

Burlington County Times

Rancocas Nature Center program needs sleuths

Melissa Hanejko, correspondent, October 13, 2016

Calling all amateur anthropology buffs.

Do you have every episode of the forensic anthropology-themed television show "Bones" committed to memory? Put your sleuthing skills to the test, and pick up some new tricks at the Rancocas Nature Center on Sunday.

The center's Connecting with Nature series resumes as guests learn to use the powers of observation to solve some of nature's greatest mysteries. "Skulls and Detectives" will take attendees on a fascinating journey of discovery, as real animal bones, skulls and horns are examined.

While anthropology and archaeology are specific to the study of human biology and behavior, zoology and zooarchaeology deal with non-human animals. Despite the different field of studies, animal bones have always been an integral piece in the puzzle of archaeology.

Dating to ancient times, animal remains have helped fill in the story of man. Animal artifacts play an important role in studying a culture, and can help explain the economic, social and cultural aspects of a population.

Sunday's program, which begins at 1:30 p.m., will look at different animals from the inside out. Use clues and cues to determine whether animals were herbivores or carnivores, which type of environment they lived in, and even how long ago they died. The hands-on, interactive presentation will teach attendees what

factors to look for when studying animal bones, how to distinguish horns from antlers, and what secrets can be told by a single bone.

The program will take place in the Nature Center's main building, at 794 Rancocas Road in Westampton.

There is no charge for the event, though donations are appreciated. To register, call 609-261-2495 or visit rancocasnaturecenter.org.