

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.

## December 2022 Newsletter

The Schoharie River Center continued to fulfill its mission with its Environmental Study Teams and cultural programming in 2022. Looking back over the past 12 months, we have held numerous EST activities, made maple syrup, held blacksmithing workshops that helped Boy Scouts earn merit badges, learned about Fiber Arts and Timber Framing history in our area. We are looking forward to 2023 and an exciting winter and early spring beginning with:

THE SCHOHARIE RIVER CENTER PRESENTS:

### MAYFLY FILM FESTIVAL



The Schoharie River Center presents the first annual Mayfly Film Festival, a curated program of diverse films that are focused on the environment and our relationship with it. Featuring documentaries, narratives, animations, and experimental films, all with a focus on different environmental issues. We are now booking screenings for our 2023 season. If you would like to host a screening, contact the Schoharie River Center at [schoharierivercenter@gmail.com](mailto:schoharierivercenter@gmail.com)

## On-Going Programs

### Environmental Study Team (EST)



Environmental Study Team (EST) is an organization of students with a mission to improve the local environment, enjoy the outdoors, and instill a sense of environmental awareness in the community. EST is Free and meetings are held every other Sunday from 12:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

## Middleburgh Advantage Afterschool Program

Opening in January 2021, the Schoharie River Center and the Middleburgh School District continue to offer an 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 MAASP provides students and their families with high quality after school programs and services.



and

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.

## Blacksmithing Program



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.

Our Blacksmith Shop is 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 of all the tools in the shop. You would have to supply your own materials. Available hours are Monday-Sunday – 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Contact John McKeeby to reserve your time slot.

## 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 Resource Center, the Environmental Study Team, and the Middleburgh Advantage Afterschool Program. Visit our website



[www.schoharierivercenter.org](http://www.schoharierivercenter.org) to watch our videos of all the wonderful activities and programs we have held throughout the year. Take a tour of our buildings and property with our

Schoharie River Center Virtual Tour. Our SRC videos are also available on our YouTube channel.

## **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***

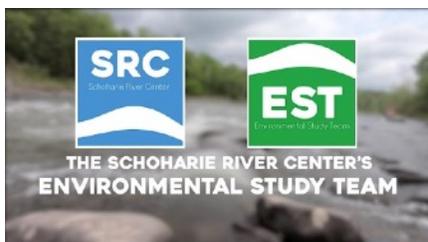
For more than 20 years, the Schoharie River Center has provided environmental education opportunities to local youth, as well as cultural arts programming focused on the folk arts. Our Environmental Study Teams have earned local, state, and national recognition for their work in water quality monitoring 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.

**Subscribe to our  
YouTube Channel and  
watch our many videos.**



## 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	Cody Robinson-Bullock
Douglas Fortman, Treasurer	Steve Schrade
Patrick Powers, Secretary	Kay Bonney-Smith
Scott Haddam	Guy Thompson

### Meet Our Staff

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