



# Schoharie River Center Updates

Spring 2021 Newsletter

COVID-19 may have caused us to “pause” in 2020, but in 2021 we are off and running with new programs and staff members.



## Our “New” 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 will 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)

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## Cultural Center Building Project Fund Drive continues



The SRC Cultural Hall was built in 1857 by local carpenter Boss Jones and is a classic federal style timber frame construction building with King Post Trusses. 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

To kick this project off, we've received a grant from NYSCA for \$50,000, as well as a generous contribution of \$20,000 from Fenimore Asset Planning. Together with other donations, we've managed to raise \$80,000 so far, but still need \$40,000 to make our planned project a reality.



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



## Advantage After School 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. It includes a Licensed School Age Child Care program for children in grades K-6, and is 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 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 2:45-6:00 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 Spring 2021.

The four primary activity areas of the After School Program are Academic Assistance, Experiential Learning, Physical Development, and Creative Arts. All youth, at all grade levels of the program, have a wide range of opportunities to engage in new and fun activities that will introduce them to new life and career possibilities, foster a love for learning, promote the values of stewardship of our shared environment, and encourage the positive and responsible involvement of all people in their community.

## 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. Check out some of our videos on our [Youtube Channel](#).

# 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.

## Welcome to our New 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

**Environmental Study Teams** -- Since 2000, the SRC has been operating 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. The EST program is open to any interested youth 12 - 18 yrs old, along with written parental consent. The EST program is free, and parents are also welcome to participate. For more information please contact John McKeeby at 518-875-6230.

**Maple Syrup Production** -- For many years, EST students and other adults as well have worked to collect and boil Sugar Maple sap in order to make maple syrup. Volunteers are always welcome to assist in collection, boiling, and canning.

## Upcoming Events and Programming

The Schoharie River Center is launching a new program, specifically for senior adults ages 55 and above. Through support from grants from the New York State Council on the Arts, provided by Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, the Schoharie River



Center is taking registrations for two series of lessons for Learning in the Arts for Seniors: Blacksmithing and Visual Storytelling through Video for Seniors.

Each series will cost \$100.00/person for members of the Schoharie River Center and \$160.00 for non- members, for a total of 8 lessons each. We request that registrants commit to attending the entire series, if possible. There are scholarships available for a limited number of participants. Each class will be limited to no more than 8 students. COVID-19 protocols will be strictly followed (masking and social distancing).

Blacksmithing (May 1 & 2; May 8 & 9; May 15 & 16; May 22 & 23) Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (This class is for seniors 55+ only)

Visual Storytelling through Video: Saturdays in April, May and June (April 24; May 1, 8, 15, 22 and June 5, 19), with time for completion and to work with video editing. Time: 10:00 – noon each Saturday class. (This class is for seniors 55+ only)



## 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), out-door based, field school programs is 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, N.Y. . 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

## Become a member today!

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

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