

New Hope NEWS



Environmental Learning in Action

Victoria Smith poses with Journey the yak during this year's 8th Annual Earth Day Festival at the Bucks County Audubon Society at Honey Hollow in Solebury. See story on page 3.

Photo by Mimi Black

OMG
O'ROURKE
MEDIA GROUP

**COMMUNITY NEWS, EVENTS
& LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS**

INSIDE THIS EDITION
Spring Home & Garden 3
Camps & Education

Bucks County Audubon Society hosts 8th Annual Earth Day Festival

by June Portnoy

The Bucks County Audubon Society at Honey Hollow in Solebury welcomed hundreds of visitors for its 8th Annual Earth Day Festival on May 3, transforming the scenic preserve into an animated celebration of environmental awareness, community, and hands-on learning.

This free event drew between 200 and 250 attendees and featured a variety of eco-conscious vendors, educational programs, and interactive exhibits that brought together families, environmental organizations, and nature enthusiasts of all ages. From native plant sales and wildlife demonstrations to student art exhibits and energy efficiency education, the festival offered something for everyone.

"This was our 8th annual Earth Day, and every year we try to add something new," said Michael Celec, Executive Director of the Bucks County Audubon Society. "The petting zoo has become a huge draw.



Desmond Coletti enjoys petting baby goats.

Photo by Mimi Black

Some of this year's favorite guests included a llama, a yak, and several baby goats. We even let the grass grow out for them to graze, which helped with our lawn care!"


The petting zoo wasn't the only highlight for children. The Mercer County Wildlife Founda-

tion captivated young audiences with up-close presentations of animals rarely seen in everyday life, including a skunk. "Kids are fascinated by animals they don't normally get to see," Celec noted. "The foundation provided insights into their habits, diets, and personalities,

answering the kind of questions kids love to ask."

Another standout addition this year was a student art exhibition featuring pieces from participants aged four and up. The nature-themed artwork, displayed in the loft space,

continued on pg. 19




Andrew's Lawn Ranger LLC

**Now Is The Time
To Treat Your
Lawn & Landscape**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.AndrewsLawnRanger.com EMAIL: AndrewsLawnRanger@aol.com

- Lawn Fertilization and Weed Prevention
- Lime Application with Soil pH Testing
- Aeration and Seeding
- Plant Health Care • Deer Control
- Deep Root Feeding
- Flea, Tick, and Mosquito Suppression
- Spotted Lanternfly Suppression



(215) 968-8535

Locally Owned & Family Operated
Licensed / Insured • Licensed PA State Applicators
PA#078821

Earth Day Festival

continued from pg. 3

drew proud young artists and their families to the festival. "It ended up being a draw for new visitors," Celec said. "The pieces were beautiful depictions of animals in natural settings, and winners received prizes."

Vendors included **Roots to River Farm**, a local nonprofit and chef farm cooperative, which sold native, non-invasive plants, supporting the Audubon Society's mission to promote native biodiversity. "We focus on native plants in everything we do here," Celec said. "Roots to River Farm's sale was a great success."

Environmental stewardship was a central theme, with organizations like Heritage Conservancy sharing their work in preserving farmland and open space. A local energy efficiency company also provided guidance on sustainable home upgrades. "It's about helping people understand what they can do, even if they don't have 80 acres of land," Celec explained. "Conservation begins at home."

The natural setting of Honey Hollow itself played a starring role. With its flowing stream

and open trails, the preserve is an immersive educational resource. "Our greatest asset is our landscape. We're in a watershed, and our stream is our number one teaching tool," said Celec. "We want people to come out here, whether they've grown up in the area or are visiting for the first time, and experience what we have to offer."

Throughout the day, nature walks and talks introduced visitors to the area's rich flora and fauna, while the festival fostered a sense of shared purpose among those passionate about the environment. "What you'll see here during Earth Day is a unique convergence of people and organizations talking about all aspects of the natural world," Celec said. "It's all under one roof, or in this case, one forest."

As the day came to a close, the Bucks County Audubon Society had achieved more than just a festive gathering; it had sparked conversations, inspired action, and deepened connections with nature.

"Our goal is to empower people to realize that they can be friends to the environment," said Celec. "We want visitors



Emily Groth, Summer Camp Director at the Bucks County Audubon Society at Honey Hollow, presents Cornelia, the corn snake.

Photo by Mimi Black

to leave feeling energized, knowing that there's something they can do, and remembering that we are here, always ready to help."

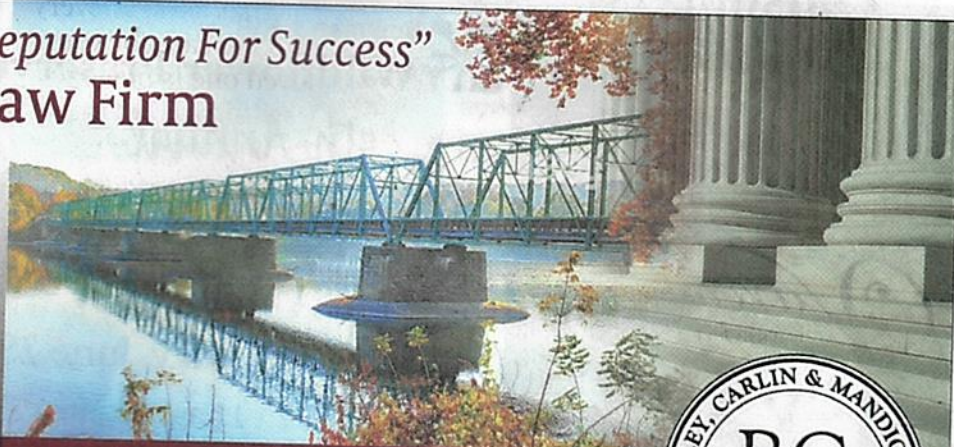
Whether it's the baby goats, the student art, or the quiet

beauty of the trails, the Earth Day Festival at Honey Hollow continues to remind all who attend that a healthy planet begins with a single step into nature.

"An Outstanding Reputation For Success" Full-Service Law Firm

As one of the largest and longest-running law firms in Bucks County, we have earned a reputation for positive results in legal matters of all kinds.

PERSONAL INJURY
FAMILY LAW
CRIMINAL DEFENSE
ESTATE PLANNING
ESTATE ADMINISTRATION
REAL ESTATE
& MORE



Begley, Carlin & Mandio, LLP

123 W. Bridge Street, New Hope PA
(215) 862-0701 • www.begleycarlin.com



WE ARE THE REAL DEAL NEWSPAPER • www.OMGLocalLife.com

NEW HOPE NEWS • MAY 2023