



Spring 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

HOURS: Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. / Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. / Closed Mondays
Note: The Center closes at 4 p.m. each day until March 31. Center closed on Sunday, March 27 for Easter
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: *Programs are FREE unless otherwise noted.*

March 1	RNC Book Club
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Tuesday Preschool Story/Music Time
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Thursday Preschool Story/Music Time
March 3	RNC Photography Club
March 5 & 6	RNC Members Bird Seed Discount Days
March 6	Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas
March 8	Science & History Series – Natural Changes in Landscapes
March 9	Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip
March 11	Nature in Art for Preschoolers – Spring Peepers
March 12	Signs of Spring in Salem County Field Trip
March 18	Nature Storytime & Hike for Preschoolers – “Big Night for Salamanders”
March 19	Saturday Naturalist-Led Walk
March 19	RNC Beef N Beer for Birds & Blooms
March 20	Connect With Nature – Salamander Sunday
March 21	Native Plant Society of NJ Meeting
March 23	RNC Photography Club Workshop–Getting Your Camera Off Auto I
March 24	Speaking of Nature Series – Bee Aware
April 2 & 3	RNC Members Bird Seed Discount Days
April 3	Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas
April 5	RNC Book Club
April 5, 12, 19, 26	Tuesday Preschool Story/Music Time
April 6	RNC Photography Club Workshop–Getting Your Camera Off Auto II
April 7	RNC Photography Club
April 7, 14, 21, 28	Thursday Preschool Story/Music Time
April 8	Nature in Art for Preschoolers – Baby Animals
April 12	County Naturalist Spring Walk at RNC-Tuesday Talk
April 12	Science & History Series – All About Birds
April 15	County Naturalist Spring Walk at RNC-Friday Forum
April 16	Taylor Wildlife Preserve Field Trip
April 16	Saturday Naturalist-Led Walk
April 16	Saturday Nature Program – Bird Nests
April 16	Native Plant Society of NJ Meeting –ID-ing Invasive Plants
April 17	Connect With Nature – Walking Tour of the Rancocas State Park
April 22	Nature Storytime & Hike for Preschoolers – “I Took a Walk”
April 24	Arbor Day Festival
April 28	Speaking of Nature Series – A Pinelands Backyard
April 30	Cooper River Park Field Trip
May 1	Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas
May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Tuesday Preschool Story/Music Time
May 3	RNC Book Club
May 5	RNC Photography Club
May 5, 12, 19, 26	Thursday Preschool Story/Music Time
May 7 & 8	RNC Members Bird Seed Discount Days
May 10	Science & History Series – Spring Planting, Do’s & Don’ts
May 13	Nature in Art for Preschoolers – Natural Collage for Mom
May 15	Palmyra Cove Field Trip
May 16	Native Plant Society of NJ Meeting
May 21	Migration at Maria Greenwald Park Field Trip
May 21	Saturday Naturalist-Led Walk
May 22	Connect With Nature–Beastly Neighbors
May 26	Speaking of Nature Series – Bio-mimicry in Burlington County
May 27	Nature Storytime & Hike for Preschoolers – “Big Yellow Sunflower”

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, March 5 & Sunday, March 6

Saturday, April 2 & Sunday, April 3

Saturday, May 7 & Sunday, May 8

RANCOCAS NATURE CENTER SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

Weekly Sessions June 27 to August 12, 2016 for Grades 1-7 (as of September 2016)

Early-bird Discount ends March 31, 2016

Childhood and the outdoors are a natural fit. Our summer campers have fun while learning about the world around them. A typical day at camp looks to blend environmental science with active outdoor experiences under the guidance of knowledgeable educators. Group interaction and cooperation create a positive setting where learning is hands-on and fun. Whether it's through an age-appropriate hike, a craft or project, or a themed game or activity, campers gain an awareness of the natural world and the importance of a sustainable community. Visit our website at www.rancocasnaturecenter.org for information and photos from 2015. Forms are available online and at the center.

RANCOCAS NATURE CENTER EVENTS

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW BUS TRIP

Wednesday, March 9, 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.

This year's theme for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Spring Flower Show is "Explore America—100 Years of the National Park Service." The trip is sponsored by RNC and includes bus transportation and entry ticket. Visit www.rancocasnaturecenter.org for details or call the Center at 609-261-2495. Cost: \$53/per person.

RNC BEEF N BEER FOR BIRDS & BLOOMS FUNDRAISER

Saturday, March 19, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Join Rancocas Nature Center supporters for an evening of informal socializing and entertainment. The spring fundraiser will be held at the Mount Holly Moose Lodge on Woodlane Road in Westampton. The event features the traditional beef and beer fare plus other food and drink. To insure its success and your fun, live music, a 50/50 raffle and Chinese auction baskets are included. The fundraiser is sponsored by the Friends of the Rancocas Nature Center. Visit www.rancocasnaturecenter.org for additional information.

ARBOR DAY FESTIVAL

Sunday, April 24, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Friends of Rancocas Nature Center and its Development Committee are sponsoring the 3rd Arbor Day Fest at the Nature Center. This is a special day for the public that coincides with April's Earth Day celebration and Arbor Day. The afternoon's activities will include a tree planting, presentations and demonstrations on tree diseases, tree pruning, natural tree bark dyes, a tree identification hike, a Shiitake mushroom cultivation introduction, and children's backyard activities. Light refreshments will be available for purchase.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS (Pre-registration required)

PRESCHOOL STORY/MUSIC TIME

Tuesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26 & May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Thursdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28 & May 5, 12, 19, 26 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, March 11, April 8, & May 13 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.

March 11 – Spring Peepers

April 8 – Baby Animals

May 13 – Natural Collage for Mom

NATURE STORYTIME & HIKE FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Fridays, March 18, April 22 & May 27 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.

March 18– “Big Night for Salamanders”

April 22 – “I Took a Walk”

May 27 – “Big Yellow Sunflower”

SATURDAY NATURE PROGRAM

Saturday, April 16, Bird Nests 10:00 a.m.

Flock together and learn about how a bird builds its nest. Walk a trail with Park Naturalist Kate and find the perfect nesting material, then bring it back to the nature center to build your own nest. Recommended for ages 5 and up with adult. Please call the County Parks office to register: 609-265-5858

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES (Pre-registration required)

INTERPRETIVE TRAIL HIKE AT RANCOCAS

Sundays, March 6, April 3, and May 1 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, March 20, Salamander Sunday 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Every spring like clockwork, these elusive amphibians emerge from hibernation as the days warm and the daylight extends. Females of the species migrate to a vernal pool or wetland to deposit their eggs, and the fascinating cycle of the next generation begins to unfold. The afternoon’s activity will include a hike to search for the three species of salamanders that make Rancocas their home. Waterproof footwear is suggested. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

Sunday, April 17, Walking Tour of the Rancocas State Park 1:30 to 3:00 p.m..

Celebrate the 45th anniversary of Earth Day by savoring the sights and smells on a spring afternoon. Join RNC Sanctuary Director Susan Buffalino on an interpretive hike utilizing trails in the western section of the park—a local gem. Bring binoculars, or borrow a loaner pair, for a detailed view of the diverse habitats in the area. This program is not recommended for children under 8 years of age. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

Sunday, May 22, Beastly Neighbors 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Rancocas is a great preserved area right in your own neighborhood! We all live with wildlife on a daily basis, but do we know anything about the habits and lifestyles of these exciting creatures? Be part of a fascinating afternoon’s discussion. Weather permitting, the program will include a short hike to investigate the habitats of RNC’s many resident species. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

ADULT & TEEN PROGRAMS (Pre-registration required)

(Programs are suitable for interested teens)

SCIENCE & HISTORY SERIES

The Rancocas Nature Center hosts a weekday series for adults interested in learning about the natural world and the history of the region. Appropriate for home-schooled high school-aged students. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

Tuesday, March 8 – Natural Changes in Landscapes 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

People aren’t the only ones who have the ability to change the landscape around us. From beavers to squirrels, and from floods to fires, learn about the things wildlife and other natural phenomena do to shape the habitats

of our parks. Presenter: Burlco Park Naturalist Kate Szostak. Please call the County Parks office to register: 609-265-5858.

Tuesday, April 12 – All About Birds 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Rancocas naturalist John Courtney will share his expertise on birds. The program will include bird biology, flight, feathers, and migration, and will feature numerous images of birds to ID. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

Tuesday, May 10 – Spring Planting, Do's & Don'ts 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Tackle this year's planting season armed with basic knowledge. Learn how to evaluate light and soil, how to match plant species with location, how to attract wildlife—all you need to know to enhance your yard/ garden. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

SATURDAY NATURALIST-LED WALKS

Saturdays, March 19, April 16, & May 21, 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 an RNC 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.

Thursday, March 24 – Bee Aware 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

This important presentation will discuss the plight of insect pollinators, with a special focus on honey bees, detailing their serious decline known as colony collapse disorder and what it means for our food supply, economy, and environment. Find out what you can do to help and which commonly used pesticides are toxic to bees and other beneficial insects. This is an update of the original 2009 presentation. Ages 14 & up please. Presenter: Park Naturalist Jennifer Bulava. Please call the County Parks office to register: 609-265-5858.

Thursday, April 28 – A Pinelands Backyard 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

It's about as close to nature as you can get. Experience what it is like to call the Pinelands home. Naturalists and photographers Steve Mattan and Patty Rehn will share a PPT that will take you on a visual trip through the seasons. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

Thursday, May 26 – Bio-mimicry in Burlington County 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

All living things have the ability to copy their surroundings, whether it's an insect camouflaging to look like a stick or people taking inspiration from nature to better their daily lives. Take a look at some of these examples from in and around Burlington County. Presenter: Park Naturalist Kate Szostak. Please call the County Parks office to register: 609-265-5858.

COUNTY NATURALIST SPRING WALKS AT RNC

Tuesday Talk, April 12, 9:00 a.m.

A series of nature programs led by Park Naturalist Jen Bulava on select Tuesdays and Fridays. Friday Forums will be the same location and topic as the Tuesday before when they occur in the same week, so please register for either Tuesday OR Friday. Registration is required by calling the County Parks office: 609-265-5858.

Friday Forum, April 15, 9:00 a.m.

A series of nature programs led by Park Naturalist Jen Bulava on select Tuesdays and Fridays. Friday Forums will be the same location and topic as the Tuesday before when they occur in the same week, so please register for either Tuesday OR Friday. Registration is required by calling the County Parks office: 609-265-5858.

ADULT OFF-SITE FIELD TRIPS

Please call 609-261-2495 or send an email to info@rancocasnaturecenter.org to pre-register for all field trips. To facilitate sending trip times and site directions, **please include your e-mail address when you register or request directions be mailed.** Trips take place rain or shine (within reasonable limits). Group size is limited. Bring binoculars and/or scopes, lunch (if desired), and dress appropriately for the weather.

SIGNS OF SPRING IN SALEM COUNTY FIELD TRIP

Saturday, March 12 time TBD

Join Audubon Wildlife Society Naturalist Jean Gutschmidt for a day of birding and nature observations at the Mannington Marsh during the early spring season. The day's focus will be waterfowl and eagles. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

TAYLOR WILDLIFE PRESERVE FELD TRIP

Saturday, April 16 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

This refuge along the Delaware River is a premier spot to experience early spring migrants. The site's diverse habitats are used by a variety of bird species, especially during this season. Meet in the parking lot at River Road and Taylor's Lane. Leader: Lloyd Shaw. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged

COOPER RIVER PARK – CAMDEN COUNTY FILED TRIP

Saturday, April 30, time TBD

First in a series of field trips along the Cooper River Park system, this visit focuses on Newton Lake Park which borders the Cooper River in an urban residential setting. Possible sightings may include early spring migrants, waterfowl, nesting Canada Geese, herons, and a good sampling of backyard birds. Leader: Sandra Keller. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

PALMYRA COVE NATURE CENTER FIELD TRIP

Sunday, May 15 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

In the shadow of the Tacony Palmyra Bridge, the nature center trails offer unique habitat along the Delaware River. This "Big Day" for spring migration affords the chance to observe a good number of species. Meet in the nature center parking lot. Leader: Lloyd Shaw. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged

MIGRATION AT MARIA GREENWALD PARK – CHERRY HILL FIELD TRIP

Saturday, May 21, time TBD

Second in a series, this trip guides participants through Maria Greenwald Park which also borders the Cooper River in an urban residential setting. At the height of spring migration, the diversity of sightings should be at its peak. It's a great time of year to see birds that are in NJ for a short time as they pass through on their way north. Leader: Sandra Keller. 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, March 1, April 5 & May 3 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.

RNC OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Thursdays, March 3, April 7 & May 5, 10:00 a.m. to 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. President of the Photo Club, Harold Buchanan, will lead the group and organize events.

RNC Outdoor Photography Club Workshops

Wednesday, March 23, Getting Your Camera Off Auto, Part I, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 6, Getting Your Camera Off Auto, Part II, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Workshop only, cost per session: RNC members, \$10; nonmembers, \$15

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY, RNC CHAPTER

Monday, March 21; Saturday, April 16; and Monday, May 16

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.

Monday, March 21 – TBD 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 16 – Identifying Invasive Plants-Alda Krinsman, Invasive Species Strike Team, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Monday May 16 – TBD 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

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 Hedy Bauer, 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, Christina Piscitelli, 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.