



Winter 2016-17 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Website: www.rancocasnaturecenter.org Email: info@rancocasnaturecenter.org

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

CLOSED ON: Saturday, December 24; Sunday, December 25; Saturday, December 31; and Sunday, January 1.

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

Sanctuary Director: Susan Buffalino, Teacher Naturalists: Mary Belko, Diane Rothschild, and Kerri Sellers

Associate Naturalists: John Courtney, Sandra Keller, Steve Mattan, Mark Pensiero, 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:

December 1	RNC Photography Club
December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Thursday Preschool Story/Music Time
December 3 & 4	RNC Members Bird Seed Discount Days
December 4	Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas
December 6	RNC Book Club
December 6, 13, 20, 27	Tuesday Preschool Story/Music Time
December 9	Nature in Art for Preschoolers – Edible Ornaments for Wildlife
December 11	Holiday Special– Nature’s Winter Gifts to Wildlife
December 16	Nature Adventures for Preschoolers – “Chipmunk at Hollow Tree Lane”
December 17	Naturalist-led Saturday Walk
December 17	Family Nature Club – Photography Scavenger Hunt
December 19	Native Plant Society of NJ Meeting
December 30	Friday Night End-of-the-Year Hike at Rancocas
January 1	First Day Hike at Rancocas
January 3	RNC Book Club
January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Tuesday Preschool Story/Music Time
January 5	RNC Photography Club
January 5, 12, 19, 26	Thursday Preschool Story/Music Time
January 7 & 8	RNC Members Bird Seed Discount Days
January 8	Summer Camp Open House
January 8	Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas
January 13	Nature in Art for Preschoolers – Snowflakes
January 14	Naturalist-led Saturday Walk
January 14	Family Nature Club – Signs of Wildlife in Winter
January 16	Native Plant Society of NJ Meeting
January 21	Birding Along the Delaware Field Trip
January 22	Connect with Nature – New Jersey Through the Seasons
January 26	Speaking of Nature Series – Insights into Winter Birding
January 27	Nature Adventures for Preschoolers – “My Favorite Bear”
January 29	FRNC Community Day – Public Welcome
February 2	RNC Photography Club
February 2, 9, 16, 23	Thursday Preschool Story/Music Time
February 4 & 5	RNC Members Bird Seed Discount Days
February 5	Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas
February 7	RNC Book Club
February 7, 14, 21, 28	Tuesday Preschool Story/Music Time
February 10	Nature in Art for Preschoolers – I Love Nature
February 11	Naturalist-led Saturday Walk
February 11	Family Nature Club – Nature Journaling for All Ages
February 18	LBI & Barnegat State Park Field Trip
February 19	Connect with Nature – Maple Sugaring
February 20	Native Plant Society of NJ Meeting
February 23	Speaking of Nature Series – Black History Month: Hugh Campbell, American Artist
February 24	Nature Adventures for Preschoolers – “Possum and the Peeper”

RNC MEMBERS BIRD SEED DISCOUNT DAYS

Saturday, December 3- 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **& Sunday, December 4-**12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 7- 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m **& Sunday, January 8-**12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 4- 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **& Sunday, February 5-**12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

RANCOCAS NATURE CENTER SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 8 12:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Early-bird Discounts—January 8 to March 15; Ask about our installment plan (discounts do not apply)

Select Weekly Sessions June 26 to August 11, 2017 for Grades 1-7 (as of September 2017)

Childhood and the outdoors are a natural fit. At Rancocas Nature Center Summer Day Camp, campers get to explore the preserve's varied habitats and investigate its wildlife while learning first-hand about nature and our connection to it. These outdoor experiences are complimented by hands-on environmental activities with a natural history focus. Small group size ensures that each child has a unique summer experience guided by staff members who are trained environmental educators. Visit our website at www.ranocasnaturecenter.org for additional information and photos from 2016. Forms will be available online and at the center.

FRNC COMMUNITY DAY – PUBLIC WELCOME

Sunday, January 29 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

The Friends of the Rancocas Nature Center trustees will host a presentation in the Rancocas classroom. Learn about the highlights and accomplishments of 2016 and plans for the upcoming year. FRNC members and the public are invited to join the discussion – ideas and input are welcomed.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS (Pre-registration required)

PRESCHOOL STORY/MUSIC TIME

Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, January 5, 12, 19, 26 & February 2, 9, 16, 23 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Tuesdays, December 6, 13, 20, 27, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & February 7, 14, 21, 28 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.

NATURE IN ART FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Fridays, December 9, January 13, & February 10 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.

December 9– Edible Ornaments for Wildlife

January 13– Snowflakes

February 10 – I Love Nature

NATURE ADVENTURES FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Fridays, December 16, January 27, & February 24, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

It's never too early for young children to interact with nature. Rancocas offers this fun program which combines a nature-themed children's book and an outdoor exploration. 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.

December 16 – “Chipmunk at Hollow Tree Lane”

January 27– “My Favorite Bear”

February 24– “Possum and the Peeper”

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES (Pre-registration required)

CONNECT WITH NATURE—HOLIDAY SPECIAL—NATURE'S WINTER GIFTS TO WILDLIFE

Sunday, December 11 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In this season of gift giving, Mother Nature also does her share. The habitat at Rancocas offers a natural bounty for the wildlife that over-winter here. Build a wildlife shelter, make edible ornaments for the animals, and learn about the preserve's winter food chain. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

CONNECT WITH NATURE—NEW JERSEY THROUGH THE SEASONS

Sunday, January 22 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Geographically, New Jersey is one of the smaller states, but don't confuse size with diversity. Within its borders, if you know when and where to look, you can find a variety of species-rich, natural habitats with great eye-appeal. Naturalist Mary Belko will guide us on a photographic journey through the seasons and share some of the natural spectacles you can see throughout the year. Preregister by calling the Rancocas Nature Center at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

CONNECT WITH NATURE—MAPLE SUGARING

Sunday, February 19 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

What a tasty way to spend a winter afternoon! Bring the whole family and enjoy a program about maple sugaring, the oldest continuous industry in North America. Learn about the sugar maple tree and the history of maple sugaring, observe a tapping demonstration, and enjoy a maple syrup tasting. To ward off the chills, we'll have an old-fashioned campfire burning. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. Cost: RNC members, \$7/person, \$15/family (limit 5); nonmembers, \$9/person, \$21/family (limit 5)

NEW THIS SEASON! FAMILY NATURE CLUB

Saturdays, December 17, January 14, & February 11 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Families are invited to join us for these once a month outdoor activities. We'll bundle up and get outside to enjoy some quality family time and a nature adventure. Meet like-minded families and build friendships. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. Friends of Rancocas Nature Center membership is suggested.

December 17 – Photography Scavenger Hunt (Bring a cell phone or camera)

January 14 – Signs of Wildlife in Winter (Investigate for tracks, scat, bones, and burrows)

February 11 – Nature Journaling for All Ages (Make a journal, investigate the trails, and record observations)

ADULT & TEEN PROGRAMS AT RANCOCAS (Pre-registration required)

(Programs are suitable for interested teens)

INTERPRETIVE TRAIL HIKE AT RANCOCAS

Sundays, December 4, January 8, & February 5 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Join an RNC naturalist for an interpretive hike through our varied habitats. It's a great way to become familiar with our well-maintained trails. The pace is easy and suitable for adults and interested teenagers. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

NATURALIST-LED SATURDAY WALK

Saturdays, December 17, January 14, & February 11 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

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

FIRST DAY HIKE

Sunday, January 1 11:00 a.m.

All 50 states sponsor hikes in their parks on January 1. Join a County Park Ranger for a looped hike from the Rancocas State Park western entrance to the Rancocas Nature Center and back, and enjoy an invigorating afternoon outdoors. Enter the Rancocas State Park at the state park sign near Irick Road. Park along the paved area. Dress for the weather. Registration is not required. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged. Call the Nature Center at 609-261-2495 for additional information.

SPEAKING OF NATURE SERIES

Thursdays, January 26 & February 23 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Interested in nature and local history? The Rancocas Nature Center hosts a series of evening presentations that focus on a variety of topics related to the natural world and the history of the Rancocas area. Watch for details in the weekly email blast or visit the Rancocas website at www.rancocasnaturecenter.org. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

January 26 – Insights Into Winter Birding

February 23 – Black History Month: Hugh Campbell, American Artist

ADULT OFF-SITE FIELD TRIPS (Pre-registration required)
(Programs are suitable for interested teens)

BIRDING ALONG THE DELAWARE FIELD TRIP

Saturday, January 21 9:00 a.m. to early afternoon.

The Delaware River is a local flyway that offers the opportunity to observe a variety of winter birds. The trip includes stopovers in Gloucester County, including National Park, Riverwinds, and the Floodgates. Meet in the Red Bank Battlefield lower parking area in National Park. Directions available when preregistering – call RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

LBI & BARNEGAT STATE PARK FIELD TRIP

Saturday, February 18, 10:00 a.m. to early afternoon

The northern tip of Long Beach Island, Barnegat State Park, is a great location to view the assortment of winter birds along the Jersey shore. The trip also includes a stopover at other LBI locations. Possibilities include Harlequins, seabirds, gulls, and winter migrants. Meet in the Barnegat Light State Park parking lot. Leader: Lloyd Shaw. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

RNC AFFILIATED CLUB MEETINGS

RNC OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Thursdays, December 1, January 5, & February 2, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

All are welcome. Club meets the first Thursday of every month in the RNC classroom or at a designated alternative outdoor location.

RANCOCAS NATURE CENTER BOOK CLUB – All Are Welcome

Tuesdays, December 6, January 3, & February 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.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY, RNC CHAPTER

Mondays, December 19, January 16, & February 20, 7:00 – 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.

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), Deborah Ciabattone, John and Marilyn Courtney, Jeffrey DiFrancesco, Katie Dole, Ben & Louise Dwyer, Laura Edwards, Michel Gehin, Gil Gehin-Scott, Bob Hall, Al Hagovsky, Casey Hibbs, Bill Holloway (FRNC), Jane, Lavonne Beebler Johnson (FRNC), Jean Jordan, Sandra Keller, John Lestino, Steve Mattan, Mary and Bob Metrione, Ken Mitchell, Candy Myers, Mark Pensiero, Toni Price (FRNC), Patty Rehn, Hara Rola, Diane Rothschild, Robert Rothschild, Dan Ruotolo (FRNC), Kenneth Schwartz, Lloyd Shaw, Wolf & Barb Skacel (FRNC), Arline Spangler, Louise Tompkins, Barbara Wiley, Bill Wiley, Al Wiley, Scott Williams (FRNC), and 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.