



## Summer 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

794 Rancocas Road, Westampton, NJ 08060 Phone: 609.261.2495 / Fax: 609-261-2495

Website: [www.rancocasnaturecenter.org](http://www.rancocasnaturecenter.org) Email: [info@rancocasnaturecenter.org](mailto:info@rancocasnaturecenter.org)

VISITORS CENTER HOURS: Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. / Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. / Closed Mondays

Note: The Center is closed on Monday, July 4 for Independence Day

RANCOCAS TRAILS/PARKING LOT: Open 7 days a week from dawn to dusk

STAFF: Susan Buffalino, Sanctuary Director; Environmental Educator: Diane Rothschild

Associate Naturalists: John Courtney, Sandra Keller, Steve Mattan, Patty Rehn, and Lloyd Shaw

*Thank you for your donations. Your financial support of the center allows us to offer exceptional environmental education and natural history programming to the public. RNC DOES NOT receive funding from any government agency—your support matters.*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

June 2	RNC Photography Club
June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Thursday Preschool Story/Music Time
June 4 & 5	RNC Members Bird Seed Discount Days
June 5	Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas
June 7	RNC Book Club
June 7, 14, 21, 28	Tuesday Preschool Story/Music Time
June 10	Nature in Art for Preschoolers – Fingerpainting
June 12	Sunday Flea Market at Rancocas
June 12	Connect With Nature – All Things Bluebird
June 18	Saturday Naturalist-Led Walk
June 20	Native Plant Society of NJ Meeting
June 24	Nature Storytime & Hike for Preschoolers – “I Took a Hike”
June 26	L.L. Bean sponsored – Family-Friendly Hike
June 27-July 1	Week 1 Summer Day Camp – “Critters and Creatures”
July 2 & 3	RNC Members Bird Seed Discount Days
July 3	Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas
July 5-8	Week 2 Summer Day Camp – “Scales and Tails”
July 5, 12, 19, 26	Tuesday Preschool Story/Music Time
July 7	RNC Photography Club
July 7, 14, 21, 28	Thursday Preschool Story/Music Time
July 10	Mushroom Foray with NJ Mycological Society
July 11-15	Week 3 Summer Day Camp – “Habitat Detectives”
July 16	Saturday Naturalist-Led Walk
July 19-22	Week 4 Summer Day Camp – “Wildlife Investigations”
July 19	Picnic & a Program for Families – “Amphibian Explorers”
July 21	Picnic & a Program for Adults – “Stream Sampling/Water Quality”
July 26-29	Week 5 Summer Day Camp – “Animal Explorations”
July 26	Picnic & a Program for Families – “Fun with Water”
July 28	Picnic & a Program for Adults – “Basic Birding ID”
July 27	Speaking of Nature Series – Celebrate National Moth Week
August 1-5	Week 6 Summer Day Camp – “Who’s Who on the Trails”
August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Tuesday Preschool Story/Music Time
August 4	RNC Photography Club
August 4, 11, 18, 25	Thursday Preschool Story/Music Time
August 6 & 7	RNC Members Bird Seed Discount Days
August 7	L.L. Bean sponsored – Interpretive Hike & Clean-up
August 7	4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Day
August 9-12	Week 7 Summer Day Camp – “Survival in the Wild”
August 9	Picnic & a Program for Families – “Bugs & Butterflies”
August 11	Picnic & a Program for Adults – “The Buzz About Bees”
August 20	Saturday Naturalist-Led Walk

## **RANCOCAS MEMBERS BIRD SEED DISCOUNT DAYS**

10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays & 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Sundays

**Saturday, June 4 & Sunday, June 5**

**Saturday, July 2 & Sunday, July 3**

**Saturday, August 6 & Sunday, August 7**

## **RANCOCAS NATURE CENTER SUMMER CAMPS for grades 1 to 7**

**Full & half-day weekly sessions from Monday, June 27 to Friday, August 12**

Summer camp at Rancocas is a fun way to add natural science knowledge to your child's education. Each week features a different theme. Three group levels give campers an age-appropriate experience. Children are grouped by their grade as of September 2016. Entering Grades 1 to 2: ***Nature Detectives***; Entering Grades 3 to 4: ***Rancocas Rangers***; Entering Grades 5 to 7: ***Jr. Naturalists***.

**Connecting Children With Nature:** Why choose a Rancocas Nature Center Camp?

- ◆ Science-based environmental education
- ◆ Highly-trained staff; low camper/teacher ratio
- ◆ Age-appropriate groups
- ◆ NJ State certified summer camp
- ◆ Competitive rates & varied scheduling
- ◆ Family-friendly weeks
- ◆ Rancocas has been part of the Burlington County community for 39 years

Full-day camp hours: from 9:00 am-3:00 pm; Selected weeks, Monday through Friday

Cost: (weeks 1, 3, 6): \$240/week; Cost: (week 2\* Tues-Fri): \$195/week

Campers must bring their own lunch.

Post-camp Care (offered only with full-day camp) 3:00 pm-4:00 pm; Cost: \$32\*/\$40/week

Half-day camp hours: from 9:00 am-12:00 pm; Selected weeks, Tuesday through Friday

Cost: (weeks 4, 5, 7): \$120/week

### **Registration:**

- Call the center to request a form
- Download a form at: [rancocasnaturecenter.org](http://rancocasnaturecenter.org)
- Register in person at the center

**Note:** RNC membership is required for camp sign-up.

### **Week 1: June 27 – July 1, *Critters and Creatures***

Full-day camp: Mon.- Fri. from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; Cost: \$240/week

From our microscopic critters to our resident White-tailed Deer, campers will become familiar with the animal species at Rancocas that live in our waterways, woodlands, and gardens.

### **Week 2: July 5 – July 8, *Scales and Tails***

Full-day camp: Tues.- Fri. from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; Cost: \$195/week

Summertime is full of excitement on the trails as our native reptiles and amphibians are able to be found and observed. In addition, campers will have a first-hand experience with Rancocas' resident animals.

### **Week 3: July 11 – July 15, *Habitat Detectives***

Full-day camp: Mon.- Fri. from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; Cost: \$240/week

Exploring the Rancocas Center grounds is especially fun in the summer when all animal groups are up and about, searching for their next meal, and having young.

### **Week 4: July 19 – July 22, *Wildlife Investigations***

Half-day camp: Tues.- Fri. from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm; Cost: \$120/week

This fun week will expose campers to all that makes Rancocas a special place—the plants and animals that live in the park and the best spots to find them.

### **Week 5: July 26 – July 29, *Animal Explorations***

Half-day camp: Tues.- Fri. from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm; Cost: \$120/week

Campers will search the preserve for animal life of all kinds—from the invertebrate groups to the awesome number of wildlife that live in Rancocas' meadows, forests, and streams.

**Week 6: August 1 – August 5, *Who's Who on the Trails***

Full-day camp: Mon.- Fri. from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; Cost: \$240/week

As campers investigate the Rancocas habitats, they'll see what they can discover along the trails—who lives where and who's hiding here. There are always signs of wildlife wherever we look.

**Week 7: August 9 – August 12, *Survival in the Wild***

Half-day camp: Tues.- Fri. from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Cost: \$120/week

What does it take to survive in the wild? How are animals and plants protected from predators? Campers will use their imaginations as they look for answers and try fun strategies on the trails while becoming familiar with our wildlife preserve.

## **RANCOCAS NATURE CENTER EVENTS**

### **SUNDAY FLEA MARKET AT RANCOCAS**

**Sunday, June 12, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Cleaning out your basement, garage, and/or attic? Reorganizing your living space? Rancocas is providing the perfect opportunity to convert your unused "valuables" into cash. Join us for a Sunday flea market. Vendor fee: \$5.00—bring your own table and chair. Set-up is on the grassy area in front of the parking lot and behind the barn. Call the Nature Center at 609-261-2495 to reserve a space. Reserve early, as space is limited.

### **FINDING FUNGI AT RANCOCAS**

**Sunday, July 10, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Join the NJ Mycological Association (NJMA) on a walk to discover the variety of fungi found at Rancocas. Bracket fungi, typical mushrooms, jellies, cups and corals are some of the many groups to be seen. Collected specimens will be identified by NJMA members. The afternoon will feature a mushroom cultivation demonstration, and offer those interested the chance to make their own "mushroom habitat" (additional cost, \$6 each). Pre-registration required. Program cost: RNC members, \$7/person, \$15/family (limit 5); nonmembers, \$9/person, \$21/family (limit 5).

### **4th ANNUAL RANCOCAS GARDEN DAY OPEN HOUSE**

**Sunday, August 7, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

The Rancocas gardens will be at their peak in August. Intended as educational displays as well as wildlife-friendly habitats, the gardens are an exciting blend of different themes that can easily be adapted to your backyard. Join Master Gardeners and Rancocas staff for an afternoon of visual ideas. Stations with educational handouts will be set up at each of the Rancocas managed areas. Take a guided tour of the Pollinator/Wildlife Garden, the Rancocas Historical Garden, the Dragonfly Pond, and the Monarch Waystation, or a self-guided walk and learn about the different habitats. Knowledgeable gardeners will be available to answer your questions. Cost: Free, donations accepted and appreciated.

## **CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS** (Pre-registration required)

### **PRESCHOOL STORY/MUSIC TIME**

**Tuesdays, June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26 & August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30** 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Thursdays, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28 & August 4, 11, 18, 25** 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

This approximately hour-long preschool program features a different theme each week. Children will enjoy hearing 3 short stories read aloud, separated by 3 songs that are played along to with rhythm instruments. Each session also includes an age-appropriate craft. The Tuesday program is repeated on Thursday in the same week. This program is geared toward 2 to 5 year-olds, but is designed for families--older and younger children are welcome. Cost: free. Please call 609-265-5858 to register. [www.co.burlington.nj.us/parks](http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/parks).

### **NATURE IN ART FOR PRESCHOOLERS**

**Friday, June 10, Fingerpainting, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

Nature is all around us. For the very young, their interactions with the natural world are learning experiences that can translate into art projects. This program is designed for preschoolers ages 3-5 accompanied by a parent or guardian. Each session will include an introduction to a nature theme and an art project. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

### **NATURE STORYTIME & HIKE FOR PRESCHOOLERS**

**Friday, June 24, "I Took a Walk,"** 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Nature is all around us. For the very young, their interactions with the natural world are engaging learning experiences. Each session will include the reading of a nature-themed picture book and a short weather-dependant hike. This program is designed for preschoolers ages 3-5 accompanied by a parent or guardian. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

### **PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES** (Pre-registration required)

#### **INTERPRETIVE TRAIL HIKE AT RANCOCAS**

**Sundays, June 5 and July 3,** 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Join a Rancocas staff person or associate naturalist for an interpretive hike through our varied habitats. It's a great way to become familiar with our well-maintained trails. Bring a camera and/or binoculars; we'll stop at scenic spots along the way. The easy pace is suitable for all ages; please use a child carrier to transport small children. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

#### **CONNECT WITH NATURE SERIES**

**Sunday, June 12, All Things Bluebird,** 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Want to encourage bluebirds to your yard? Nels Anderson, Burlington County Bluebird Society Coordinator, will lead a presentation on the requirements for placing nesting boxes in your yard. He will answer questions about box construction, placement, monitoring, expectations, and other topics relating to bluebirds. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

#### **PICNIC & A PROGRAM SERIES FOR FAMILIES**

What better way to enjoy a summer afternoon than by spending it outdoors at the Rancocas Nature Center. Bring your own box lunch and use our picnic area from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. (don't forget to tour our Visitors Center). Then participate in a fun, educational program designed to engage the whole family. Call the center for additional details on each topic. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. Program cost: RNC members, \$7/person, \$15/family (limit 5); nonmembers, \$9/person, \$21/family (limit 5).

**Tuesday, July 19 – Amphibian Explorers** 12:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 26 – Fun With Water** 12:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, August 9 – Bugs & Butterflies** 12:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

#### **L.L. BEAN SPONSORED FAMILY-FRIENDLY HIKE**

**Sunday, June 26,** 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Kayla, the Outdoor Discovery School Leader at L.L. Bean, Marlton invites you to join her on the Rancocas trails. Please pre-register at [www.llbean.com/marlton](http://www.llbean.com/marlton). Limit 12 participants.

#### **L.L. BEAN SPONSORED INTERPRETIVE HIKE & CLEAN-UP**

**Sunday, August 7,** 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Kayla, the Outdoor Discovery School Leader at L.L. Bean, Marlton invites you to join her at Rancocas for a morning of environmental education and stewardship. Please pre-register at [www.llbean.com/marlton](http://www.llbean.com/marlton). Limit 12 participants.

### **ADULT & TEEN PROGRAMS** (Pre-registration required)

**(Programs are suitable for interested teens)**

#### **PICNIC & A PROGRAM SERIES FOR ADULTS**

What better way to enjoy a summer afternoon than by spending it outdoors at the Rancocas Nature Center. Bring your own box lunch and use our picnic area from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. (don't forget to tour our Visitors Center). Then participate in an environmental education program designed to engage adults and interested teens. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. Program cost: RNC members, \$7/person, \$15/family (limit 5); nonmembers, \$9/person, \$21/family (limit 5). Call the center for additional details on each topic. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495.

**Thursday, July 21 – Stream Sampling/Water Quality** 12:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Thursday, July 28 – Basic Birding ID** 12:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Thursday, August 11 – The Buzz About Bees** 12:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY NATURALIST-LED WALKS**

**Saturdays, June 18, July 16, & August 20,** 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Studies show that taking a nature walk is good for your physical and mental health. Adults and interested teenagers will join a Rancocas naturalist for a themed hike around the preserve. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

#### **SPEAKING OF NATURE SERIES.**

**Wednesday, July 27 – Celebrate National Moth Week,** 7:30 to 10:00 p.m.

National Moth Week celebrates the beauty, life cycles, and habitats of moths. “Moth-ers” of all ages and abilities are encouraged to learn about and observe these fascinating nocturnal creatures. Moths are among the most diverse and successful organisms—estimates suggest there are more than 150,000 species on earth. National Moth Week is being held worldwide, but what better place to experience these colorful insects than at the Rancocas Nature Center. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

#### **RNC AFFILIATED CLUB MEETINGS**

##### **RANCOCAS NATURE CENTER BOOK CLUB – All Are Welcome**

**Tuesday, June 7,** 10:00 a.m.

On the first Tuesday of each month, Rancocas hosts a Book Club for those interested in nature and natural history topics. To learn which title is the focus of the month, contact Toni Price at [lavender.toni@gmail.com](mailto:lavender.toni@gmail.com).

##### **RNC OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB**

**Thursdays, June 2, July 7 & August 4** 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

All are welcome. Club meets the first Thursday of every month in the RNC classroom or at a designated alternative outdoor location. President of the Photo Club, Harold Buchanan, will lead the group and organize events.

##### **NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY, RNC CHAPTER**

**Monday, June 20 – TBD** 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Once a month, NPSNJ Chapters sponsor lectures and presentations with featured speakers on topics ranging from introductions to native plants, gardening with natives, identification and appreciation of the beautiful flora and ecosystems of New Jersey, ecological landscaping, and much more. Call the center for additional information. You do not need to be a member of the NPSNJ to attend.

**RNC-NPSNJ will break for the summer and start up again in September 2016 with a fresh slate of offerings.**

**Visit either the Native Plant Society or Rancocas websites for further details.**

#### **THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Rancocas’ dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers contribute many hours of their time each season. *The Calendar of Events* offers a venue to extend our thanks. The nature center would not be the vibrant place it is without their help. Thank you to Carol Bishop, Harold Buchanan (FRNC), Rich Chichester (FRNC), John and Marilyn Courtney, Jeffrey DiFrancesco, Katie Dole, Ben & Louise Dwyer, Laura Edwards, Michel Gehin, Gil Gehin-Scott, Bob Hall, Al Hagovsky, Bill Holloway (FRNC), Jane, Lavonne Beebler Johnson (FRNC), Jean Jordan, John Lestino, Steve Mattan, Mary and Bob Mettrione, Ken Mitchell, Candy Myers, Toni Price (FRNC), Patty Rehn, Diane Rothschild, Dan Ruotolo (FRNC), Ilene Schneider, Kenneth Schwartz, Wolf & Barb Skacel (FRNC), Arline Spangler, Louise Tompkins, Helene Welde, Barbara Wiley, Bill Wiley, Al Wiley, Scott Williams (FRNC), Stephanie Zarus.

FRIENDS OF THE RANCOCAS NATURE CENTER (FRNC) is a non-profit organization that provides direct financial and programmatic support to the center and its staff through the efforts of its all-volunteer Board of Trustees and Development Committee.