



Plowing Forward: February 2023

Hillside's Education Center: One Year Later



Nearly one year ago, an early morning fire destroyed our Education Center and Woodshop. For staff and much of the community, the loss was shocking and heartbreaking. We remain deeply grateful to our area's First Responders who worked for hours to extinguish the roaring flames. So many remarkable volunteers came from all over to answer the call to help. We again express our thanks and appreciation to members of Jackson Township, Shavertown, Trucksville, Mount Zion (Exeter Township), Dallas, and Dallas Township – all volunteer fire companies. We also want to recognize Jackson Township Police, Kingston Township Police, and Pennsylvania State Police as well as the Back Mountain Regional EMS.

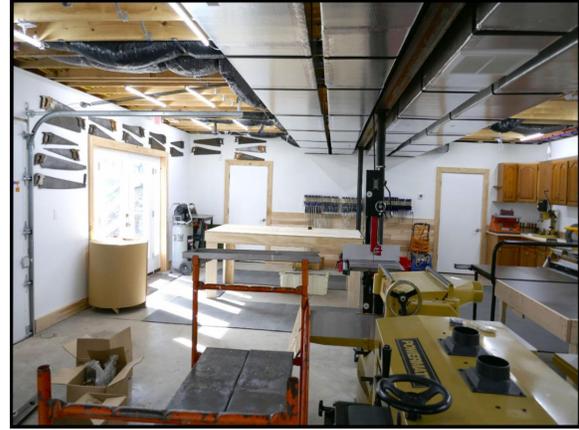


Within a few weeks our new Education Center will open its doors to again welcome students from throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. Our Woodshop will be busy creating unique, hand crafted items for sale in the Mercantile. We are over-the-top excited about this new beginning. We are also humbled and inspired by the

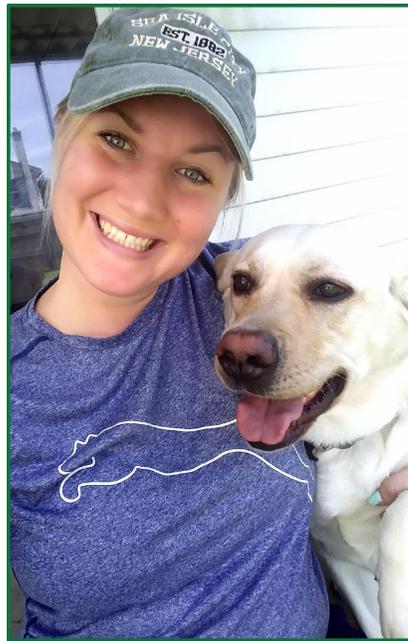
tremendous support from individuals and companies – all who helped make this rebuild and refurbish possible.

In the coming weeks we will be announcing our ribbon cutting. We will be publically thanking every individual and organization for such incredible generosity and kindness.

In the meantime, expect great things!



Employee Spotlight: Abby Collins & Laura Murphy



Abby Collins

Recently, **Abby Collins** was promoted to Education Director. In this capacity, Abby is responsible for expanding farm-based STEM programs; creating more opportunities for vulnerable students; and, extending our current reach to include regional and national schools. What is especially exciting is what lies ahead with opportunities in higher education as Hillside continues to be recognized as a leader in sustainability and animal welfare.

Abby is a graduate of Penn State University. Since graduating in 2013, Abby has worked in the behavioral health field, working primarily with special needs students. Abby has also worked part-time in the Dairy Store for the past 16 years.

“I look forward to greatly expanding our Education Department with the help of Barn Manager, Laura Murphy and the rest of the amazing staff here at Hillside. Hillside has



Laura Murphy

Laura Murphy was promoted to Barn Manager and is responsible for the care and overall animal welfare of the farm’s non-dairy animals and dairy calves. In addition to her primary responsibilities, Laura will work with Abby Collins to expand Hillside’s farm-based educational programs and outreach.

A five-year veteran of Hillside, Laura is a graduate of Misericordia University, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry. Laura is continuing her education at Misericordia working toward a doctorate in Physical Therapy.

When asked why she continues to work at Hillside while perusing her Doctorate in Physical Therapy, Laura responded, “It is hard to give only ONE reason to say why I am here because basically it is everything about this farm. I love Hillside’s mission. I work with incredible people who are dedicated to the mission. Of course,

afforded me an opportunity to work with incredible individuals who share the same goals – advancing Hillside’s non-profit mission. It is exciting and gratifying to watch Hillside continue to grow, evolve, and thrive!”

working with these beautiful animals is something I hold close to my heart. Perhaps most wonderful is how we help visitors and students *experience* Hillside Farms. How could you not be happy working here?”

2023 Summer Farm Camp



2023 Summer Farm Camp
Online Registration Opening **November 28**

Before Care & After Care: * \$25 per week
Camp hours: 9am - 3pm
Cost: \$275

Each week will feature fun farm-based STEM activities!

FOR WEEK OF:

- ~~June 19 Children entering grades 1-4~~
- ~~June 26 Children entering grades 1-4~~
- ~~July 3 Children entering grades 1-4~~
- July 17 Children entering grades 5-8
- July 24 Children entering grades 5-8

* Before Care starts at 8am & After Care ends at 4pm *

Farm Camp

We have limited openings for the final two weeks of Summer Farm Camp. If you wish for your child(ren) to attend camp at our new Education Center, please register today!

Please use link below to register.

https://hillsidefarms.org/summer_camp.php



ALLARM 1

Dickinson College Holds Macroinvertebrate Workshop at Hillside Pavilion

Stephanie Letourneau
Community Science Specialist
Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring
Dickinson College

On Saturday, October 22, 2022, the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) at Dickinson College hosted a macroinvertebrate collection and identification workshop for Stream Team volunteers in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties.

(ALLARM 1. Left) ALLARM’s Community Science Specialist guides Stream Team volunteers, Megan Prynne and Michele Schasberger, through picking benthic macroinvertebrates out of the kick net.

Stream Team engages volunteers in Pennsylvania to collect water quality data

in the upper Chesapeake Bay tributaries that can inform local, state, and regional approaches to improve watershed health. Since 2020, Lackawanna and Luzerne Stream Team has actively monitored water quality data at 9 sites on a monthly basis. To compliment their data collection efforts, they have been trained to monitor benthic macroinvertebrates biennially for a long-term snapshot of stream health.

(ALLARM 2. Right) ALLARM's Watershed Coordinators, Michelle Hom and Whimsy Mark-Ockerbloom, lead Stream Team volunteer through identifying benthic macroinvertebrates.



ALLARM 2

Volunteers spent the morning practicing the sampling technique in Huntsville Creek and then worked alongside the ALLARM team to identify all the specimens found. To access and view Stream Team monitoring data, visit the [Chesapeake Data Explorer](#).



ALLARM 3

(ALLARM 3. Left) Stream Team volunteers use forceps to pick benthic macroinvertebrates out of a kick net.

Stephanie Letourneau, Community Science Specialist at Dickinson College, commented, "Stream Team volunteers are truly the eyes and ears for their local streams. These training experiences provide volunteers with more understanding of the stream health and ecosystem where they monitor. We can't thank Hillside Farms enough for hosting us on their property, Huntsville Creek is one of our volunteer's monitoring sites and we enjoyed spending the day investigating its stream health."

(ALLARM 4. Right) Benthic macroinvertebrates collected in Huntsville Creek.



ALLARM 4



The Lands at Hillside Farms is a historic, 428-acre, 501(c)(3) non-profit educational dairy farm EIN 20-2975553. Our mission is to demonstrate life choices that are healthy, logical, and sustainable so those born 200 years from now will have access to the same or better resources and opportunities. You can contribute to our non-profit mission by clicking here: <https://thelandsathillsidefarms.org/donate.php>

We are grateful for your support.



The Lands at Hillside Farms | 65 Hillside Road, Shavertown, PA 18708

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