smith bring a high level of enthusiasm and intellect to Renfrew Institute. We are very fortunate to be working with both of them in such mutually enriching experiences. Watch for a report on their progress in the next issue of *Streamside*.

[*Note*: If any of you, as teachers or parents involved with our school programs currently or in past years, would like to participate in Holly Smith's project, please call Holly or Melodie at 762-0373.]



The institute's new interns, Holly Smith, left, and Jennifer Esser.



We wish a fond farewell to Sally Reeder. Sally filled the role of lead teacher during the last two years for the program

Von Gras zu Milch (From Grass to

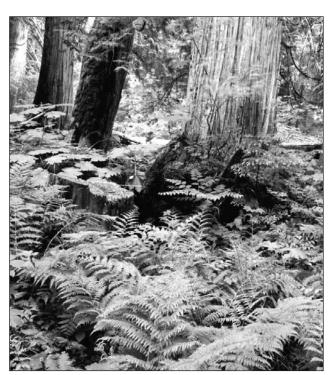
Milk): Dairy Culture of the Pennsylvania Germans.

Sally's interest in history was invaluable as she learned the details of the dairy program. She is naturally good with children, and she was able to turn her knowledge into a positive experience for first graders at Renfrew.

Sally has a degree in political science from the University of Maryland, and is currently continuing her education. She is attending Montgomery College, where she is studying interior design. Sally and her family live in Hagerstown. Best wishes to you, Sally, as you pursue a new career!

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Thousands of acres of healthy forest lands are threatened when wildfires burn out of control. See Downstream article on wildfires, right, continued from page 3.

Following up...on Biodiversity

The last newsletter featured a *Downstream* article on biodiversity. The following are exerpts from the spring 2003 hands-on exhibit, *Biodiversity*, at National Geographic Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

- More than 60% of Earth's biodiversity is found underground
- "It's important to protect biodiversity because wild nature inspires so much wonderful poetry." –*Marie Bintner*, 61, high school English teacher
- "Even if I were certain that the world would end tomorrow, I would plant a tree this very day." —*Martin Luther King, Jr.*
- More than 1 billion people (out of 6 billion) on Earth depend upon fish as a primary source of protein.
- "Show me a person who understands the wise use of resources—capital, labor, and the environment—and I'll show you a business leader of the future." —Samuel C. Johnson, Chairman Emeritus, S.C. Johnson Wax
- "If we want to pass on a living planet to our children and our children's children then we need to embrace the idea that our actions matter, that the decisions we make—as individuals and as institutions—reverberate throughout the web of life and endure through time." –Kathryn S. Fuller, President, World Wildlife Fund

Wildfires—continued from page 3

destroy all vegetation. Savannas depend on fire for numerous reasons. In addition to reducing dead matter, fires help control the spread of woody plants and help maintain diversity. It is hoped that prescribed fire will help preserve this ecosystem.

The Fuels Reduction Program, which is also funded by the National Fire Plan, used thinning to reduce the risk of fire and increase the health of the forest in Arizona. In this voluntary program, landowners paid \$50 per acre to have their private land thinned. Trees were tagged and later removed using chainsaws. In the two communities described, 80 landowners signed up for the program for a total of more than 300 acres. By thinning out trees, the amount of available fuel was reduced which may keep future fires from destroying land or homes.

Thinning is also part of the Healthy Forest Initiative which is being pushed by the Bush administration and Congress. According to an article in *USA Today*, the initiative calls for thinning 20 million acres of overcrowded forest. Interior Secretary Gale Norton along with other senior officials feel that the thinning program needs to be even more aggressive, and call for about 190 million acres of federal land to be treated.

Thinning is supposed to prevent severe fires, yet the article points out that this may not be the case. Some of the area affected by the Hayman fire actually had been thinned either by mechanical means or by small prescribed fires set to clear underbrush. Those areas were not spared from the fire. It is also felt that there may be other factors contributing to the severity of recent fires including global warming and lack of preventative measures taken by homeowners. Many feel that thinning is not the ultimate solution to the wildfire problem; in fact, research on the benefits of thinning has not been conclusive.

There is also some concern that the Healthy Forest Initiative may actually be an excuse for large-scale logging in forests. The initiative hopes to prevent damage to homes and communities, yet some of the areas targeted for thinning are far from human occupation. It is also feared that the program will be costly; it is estimated that the thinning could cost more than \$1000 an acre.

It may be that thinning alone is not the ultimate answer to the wildfire problem. Some experts feel that a variety of methods should be used including prescribed fires, mechanical and chemical thinning of vegetation, and preventative measures such as keeping a 150-foot barrier around homes. Whatever the answer may be, it is obvious that we need to help our forests before more valuable resources are lost.

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Fall Calendar of Events

Monster Corn "Maze of the Rings"

Weekends beginning Saturday, September 6, 1–5 PM Night mazes–Sept. 27, Oct. 4 & 11, 8–10 PM Co-sponsored by Renfrew Institute and Renfrew

Museum as a joint fund-raiser.

This popular attraction features an allnew design laid out in a series of rings.

Exciting fun for the whole family. Play the Ring Seekers Stamp Game and win a prize. "Haunted" night maze Oct. 11. Bring flashlights to Night Mazes. Admission \$5 Adults, \$3 children 4–12. Free Kiddie Maze.

Planet Red: Mars Encounter

Thursday, Sept. 25, 7 PM Visitors Center, Renfrew Park Underwritten in part by Walker & McBride Offices, div. of Barley, Snyder, Senft and Cohen

Special program on Mars presented by astronomer Dr. William J. Webster of Goddard Space Flight Center. Telescope viewing following the program will be provided by Tri-State Astronomers. Free admission. No registration required.

Backyard Composting Workshop *Thursday, Oct. 9, 6:30–8 PM*

Visitors Center, Renfrew Park

Renfrew Institute and Penn State
Cooperative Extension are teaming up to
offer a composting workshop and free back-

yard composting bins to Franklin County residents. Composting is easy, and benefits both individuals and the environment. To register (required), call the cooperative extension at 717-263-9226.

Eighth Annual Renfrew Pumpkin Festival

Saturday, October 18, 11 AM—4 PM
Co-sponsored by Renfrew Institute and
Renfrew Museum as a joint fund-raiser.
Pumpkins and gourds grown in Renfrew's
pumpkin patch will be on sale. A team of
artists will carve or help others to carve
intricate designs (no charge). Features
include: corn maze, pumpkin hurling trebuchet, hay
rides, face painting, music, and free soup, cider and
bread. Hot dogs, sodas, t-shirts sold separately.
Admission charged.

Halloween Storytelling

Wednesday, October 29, 6:30–7:30 PM Underwritten in part by a grant from Patriot Federal Credit Union

Annual evening of spooky tales featuring a guest storyteller. The event will be held in the Fahnestock Barn.
Bring flashlights.

Mark your calendars now for these great events!



Studio Club Art Camp Inspires T-shirt Poetry

Ideas become dreams.

Dreams become destinations.

Destinations become life.

Life can make those dreams come true.

These inspiring words were written by Mercersburg fourth-grader, Megan Monninger and applied to her t-shirt during the Studio Club's Art Camp, which ran from June 16–20, 2003 in Renfrew's Visitors Center.

Thank you to the Studio Club artists who provided this wonderful opportunity for students to get in touch with their creativity.

Loud & Clear

Renfrew Institute thanks Phyllis & Don Brothers for their generous donation to fund the purchase of a new portable sound system.

The system, purchased in April 2003, greatly enhances adult education speaker presentations. In

education speaker presentations. In addition, its portability enables the system to be used outdoors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Timothy W. Rahn, President Allison B. Kohler, Vice-President John S. Blubaugh, Treasurer Leonora Rocca Bernheisel, Secretary Liane Miller Benchoff Garrett H. Blanchet Charlene L. Good John W. Keller Edward C. Miller Susan Shull Murphy Deborah W. Pflager Donna H. Steiner M. James Rock Stephen A. Rost Linda F. Zimmerman

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Our Wish List...

- * Textile program equipment/products:
- brass, iron, or copper kettles—any size (2 gal. or larger)
- tripod for holding kettles over fire
- ♦ Book: *Pennsylvania Dutch Country Cooking*, by William Woys Weaver, Abbeyvill Press, NY, 1993
- * Book: Applied River Morphology by Dave Rosgen, illus. by Hilton Lee Silvey, Wildland Hydrology Books (\$90)
- ♦ Book: *Moths and How to Rear Them*, by Paul Villiard, Dover Publications
- ❖ Book: *How To Know The Spiders*, by William C. Brown
- Children's scissors—new, need both blunt & sharp point, up to 20 pair
- Primitive style baskets (any size), reproduction or antique
- ❖ Reproduction wooden bucket with rope handle (for use in farmstead school programs)
- ❖ Additional underwriting sponsor(s) for this newsletter (\$250 to \$1,000)

Wish List "Thank Yous"

- * Kathy Bourdeaux: books The Landis Valley Cookbook, Pennsylvania German Foods & Traditions and Heirloom Vegetable Gardening, by William Woys Weaver
- Phyllis & Don Brothers: generous funding for new portable sound system, purchased in April 2003
- **♦ Pat O'Connor**: books − *Mennonite Community Cookbook*, *German Home Cooking* and *Putting Foods By* Pat also donated a nearly-new VCR!
- **❖ Mary & Tom Steel**: book − Audubon Society Field Guide to N. American Insects & Spiders

Beyond the Wish List...

- * John & Sonja Blattenberger: donation of the video, Mill Power: Historic Grist & Woolen Mills of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Thanks also to Charlene Good for being the liason for this gift.
- * Becky Dietrich: Becky's own artwork depicting Renfrew's milkhouse (for use in the *Dairy Culture of the Pennsylvania Germans* school program).
- ❖ Doris Goldman: donation of 4-square garden supplies plants, seeds, mosquito dunks, bamboo stakes, etc., replacement plant (dyer's bloom) for the dye garden.
- Drs. Robert Goldman & Robert Ternes: for assorted supplies for first aid kits used during school programs.
- * Sander's Market: for donating a large supply of free LifeSaver candies for the environmental program, Lifesavers of the Chesapeake Bay.

Streamside

Renfrew Institute for Cultural and Environmental Studies 1010 East Main St. Waynesboro, PA 17268 (717)762-0373



