



# Schoharie River Center Updates

Summer 2021 Newsletter

After over a year of restricted activities, we are off and running with a busy summer of workshops and summer programs.

**Cultural Center Building Project Groundbreaking Coming!**



During the week of July 19, 2021, the SRC will be breaking ground on the foundation for our Cultural Hall addition. Thanks to a generous donation from Fenimore Asset Management and a grant from NYSCA, and the resumption of contractor operations in our area, we will be finally able to begin work on the foundation for the planned addition. Planned renovations include:

- ★ An 8X6 ADA compliant restroom
- ★ A 12 ft. x 15ft. green room
- ★ A 15ft. X 3 1/2 ft. storage closet
- ★ Two additional exits (one ADA)
- ★ New heating and electrical system
- ★ Structural repairs of the trusses

Please donate today and help us meet our goal of raising \$120,000.

[Click here](#) to learn more about this building and exciting project.



## Summer Youth Programs

This summer, the SRC will be offering weeklong Field School Programs in Archeology, Watershed Ecology and Digital Filmmaking for youth ages 12 - 18.

Five-day (M–F), outdoor based, field school programs are led by experienced field Biologists, Archeologists, and Video & Media Arts Instructors. The programs run generally from 9 am–4 pm at selected locations in Middleburgh and Esperance (Burtonville). Enrollment is limited to no more than 10 youth per week. Cost: \$250.00 / per person for the week. Multiple family member discounts and scholarships may be available. Contact the SRC at 518-875-6230, or register on-line at [www.schoharierivercenter.org](http://www.schoharierivercenter.org).

The Archaeology Field school will be based in Middleburgh and will excavate the site of a 1712 early colonial fortified homestead along the Schoharie Creek. Working alongside professional archaeologists, participants will conduct scientific research to uncover Schoharie County’s multilayered historical past. July 12–16.

The Watershed Ecology Field school focuses on getting outdoors and learning how to understand and assess local water quality through conducting hands—on field assessment of water in local streams in the Schoharie watershed. All ecology field schools will be located at the Schoharie River Center and Nature Preserve in Burtonville, New York. We will assess water quality, water chemistry and conduct macro-invertebrate analysis in the field. Our programs integrate the study of forest ecology, watershed ecology, wildlife and invasive species monitoring, nature photography and videography. Programs use hiking, cycling and boating to get to various study sites throughout each week long Field School. July 19 - 24.

Videography and Filmmaking, Led by film makers Eric Ayotte and Charlie Jones. Geared especially for youth filmmakers, the week-long program will cover all aspects of video production, including topic development, storyboarding, video shooting and editing. Participants will complete their own digital film project. All equipment provided. Two sessions- July 26 -30, Aug 2 -6

## Upcoming Events and Programming



**Resilience, Sustainability  
and Creativity**  
An Art Exhibit

**CALL FOR ARTISTS**  
Accepting all contemporary art and fine craft submissions

## Resilience, Sustainability, and Creativity

The Cultural Hall at the Schoharie River Center will be hosting a fine art, folk art, and craft exhibit, in recognition of tenth anniversary Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee and the resulting community change, as well as the current events engendered by the Black Lives Matter, “Me Too” Movements, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Each piece submitted will reflect at least one of these concepts. This exhibition will be on display from August 29 - September 30, 2021. Following COVID-19 precautions and safety procedures, an opening reception is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, August 29, 2021, between 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

## Writing the Watershed Returns

The Schoharie River Center will be once again offering Writing the Watershed, a writers’ workshop focusing on local writers and the importance of place. More details will be forthcoming, but keep Saturday, September 18, 2021 open and plan to attend this exciting program and workshop.



## Advantage After School Program Updates

At the end of June, the Schoharie River Center and the Middleburgh School District successfully completed the first year of its afterschool program. After several delays caused by the COVID pandemic, the program was able to start up in late February 2021, and provided an after school program serving 37 students in grades K-6 and their families. It included a Licensed School Age Child Care program for children in grades K-6, and was 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 afterschool 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 mastery skills focused on literacy, science, problem solving, critical and analytical thinking, creative expression, communication and healthy physical and socio-emotional development. This spring, students participated in many activities including folk arts, videography, and especially African Drumming with Zorkie Nelson.

The Advantage After School Program meets daily, Monday-Friday from 2:45-6:00 pm 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 Fall 2021.

### Our AASP Staff

Jenny Sumner, Program Coordinator AASP  
Eric Ayotte, Digital Media Educator  
Terry McCoy - Team Leader AASP  
Rachel Sumner - Youth Development AASP  
Sheyenne Wales - Youth Development AASP  
Charlotte Jones- Youth Development AASP

### 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.



## Blacksmithing Program

The SRC has added a blacksmith shop 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. 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. For more information about how to become a Blacksmith Shop Member 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 Center, the Environmental Study Team, and the Middleburgh Advantage Afterschool Program. Check out some of our videos on our [Youtube Channel](#).

---

## 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, Steve Schrade, or by calling the Schoharie River Center office. The Schoharie River Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.

### Become a Member

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 - Great way to introduce young people to the programs at SRC
- Family ..... \$60 - The life blood of the SRC, come join the SRC family
- Business..... \$150 - A way for local businesses to show its support for local youth
- Macro invertebrate... \$200 - The foundation of SRC summer program scholarships
- Bass Angler ..... \$250 - Big fish in little pools; think globally, act locally
- Great Blue Heron ... \$300 - this APEX predator only survives when the ecosystem is healthy
- Great Bald Eagle ..... \$500 - A true example of the success of environmental action
- Environmental Guardian ..... \$10,000 - Lean in, become the agent of change with us



Copyright © 2021 Schoharie River Center  
2025 Burtonville Road Esperance NY 12066 518•875•6230

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.