

Our mission is to instill a love for learning, arts and science, promote the values of stewardship for our local environment, and encourage the positive and responsible involvement of all individuals in their communities

Spring 2022 Newsletter

The Schoharie River Center continues to fulfill its mission with its Environmental Study Teams and cultural programming. As we come out of the COVID pandemic, we are offering a number of opportunities for our community members and students to share in experiential learning opportunities. We are looking forward to an exciting spring and summer. Here is a sample of the upcoming opportunities:

Late Winter 2022

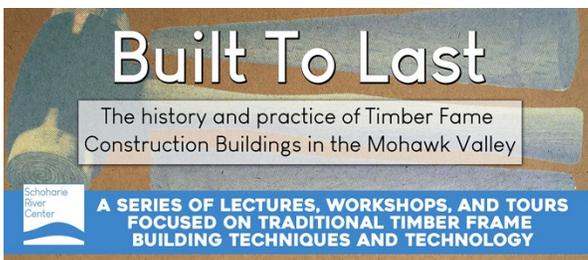
Maple Syrup Gathering and Production – as the winter winds down and the temperatures rise during the day, maple sap will start running and will be gathered and boiled down to make Nature’s favorite sweetener, maple syrup. Join us to help in this process. Contact our Executive Director if you are interested in helping in this activity. All syrup produced is sold to benefit the SRC and its programming.

Coming in Spring 2022



Our **Environmental Study Teams** continue to meet on a bi-weekly basis, alternating between our Burtonville location and Schenectady.

Meetings are scheduled for March 6 & 20, April 3 & 24, and May 1. [Link to: EST ONLINE](#)



Starting in May, **Built to Last**, the history and practice of Timber Frame Construction Buildings in the Mohawk Valley. The Schoharie River Center will be 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. [Link to: BUILT TO LAST ONLINE](#)

Beginning in June and running into September – **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.



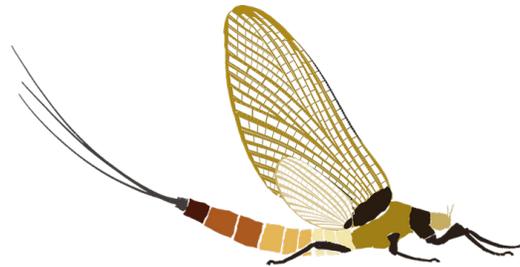
Recognizing the long history of fiber production in the Schoharie Watershed, the Schoharie River Center presents a series of fiber workshops in 2022.

The first program will be on June 11 & 12 and will feature Helen Condon and focus on traditional braided rugs. On August 14, participants will forage for natural dyes with Cece Tkaczyk of Cece's Wool. On September 17 & 18 will be a rug hooking workshop with Marty Lipshitz. More workshops, tours, and details will be announced.

[Link to: FIBER ARTS PROGRAM ON OUR SITE](#)

THE SCHOHARIE RIVER CENTER PRESENTS:

MAYFLY FILM FESTIVAL



The Schoharie River Center presents 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, etc. As long as there is a focus on the environment, we want to see it. Submission deadline is August 28, 2022. See our website for submission guidelines and rules. [Link to: MAYFLY FILM FESTIVAL](#)

Watch the SRC in action –

Visit our website www.schoharierivercenter.org to see our video “SRC Year in Review – 2021 and learn of all the wonderful activities and programs we ran last year, in spite of the pandemic. Take a tour of our buildings and property with our Schoharie River Center Virtual Tour. Our SRC videos are also available on our website and our YouTube channel.



Middleburgh Advantage Afterschool Program

Beginning in January 2021, The Schoharie River Center and the Middleburgh School District implemented a new after school program serving students in grades K-12 and their families. A Licensed School Age Child Care program for children in grades K-6 and funded through a grant from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Advantage After School Program. The Middleburgh Advantage After School Program provides students and their

families with high quality after school programs and services. Designed to ensure all children are safe and participating in a variety of age appropriate activities that challenge them intellectually, the program will promote mastery skills focused on literacy, science, problem solving, critical and analytical thinking, creative expression, communication, and healthy physical and socio-emotional development. The Advantage After School Program meets daily, Monday-Friday from 2:45-6pm during the school year at the Elementary School (grades K-6). The Middle/High (grades 7-12) Advantage After School Program is scheduled to open in the Spring 2022.

Students in the program will enjoy a variety of activities in the Spring 2022, including an Afterschool Arts Residency with African Drummer Zorkie Nelson, Folk Arts / cultural programming with Ellen McHale, cross country skiing, youth development / STEM activities and Filmmaking projects led by Eric Ayotte.



In 2019, the SRC built a blacksmith shop as a Timber Frame Building Arts workshop. We're now using it to help promote the art and craft of traditional and modern blacksmithing by providing opportunities for the public to view the work of and to work with area blacksmith artisans.

SRC Blacksmith Shop Members have the opportunity to 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. We are registering students for classes starting March 19th and running through May. Go to our website for details and registration. Or call us at 518-875-6230.

Please Support the Schoharie River Center

Donations

Key to the success of all our programs is community support, and one way you can show your support is by making a monetary donation. We need your financial support to run our award winning Environmental Study Team program, to operate and maintain our buildings as well as the nature preserve. Your donation will also support our ongoing folk arts and music programs. The Schoharie River Center is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and all monetary donations as well as vehicle donations are tax deductible.

Contribute to our Endowment Fund

For more than 20 years, the Schoharie River Center has provided environmental education opportunities to local youth, as well as cultural arts programming focused on the folk arts. Our Environmental Study Teams have earned local, state, and national recognition for their work in water quality monitoring in the Schoharie and Mohawk River Valleys. We have provided workshops in blacksmithing, rug braiding, fly fishing, writing, timber-frame construction, maple sugaring and others. We have hosted folk artists and musicians, as well as international guests. We are currently engaged in providing a unique after-school program for students in the Middleburgh School District.

Your support of the Schoharie River Center is greatly appreciated, and we hope that you will continue to regularly support us in our mission to instill a love for learning, arts and science, promote the values of stewardship for our local environment, and encourage the positive and responsible involvement of all individuals in their communities.

As we venture forward in our next decade of providing a valuable service to our environment and communities, we need your support even more. That's why we are asking you to help us to continue providing these opportunities by creating your legacy at the Schoharie River Center.

A gift in your will or trust or retirement plan assets will have a significant impact on our work at the Schoharie River Center. Your legacy will help us continue through the next decades to offer rich programming for our youth and our communities.

Get Involved!

There are a number of ways to support the SRC. Please consider the following:

Become a member. Become a member of the Schoharie River Center, or renew your membership to show your support. Membership has its benefits too - as a member you will be eligible to register for various events and programs for free or at a discounted rate. Family membership is just \$35/year, individual membership is \$25/year and corporate or business membership is just \$100.

Volunteer. Donate your time and talents. We have many volunteer opportunities, from taking part in the EST program (with your child), to buildings & grounds, Schoharie River Day, to Cultural Arts programs and fund raising. Whatever interests you, we are interested in hearing from you.

Join Our Board. We invite dedicated, diverse, and passionate people to join the board of the Schoharie River Center. We are an active and working board that focuses on uniting and empowering people to protect Schoharie Valley and Mohawk River watershed resources and their communities. We are seeking to diversify our skills, experiences, and membership, as well as strengthen our relationships with like-minded organizations across these regions.

Help Us With Our Building Project. Help us complete the renovation plan for the Cultural Hall. Our building fund campaign seeks to raise needed resources. We are asking all members of the community for help and to get involved. We gladly accept donations of materials, time and money to purchase the needed materials. Major donations will be considered for naming opportunities within the Hall and grounds. All donations are tax deductible. Visit our website to see the latest pictures, videos, and updates on this project.

Meet Our Board of Directors

David Barnes, President	William Kolbe
Dr. Kathleen O'Brien, Vice-President	Patrick Powers
Douglas Fortman, Treasurer	Cody Robinson-Bullock
Dr. Amy Gildemeister	Kay Bonney-Smith
Scott Haddam	Guy Thompson

Meet Our Staff

John McKeeby, Executive Director	Eric Ayotte, Digital Media Educator
Jenny Sumner, Program Coordinator AASP	Sam <u>Bruckman</u> , Environmental Educator
Terry McCoy, Team Leader AASP	Acadia Pezzolesi, Team Leader AASP