

# Schoharie River Center Updates

Summer 2022 Newsletter

A Busy Summer Ahead!



## *Built To Last*

### **The history and practice of Timber Frame Construction Buildings in the Mohawk Valley**

This summer we are hosting a series of lectures, tours, and workshops focused on traditional timber frame building techniques and technology, as found in the Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys of New York State. The series will present the history of the built form and its evolution and support to the present day.

Through workshops, lectures, and tours, the series will introduce and teach architectural methods and design concepts evident in the historical and modern timber frame construction techniques and building practices currently employed throughout the Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys. Participants will be able to attend several presentations by architectural scholars, participate in one of several tours highlighting historical and modern timber frame buildings located in Montgomery, Schoharie and Schenectady Counties, and participate in hands-on workshop instruction using of both traditional and modern timber frame tools and techniques under the tutelage of master timber-framers.

See our website for details and updates on programs and events.

THE SCHOHARIE RIVER CENTER PRESENTS:

## **MAYFLY FILM FESTIVAL**



The Schoharie River Center is presenting the first annual Mayfly Film Festival, which seeks to curate an inspiring program of diverse films that are focused on the environment, and our relationship with it. We welcome documentaries, short films, narratives, animations, experimental films, with a focus on the environment. Deadline for submissions is August 28. Screenings will be held at the Schoharie River Center Cultural Hall on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. For more details or to submit a film, visit our website.



# 2022 Fiber Arts Program

Montgomery County and the surrounding communities have a long history of textile production, beginning with early European settlements and well into the 19th century. Wool production was pursued both for sale of fleeces for the woolen industry, but also for home use. Smaller, water-powered mills in the Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys produced woolen cloth, including mills on the Schoharie Creek at Burtonville.

Recognizing the long history of fiber production in the Schoharie Watershed, the Schoharie River Center will be presenting the following fiber workshops:

**August 13 - Tour: World's End Farm**

**August 14 - Natural Dyeing**

**September 10 & 11 - Crazy Quilts**

**September 17 & 18 - Rug Hooking**

Check out our website for updates and more information.

## Cultural Center Building Project Continues



## CULTURAL HALL RENOVATION PROJECT

This summer, work continues on the construction of our Cultural Hall addition. Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and staff last fall, the foundation was completed and capped for the winter. Timbers have been purchased and are being prepared for the framing of the structure, with a goal of erecting the structure by this coming fall. Environmental educator and timber frame builder, Sam Bruckman, will be working every week to carve the timbers for the addition. All are welcome to join. People new to timber framing are invited to come and learn the basics of the process while experienced timber framers are encouraged to come lend a hand and

practice their timber framing skills. We are still in need of funding for this project as well. If you can, please donate today and help us meet our goal of raising \$120,000.



# Summer Youth Programs

This summer we will offer five-day (M-F), outdoor based, Field School programs for youth ages 12-16 yrs., led by experienced field biologists, archeologists, and video & media arts instructors. The programs will be held at locations in Middleburgh and Esperance (Burtonville), as well as Collins Park in Scotia, NY. They are open only to Middleburgh Central School District students in grades 7-10, as part of our Advantage After School Program there, and to Scotia-Glenville youth, ages 12-16, as part of the village of Scotia and Town of Glenville Summer Youth Program. Workshops will include Filmmaking and Ecology. Details can be found on our website.



## Advantage After School Program Updates

At the end of June, the Schoharie River Center and the Middleburgh School District successfully completed the second year of its afterschool program. The program continues to grow serving 40-50 students in grades K-6 and their families. This past school year we also were able to open a Jr.-Sr. High program as well. This program is funded through a grant from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Advantage After School Program. Thanks

to the success of the school year program, MCS has hired the SRC to offer summer programming for elementary students at their high school, and programs for secondary students at the SRC campus in Burtonville.



## Ongoing Programs

### Environmental Study Teams

The SRC continues to operate Environmental Study Teams (EST), environmental education and youth development programs that serve youth, ages 12 – 18 yrs., living in the Mohawk and Schoharie watershed and beyond. The goal of these programs is to increase the understanding and knowledge of youth as to the emergent environmental issues confronting their communities, then, provide them with the skills and critical knowledge needed to make informed decisions and take responsible actions to protect and improve the quality of their local environment as well as the health and sustainability of their communities. Key to the success of the EST programs has been the integration of skills and knowledge acquired in the school setting into the experientially focused environmental research and community service activities of the EST program.

The EST program meets bi-weekly, year-round at the Schoharie River Center in Burtonville on Sundays from 12:00 - 4:00 pm, and is open to any interested youth 12 - 18 yrs old, with written parental consent. The program is free, and parents are also welcome to participate. For more information please contact John McKeeby 518-875-6230.

Be sure to check out our videos on our website and on our YouTube channel.



### Blacksmithing Program

The SRC continues to offer programs at its blacksmith shop, promoting the art and craft of traditional and modern blacksmithing. Public can view the work of and work with area blacksmith artisans. Blacksmith Shop Members can learn blacksmithing from other blacksmiths as well as access to the shop to work on their own projects as their skills progress. With blacksmithing, the individual is learning both art and a technology while integrating a whole range of physical movements, body coordination skills and situational problem solving. It's also great fun and a way to develop mastery skills that are transferable to other life activities, jobs, and career interests.

Our Blacksmith Shop is also available to rent for private use. The cost is \$10 an hour, per person, with a minimum of 2 hours and a maximum of 6 hours. This covers the coal, and the use



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of all the tools in the shop. Users must supply their own materials. For more information contact John McKeeby at 875-6889 or via email: [Schoharierivercenter@gmail.com](mailto:Schoharierivercenter@gmail.com).



## Media Arts Program

The Schoharie River Center has integrated media arts into most of our programming. We offer filmmaking workshops, educating all ages on every aspect of production, from writing and shooting through to editing and presenting. Documentation and storytelling through media is also included in our other programming. Capturing all the wonderful activities presented by the Schoharie River Center, the Environmental Study Team, and the Middleburgh Advantage Afterschool Program. ***Be certain to check out our latest videos on our [YouTube Channel](#).***

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## Support the Schoharie River Center Endowment Fund

The Schoharie River Center has established an endowment fund for the purpose of raising funds that can be dedicated to growing the financial health of our organization. This fund is managed through Gerry Murray of Patriot Asset Management. Contributions may be made to the SRC Endowment Fund by contacting our treasurer, Doug Fortman, or by calling the Schoharie River Center office. The Schoharie River Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.

## Become a Member/Renew Your Membership

Show your continued support for the Schoharie River Center and all its various programming by joining or renewing your membership with the Schoharie River Center. As a member you will be able to register for various events and programs for free or at a discounted rate.

Memberships rates:

Student ..... \$25 Family ..... \$60

**OR MAKE A DONATION!!**

GO TO OUR WEBSITE AND CLICK ON THE DONATIONS TAB!

## Our Staff

John McKeeby Executive Director  
Kaitlyn Atchinson - Program Coordinator AASP  
Terry McCoy - Team Leader AASP  
Sam Bruckman - Environmental Educator  
Eric Ayotte, Digital Media Educator

## Board of Directors

President: David Barnes  
Vice President: Dr. Kathleen O'Brien, Ph.D.  
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Center

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The Schoharie River Center does not and shall not discriminate based on race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations, providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.