



Summer 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

794 Rancocas Road, Westampton, NJ 08060 Phone: 609.261.2495 / 609-261-0151

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 Tuesday, July 4 for Independence Day

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

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

Associate Naturalists: 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:

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| June 1 | RNC Photography Club |
| June 2 | Friday After-school Hike |
| June 3 & 4 | RNC Members Bird Seed Discount Days |
| June 3 | National Trails Day |
| June 6 | RNC Book Club |
| June 6, 13, 20, 27 | Tuesday Preschool Story/Music Time |
| June 9 | Nature in Art for Preschoolers – Birds' Nests |
| June 9 | Special for Families – Friday Night Hike & Campfire |
| June 10 | L.L.Bean Turtle Hike at RNC |
| June 11 | Connect With Nature Series – Yoga With Mother Nature |
| June 17 | Crystal Lake Park – Adult Field Trip |
| June 17 | Saturday Naturalist-Led Walk |
| June 19 | Native Plant Society of NJ Meeting |
| June 23 | Nature Adventures for Preschoolers – “Who’s Home” |
| June 26-30 | Week 1– Summer Day Camp – “The World is a Garden” |
| July 1 & 2 | RNC Members Bird Seed Discount Days |
| July 2 | Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas |
| July 5-7 | Week 2 – Summer Day Camp for Preschoolers – “Little Adventures at Rancocas” |
| July 6 | RNC Photography Club |
| July 11, 18, 25 | Tuesday Preschool Story/Music Time |
| July 10-14 | Week 3 – Summer Day Camp – “It’s a Wild World” |
| July 15 | Saturday Naturalist-Led Walk |
| July 17-21 | Week 4 – Summer Day Camp – “Fun With Water” |
| July 22 | Pinelands Tour – Adult Field Trip |
| July 25-28 | Week 5 – Summer Day Camp – “Critters & Creatures” |
| July 27 | Speaking of Nature Series – Celebrate National Moth Week |
| July 31-August 4 | Week 6 – Summer Day Camp – “Invertebrate Investigations” |
| August 1 | RNC Book Club |
| August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | Tuesday Preschool Story/Music Time |
| August 3 | RNC Photography Club |
| August 5 & 6 | RNC Members Bird Seed Discount Days |
| August 6 | Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas |
| August 8-11 | Week 7 – Summer Day Camp – “Connecting With Nature” |
| August 18 | Star Watch/Astronomy Night at Rancocas |
| August 19 | Edwin B. Forsythe NWR – Adult Field Trip |
| August 27 | Bringing Nature Home Music & Crafts Festival |

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.

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, June 3 & Sunday, June 4

Saturday, July 1 & Sunday, July 2

Saturday, August 5 & Sunday, August 6

RANCOCAS NATURE CENTER SUMMER CAMPS for Preschool ages 4 & 5 & grades 1 to 7

Full & half-day weekly sessions from Monday, June 26 to Friday, August 11

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 the natural sciences with active, outdoor experiences under the guidance of knowledgeable educators. Group interaction and cooperation create a positive setting where learning is exciting and hands-on.

Connecting Children With Nature: Why choose a Rancocas Nature Center Camp?

- ◆ Fun & engaging outdoor experiences
- ◆ Highly-trained staff; low camper/teacher ratio
- ◆ Age-appropriate groups
- ◆ NJ State certified summer camp
- ◆ Competitive rates & varied scheduling
- ◆ Family-friendly weeks
- ◆ Rancocas has been part of the Burlington County community since 1977

Full-day camp hours: from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm; Selected weeks, Monday through Friday

Cost: (weeks 1, 3, 4, 6): \$240/week; Campers must bring their own lunch.

Post-camp Care (offered only with full-day camp) 3:00 pm-4:00 pm; Cost: \$40/week

Half-day camp hours: from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm; Selected weeks, Tuesday through Friday

Cost: (weeks 5, 7): \$120/week

Preschool camp hours: from 9:30am – 11:30am; Cost: (week 2 only): \$60/week

Registration:

- Call the center to request a form
- Download a form at: rancocasnaturecenter.org
- Register in person at the center

Note: RNC membership is required for camp sign-up.

Week 1: June 26 – June 30 *The World is a Garden*

Full-day camp: Mon.- Fri. from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; Cost: \$240/week

Gardens provide opportunities to dig in the dirt, find worms, plant seeds, and experience nature. Each week engages campers in planting the RNC vegetable and butterfly gardens as well as exploring the preserve's habitats that are home to an assortment of wildlife just waiting to be discovered.

Week 2: July 5 – July 7 **NEW! *Little Adventures at Rancocas : for Preschoolers***

Morning camp: Wed.- Fri. from 9:30 am to 11:30 pm; Cost: \$60/week

Preschoolers, ages 4 & 5, can get a chance to share the fun of the outdoors. This introduction to summer camp is the perfect time for your child to enjoy nature activities first-hand in a social environment.

Week 3: July 10 – July 14 *It's a Wild World*

Full-day camp: Mon.- Fri. from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; Cost: \$240/week

Summertime is full of excitement on the state park trails as our native plants and animals are found and observed. The week will include activities designed to engage campers in the diverse fauna and flora that live in our world.

Week 4: July 17 – July 21 *Fun With Water*

Full-day camp: Mon.- Fri. from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; Cost: \$240/week

What better place to be on a hot summer day than in the clear streams and cool, shady forests of the Rancocas State Park. Water is one of our important resources and campers will learn what's in it, who uses it, and how to keep it pollution free.

Week 5: July 25 – July 28 *Critters & Creatures*

Half-day camp: Tues.- Fri. from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm; Cost: \$120/week

From our microscopic critters to our vertebrates, it's fun to investigate wildlife. Activities include hands-on experiences with Rancocas' resident animals, and our Butterfly Enclosure and Dragonfly Pond.

Campers use the state park streams, forests, and meadows to experience the natural world first-hand.

Week 6: July 31 – August 4 *Invertebrate Investigations*

Full-day camp: Mon.- Fri. from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; Cost: \$240/week

Flying in the air, under a log, in the stream, and on a leaf, invertebrate animals are all around. They are fun to investigate, sample, and record. Let's see what can be discovered along our trails and in our habitats.

Week 7: August 8 – August 11 *Connecting With Nature*

Half-day camp: Tues.- Fri. from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm; Cost: \$120/week

This week will focus on exciting nature-oriented projects that encourage team-building and camaraderie. There's much to do in the park and campers will use their imaginations as they look for answers and try fun strategies while helping our wildlife preserve.

RANCOCAS NATURE CENTER EVENTS**STAR WATCH / ASTRONOMY NIGHT AT RANCOCAS**

Friday, August 18, 7:00 to 10 p.m.

Join a local astronomical society for an evening under the stars. Knowledgeable society members will assemble an array of telescopes and other optics, and guide the novice and more experienced observers through the summer night sky.

Please bring a flashlight and chair (optional). Pre-registration required for this program. Cost: RNC members, \$10/person, \$25/family (limit 5); nonmembers, \$15/person, \$40/family (limit 5).

BRINGING NATURE HOME MUSIC & CRAFT FESTIVAL

Sunday, August 27, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For its 2nd Annual Music & Craft Festival, guest of honor, Dr. Douglas Tallamy, University of Delaware Professor of Entomology and author of "Bringing Nature Home" and "The Living Landscape" will share his expertise during an open Q & A session/discussion and book signing. This environmentally-themed event will also include a full day of live music featuring Camille Peruto, John Byrne Band (and much more), craft & food vendors, and environmental displays & activities. The event will be held at the Rancocas State Park Fairgrounds. For more details, call [609-261-2495](tel:609-261-2495) or visit the Center's website at www.rancocasnaturecenter.org. Cost: \$15/per vehicle; \$5/per person, walk-in.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS (Pre-registration required)**PRESCHOOL STORY/MUSIC TIME**

Tuesdays, June 6, 13, 20, 27, July 11, 18, 25 & August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 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

Friday, June 9, Birds' Nests, 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.

NATURE ADVENTURES FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Friday, June 23, "Who's Home" 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

It's never too early to share the natural world with children. For the very young, their interactions with nature 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.

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES (Pre-registration required)

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Saturday, June 3

Celebrate the day by exploring the Rancocas Nature Center trails. Our Yellow, Blue, Red, and Orange blazed trails wind through woods, meadows, and wetlands. Join an Interpretive Trail Hike at 1:30 p.m. for a guided tour of the preserve. Bring binoculars, cameras, and sketch pads to view and record the abundant flora and fauna found here. Prefer a self-guided walk—stop by the Visitors Center for a trail map and interpretive guide. Cost: FREE, no pre-registration required.

SPECIAL FOR MEMBER FAMILIES! FRIDAY NIGHT HIKE & CAMPFIRE

Friday, June 9; 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Bring the whole family to Rancocas for an all-ages, early evening hike at an easy pace to celebrate the beginning of summer camp season. We'll toast s-mores over a campfire; making it ideal for an end of the week treat. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

L.L. BEAN SPONSORED TURTLE HIKE at RNC

Saturday, June 10; 9:00 a.m.

Slow & steady wins the race! This leisurely hike is for those hiking for the sake of being outside. It is great for beginners and photographers. The slow pace will give you time to take in the beautiful RNC environment. Dress for the weather and bring plenty of water. Please pre-register at www.llbean.com/marlton. Limit 12 participants..

CONNECT WITH NATURE SERIES

Sunday, June 11, Yoga With Mother Nature; 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Using yoga to attain well-being through a series of exercises is growing in popularity. Join Christine Black, a Yoga Alliance Certified Instructor, for an afternoon introduction. We will set up on the lawn, weather depending, and enjoy the fresh outdoors. Suitable for ages 8 and above. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

INTERPRETIVE TRAIL HIKE AT RANCOCAS

Sundays, July 2; 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.

ADULT & TEEN PROGRAMS (Pre-registration required)

(Programs are suitable for interested teens)

SATURDAY NATURALIST-LED WALKS

Saturdays, June 17 & July 15; 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 a Rancocas 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, July 27 – Celebrate National Moth Week; 7:30 to 10:00 p.m.

National Moth Week celebrates the beauty, life cycles, and habitats of moths. “Moth-ers” of all ages and abilities are encouraged to learn about and observe these fascinating nocturnal creatures. Moths are among the most diverse and successful organisms—estimates suggest there are more than 150,000 species on earth. National Moth Week is being held worldwide, but what better place to experience these colorful insects than at the Rancocas Nature Center. Preregister by calling RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

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

CRYSTAL LAKE PARK, BURLINGTON COUNTY

Saturday, June 17, 8:00 a.m. to Noon

Join naturalist and birder Lloyd Shaw and explore this preserved area that is part of the Burlington County Parks system in Mansfield. The site features woodland and marsh habitat which can host a variety of wildlife. Participating in these off-site events is a great way to learn about the fauna and flora in our area. Meet in the Crystal Lake Park parking area. Directions available when preregistering – call RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

PINELANDS TOUR

Saturday, July 22; 8:00 a.m. to Noon

A visit to the Pinelands is a must each summer. The unique habitats and wildlife found in this region of New Jersey are unlike no other. Leader Lloyd Shaw will share his expertise and ensure that this trip is worth the travel time. Meeting place: TBD. Directions available when preregistering – call RNC at 609-261-2495. There is no charge for this program, but donations are encouraged.

EDWIN B. FORSYTHE NWR (Brigantine)

Saturday, August 19, 8:00 a.m. to early afternoon

One of the highlights of the NJ shore is Forsythe NWR, a premier location for wildlife viewing. The refuge's 8-mile loop and multiple upland and wetlands trails offer the beginning and experienced birder/hiker a unique summer trip. Participants will meet in the parking lot of the refuge. Please bring lunch and insect repellent. The trip will go to the early afternoon. Leader: Lloyd Shaw. Directions available when preregistering – call 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, June 6 & August 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 Marilyn Fishman at marafishman@gmail.com.

RNC OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Thursdays, June 1, July 6 & August 3; 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

All are welcome. Club meets the first Thursday of every month in the RNC classroom or at a designated alternative outdoor location. Co-chairs of the Photo Club, Harold Buchanan & Carl Doan, will lead the group and organize events. Email the Photo Club at: rncphotoclub@gmail.com.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY, RNC CHAPTER

Monday, June 19 – TBD; 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Once a month, NPSNJ chapters sponsor lectures, presentations, and field trips on a range of horticultural topics. For additional information, email Toni Price, Chapter Leader at rancocas@npsnj.org. You do not need to be a member of the NPSNJ to attend. **RNC-NPSNJ will break for the summer and start up again in September 2017 with a fresh slate of offerings. Visit either the Native Plant Society or Rancocas websites for further details.**

NOTE: The NPSNJ will sponsor a summer festival in the Rancocas State Park on Sunday, August 27, 2017.

SAVE THE DATE for the *Bringing Nature Home Music & Craft Festival*.

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), Brian Callahan, Rich Chichester (FRNC), Deborah Ciabattini, Marilyn Courtney, Jeffrey DiFrancesco, Carl Doan, Katie Dole, Ben & Louise Dwyer, Laura Edwards, Marilyn Fishman (FRNC), Michel Gehin, Gil Gehin-Scott, Bob Hall, Al Hagovsky, Bill Holloway (FRNC), Jane, Lorraine 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.