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## **Raising the Roof at Rancocas Nature Center**

[By Rebecca Carlbom, staff writer](#)

The Rancocas Nature Center (RNC) in Westampton needs roof repairs at its historic 1859 farmhouse and the Friends of the RNC are asking for donations.

An anonymous donor has come forward to match all contributions to RNC's Raise the Roof fund, up to \$1,500, for a potential \$3,000 goal.

Donors can help meet the goal by mailing a check to Raise the Roof Fund, Rancocas Nature Center, 794 Rancocas Road, Westampton, NJ 08060. Donors may also call the center to make a credit card donation or they may make their donation in person at the Nature Center.

The center is open for phone calls and drop ins on Tuesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The phone number is 609-261-2495.

Donations will help the Center move forward with its work, helping to provide a safe space for programs.

The Nature Center farmhouse currently hosts nature programs, birthday parties, Scout troops, the Rancocas Nature Center Photography Club, the Native Plant Society of NJ – Rancocas Nature Center Chapter, and the Rancocas Nature Center Book Club. Also, the Master Gardeners, the NJ Mycological Society, NJ Bluebird Society, and the West Jersey Astronomical Society hold events there.

The Rancocas Nature Center is situated on a 210-acre piece of the Rancocas State Park and features three miles of hiking trails through varied habitats including meadows, forest, and wetlands, plus access to Rancocas Creek. It has been operating for 38 years, providing environmental education for the surrounding community with programs both on- and off-site for groups including schools, scouts, libraries, senior citizens, as well as the general public. The nature center building includes a nature gift shop, high quality bird seed for sale, live animals, natural history displays, and restrooms.

The grounds include a picnic area carry in-carry out, dragonfly pond, frog pond, beehives and Rutgers Master Gardeners of Burlington County children's, pollinator and display gardens. The land has important environmental, historical and cultural significance dating to the American Revolution.

The center is supported through the partnership of the Burlington County Board of Freeholders, NJ State Park Service Division of Parks & Forestry, Westampton Township, Friends of Rancocas Nature Center, and Rancocas Conservancy. For more information, go to [RancocasNatureCenter.org](http://RancocasNatureCenter.org)