



Fall 2016 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

Note: The Center is closed on Monday, September 5 for Labor Day and Thursday, November 24 for Thanksgiving

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

STAFF: Susan Buffalino, Sanctuary Director;

Teacher Naturalists: Mary Belko, Diane Rothschild, Rachel Bailey, Kerri Sellers

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:

September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Thursday Preschool Story/Music Time
September 3 & 4	RNC Members Bird Seed Discount Days
September 4	Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas
September 6	RNC Book Club
September 6, 13, 20, 27	Tuesday Preschool Story/Music Time
September 8	RNC Photography Club
September 16	Nature in Art for Preschoolers – Collage With Natural Materials
September 17	Naturalist-led Saturday Walk
September 18	RNC “Raise the Roof” Music & Craft Festival
September 19	Native Plant Society of NJ Meeting – Sex in the Garden: Pollinators/Plants
September 22	Speaking of Nature Series – Mothing – A Photographic Journey
September 25	Connect with Nature – Tri-Habitat Investigations
September 30	Nature Adventures for Preschoolers – “Giggly, Wiggly Worms”
October 1 & 2	RNC Members Bird Seed Discount Days
October 2	Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas
October 4	RNC Book Club
October 4, 11, 18, 25	Tuesday Preschool Story/Music Time
October 6, 13, 20, 27	Thursday Preschool Story/Music Time
October 6	RNC Photography Club
October 8	Palmyra Cove Birding Challenge Field Trip
October 14	Nature in Art for Preschoolers – Rock Painting
October 14	L.L. Bean sponsored – Haunted Hike for Hunger
October 15	L.L. Bean sponsored – Running Group
October 15	Naturalist-led Saturday Walk
October 16	Connect with Nature – Skulls & Bones Detective
October 17	Native Plant Society of NJ Meeting – TBD
October 27	Speaking of Nature Series – New Jersey Through the Seasons
October 28	Nature Adventures for Preschoolers – “Fall Leaves Fall!”
October 29	L.L. Bean sponsored – Running Group
November 1	RNC Book Club
November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Tuesday Preschool Story/Music Time
November 3, 10, 17	Thursday Preschool Story/Music Time
November 3	RNC Photography Club
November 5 & 6	RNC Members Bird Seed Discount Days
November 6	Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas
November 11	Nature in Art for Preschoolers – Build a Turkey
November 12	Taylor Wildlife Preserve Field Trip
November 18	Nature Adventures for Preschoolers – “Little Tom Turkey”
November 19	Naturalist-led Saturday Walk
November 20	Connect with Nature – Whooo Lives in the Forest?
November 21	Native Plant Society of NJ Meeting – TBD
November 29	Longwood Gardens Christmas Bus Trip

RNC MEMBERS BIRD SEED DISCOUNT DAYS

Saturday, September 3- 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. & **Sunday, September 4-**12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 1- 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m & **Sunday, October 2-**12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 5- 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. & **Sunday, November 6-**12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

RNC “RAISE THE ROOF” MUSIC & CRAFT FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 18 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Gates Open at 10:00 a.m.) Rain or Shine

New for this year! Our fall Music & Craft Festival will be held at the Rancocas State Park Fairgrounds. Enjoy an afternoon of music by local bands along with selected craft tables and food vendors. Featured bands include the John Byrne Band, The Blind Squirrels, Camille Peruto, and The Greater Pinelands Dulcimer Society. This fundraising event benefits the Rancocas Nature Center’s NEW ROOF FUND and for the continuation of its nature programs. For more information, call the Center at 609-261-2495. The Fairground area can be accessed via the State Park entrance on Rancocas Road near the Irick Road traffic light. Admission: \$5/person; \$15/carload.

LONGWOOD GARDENS CHRISTMAS BUS TRIP

Tuesday, November 29 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Rain or Shine)

Enjoy the sights and sounds of Longwood Gardens during the holiday season. Indoor and outdoor displays are infused with color and lights, thousands of seasonal plants exquisitely decorate the Conservatory, and sounds of the season resonate throughout. Arrival at the Gardens is scheduled for 12 p.m., giving plenty of time to take in all that is offered. Visit www.longwoodgardens.org for details of the holiday displays. The trip is sponsored by RNC and includes bus transportation and entry ticket. Call the Center at 609-261-2495 or link to www.rancocasnaturecenter.org for additional information or to download a flier. Cost: \$60/per person.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS (Pre-registration required)

PRESCHOOL STORY/MUSIC TIME

Tuesdays, September 6, 13, 20, 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25 & November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Thursdays, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13, 20, 27 & November 3, 10, 17 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, September 16, October 14, & November 11 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.

September 16 – Collage with Natural Materials

October 14 – Rock Painting

November 11 – Build a Turkey

NATURE ADVENTURES FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Fridays, September 30, October 28, & November 18, 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.

September 30 – Giggly Wiggly Worms

October 28 – Fall Leaves Fall!

November 18– Little Tom Turkey

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES (Pre-registration required)

CONNECT WITH NATURE—TRI-HABITAT INVESTIGATIONS

Sunday, September 25 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Rancocas preserve features a variety of hike-able habitats that offer a unique opportunity to observe and investigate the local wildlife of New Jersey. This program uses hands-on activities to guide children and families in the exploration of a meadow, a forest and a wetland. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

L.L. BEAN SPONSORED HAUNTED HIKE FOR HUNGER

Friday, October 14, 7:00 pm. to 9:00 p.m.

Kayla, the Outdoor Discovery School Leader at L.L. Bean, Marlton invites you to join her at Rancocas for a New Jersey folk lore-inspired, night time trail hike. Bring non-perishable food items to donate. Please pre-register at www.llbean.com/marlton. Limit 20 participants.

CONNECT WITH NATURE—SKULLS & BONES DETECTIVE

Sunday, October 16 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

How can you tell if an animal is an herbivore or a carnivore? What is the difference between an antler and a horn? Learn about animals from the inside out—clues lie in the skulls and bones! This program utilizes samples of vertebrate animal bones and skulls from Rancocas' collection. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

CONNECT WITH NATURE—WHOOO LIVES IN THE FOREST?

Sunday, November 20 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

New Jersey has eight species of owls that over-winter in the state. From the petite Saw Whet to the mighty Great Horned, owls are primarily nocturnal with excellent eyesight and hearing. This engaging program features an assortment of hands-on materials and includes activities where participants will learn about owl characteristics, owl habitat, and owl calls. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

ADULT & TEEN PROGRAMS AT RANCOCAS (Pre-registration required) (Programs are suitable for interested teens)

INTERPRETIVE TRAIL HIKE AT RANCOCAS

Sundays, September 4, October 2, & November 6 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, September 17, October 15, & November 19 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.

SPEAKING OF NATURE SERIES

Thursdays, September 22 & October 27, 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.

September 22 – Mothing—A Photographic Journey

October 27 – New Jersey Through the Seasons

L.L. BEAN SPONSORED RUNNING GROUP

Saturdays, October 14 & October 29 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Kayla, the Outdoor Discovery School Leader at L.L. Bean, Marlton invites you to join her at Rancocas for a morning run on the preserve trails. Please pre-register at www.llbean.com/marlton. Limit 10 participants.

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

PALMYRA COVE BIRDING CHALLENGE FIELD TRIP

Saturday, October 8 7:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. (two start times) to late afternoon.

Start early in the day to take advantage of the seasonal surge along the Delaware River migratory route. Everyone knows it's a prime time to tally a record-breaking day list. It's your call as to how long you stay. The group will break for lunch. Beginning birders are welcome. Meet in the Palmyra Cove Nature Center parking lot. Leader: Lloyd Shaw. Directions available when preregistering – call RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

TAYLOR WILDLIFE PRESERVE FIELD TRIP

Saturday, November 12, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Located off of River Road in Cinnaminson, NJ, the preserve parallels the Delaware River and includes a variety of wildlife-friendly habitats. Possible sightings may include late fall migrants, waterfowl, herons, a good sampling of backyard birds, and evidence of local mammals. Directions available when preregistering – call RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged. Leader: Lloyd Shaw.

RNC AFFILIATED CLUB MEETINGS

RNC OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Thursdays, September 1, October 6, & November 3, 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, September 6, October 4, & November 1 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, September 19, October 17, & November 21, 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), 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 Metrione, Ken Mitchell, Candy Myers, Toni Price (FRNC), Patty Rehn, Diane Rothschild, Robert Rothschild, Dan Ruotolo (FRNC), 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.