

Nature Center of Cape May

1600 Delaware Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204
Phone: 609.898.8848 / Fax: 609.898.8512
E-mail: nccm@njudubon.org / Website: <http://nccm.njudubon.org>



PUBLIC VISITATION HOURS:

March, April and May: Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Open other times for special programs.

FREE ADMISSION AND FREE PARKING YEAR-ROUND!

Staff:

Gretchen Whitman, Sanctuary Director
Sue Slotterback, Program Director
Kim Hannum, Senior Naturalist
Carol Domenico, Nature Store Manager

A big thank you to all our volunteers!

Support Personnel:

Linda Horner, Public Relations Consultant
Charlotte Todd, Friends Group and Curriculum Consultant
Susan Wilson, Website and Technical Consultant
Meg Miller, Volunteer Coordinator

Associate Naturalists:

Fred Beyer, Paige Cunningham, Linda Dill,
Evelyn Lovitz, Hal Miller, Judy Mohler, Pat Sutton,
Betty Jean Webersinn, and Phil Zimmerman

Spring 2012 Programs

March through May

FREE ADMISSION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES

Observation deck and tower to view our harbor and its wildlife.

Second floor provides an indoor harbor observation area.

Aquaria with local marine life and natural history artifacts. (Seasonal)

Special exhibits in the Trucksess Welcome Center with nature themes and an area featuring local artists' work.

Nature Store with the best in nature gifts, field guides, books, clothing, and children's discovery items. Also includes a children's play area and a view of our busy songbird feeding station (seasonal).

Wildlife habitat meadows feature a Monarch-milkweed and wildflower garden, a songbird grassland meadow, and a nature trail and bridge crossing a tidal creek.

Theme gardens and habitats include butterfly, hummingbird, seaside, drought-tolerant, shade, and songbird gardens.

Beachcomb the harbor during low tide and search for shells and other interesting treasures.

Picnic tables for an enjoyable lunch overlooking scenic Cape May Harbor.

Spectacular sunsets and magical twilight. Watch the changing colors of the sky from the Cape May Harbor waterfront.

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Most programs require pre-registration with payment. You may register by phone at 609.898.8848 with a credit card.

We reserve the right to cancel programs. Refunds are available only if we cancel the event. Walk-ins are welcome on a space-available basis. Become a member of New Jersey Audubon and receive discounts in the gift shop and on many programs!

Become a New Jersey Audubon member and enjoy discounts on tours, events, and field trips at all NJ Audubon centers. Members also get a 10% discount at our Nature Stores (greater discount on optics).

NATURE CENTER GIFT SHOP

Your visit to the Nature Center of Cape May is not complete without a stop in our gift shop located within the Trucksess Welcome Center. Our store offers a variety of nature-inspired merchandise relevant to our region. We carry books and apparel for adults and children, educational toys, and gifts. In addition, the store is stocked with a wide array of birdfeeders and birdseed. You are welcome to come in and browse; we're sure you will find something for everyone in your family. New Jersey Audubon members receive a 10% discount on their purchases.

MOMMY AND ME CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Fridays, March 2 to May 11

(No class April 13)

10:30 to 11:30 A.M.

For ages 2 to 4 years old.

For curious naturalists-to-be and a parent, guardian, or grandparent. Each week, we'll focus on a different aspect of nature with stories, song, crafts, activities, outdoor experience,

Continued

Nature Center of Cape May Spring 2012 Events at a Glance

Saturday, February 25	Orders Due for Birdseed Sale March 10
Friday, March 2	Mommy and Me
Tuesday, March 6	Upcycle Workshop
Friday, March 9	Mommy and Me
Saturday, March 10	Birdseed Sale
Tuesday, March 13	Upcycle Craft Workshop
Friday, March 16	Mommy and Me
Tuesday, March 20	Upcycle Craft Workshop
Friday, March 23	Mommy and Me
Saturday, March 24	Family Hike: Two Mile Beach Unit
Tuesday, March 27	Upcycle Craft Workshop
Friday, March 30	Mommy and Me
Tuesday-Thursday, April 3-5	Spring Craft Open House
Friday, April 6	Mommy and Me
Friday, April 6	Family Campfire: Full Moon Fire
Saturday, April 7	Family Bike: Cape Island Tour
Saturday, April 7	Salt Marsh Safari
Tuesday-Thursday, April 10-12	Spring Craft Open House
Saturday, April 14	Landscape Design Workshop
Saturday, April 14	Salt Marsh Safari
Friday, April 20	Mommy and Me
Saturday, April 21	Milkweed for Monarchs
Saturday, April 21	Salt Marsh Safari
Saturday, April 21	Hummingbirds 101
Friday, April 27	Mommy and Me
Saturday, April 28	Annual Plant Sale Orders Due
Saturday, April 28	Earth Day Marine Debris Cleanup
Saturday, April 28	Backyard Habitat Plant Swap
Saturday, April 28	Salt Marsh Safari
Tuesday, May 1	Seaside Connections Evening Lecture
Friday, May 4	Mommy and Me
Saturday, May 5	Explore the Shore
Saturday, May 5	Salt Marsh Safari
Sunday, May 6	Natural History of the Pine Barrens Trip
Tuesday, May 8	Seaside Connections Evening Lecture
Friday, May 11	Mommy and Me
Saturday, May 12	World Series of Birding
Saturday, May 12	Explore the Shore
Saturday, May 12	Salt Marsh Safari
Saturday, May 12	Family Hike: Bugs, Birds and More
Saturday & Sunday, May 12-13	Annual Plant Sale
Tuesday, May 15	Seaside Connections Evening Lecture
Saturday, May 19	Explore the Shore
Saturday, May 19	Salt Marsh Safari
Tuesday, May 22	Seaside Connections Evening Lecture
Saturday, May 26	Aqua Trails Kayak Tour
Saturday, May 26	Explore the Shore
Saturday, May 26	Salt Marsh Safari
Saturday, May 26	Birdseed Orders Due for Pickup June 9
Saturday, June 2	Sister Cape Bike tour
Saturday, June 2, 9	Explore the Shore
Saturday, June 2, 9	Aqua Trails Kayak Tours
Saturday, June 9	Bird Seed Sale
Friday, June 15	Blessing of the Waters: Harbor Fest
Saturday, June 16	Harbor Fest 2012
Saturday, June 16	Late Bloomers Plant Sale
Saturday, June 16, 23	Aqua Trails Kayak Tours
Saturday & Sunday, June 23-24	Great American Backyard Campout
Saturday, June 30	Aqua Trails Kayak Tours

and lots of fun! We encourage children and parents to explore the natural world together. Adult participation is required. Preregistration is necessary.

Cost all sessions: \$60 members, \$80 nonmembers. (Per class: \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers).

UPCYCLE CRAFT WORKSHOP FOR HOME AND GARDEN Tuesday Evening Series, March 6, 13, 20, and 27

6:30 P.M.

By definition "upcycling" is the process of converting waste materials or useless products into new materials or products of better quality, or a higher environmental value. Join sanctuary director and obsessed re-purposer Gretchen Whitman for this series of crafting workshops where you will take found objects and transform them into top-quality home goods and garden art. The projects list and the needed supplies will be provided at the first workshop. Bring your ideas as well to share with your classmates.

Cost per workshop:

\$15 members, \$20 non-members.

Continued

BIRDSEED SALE DAYS

Maintaining birdfeeders is a great way to benefit our feathered friends during the cold winter months when food is scarce. Don't miss these great opportunities to stock up on birdseed for the winter AND support the Nature Center of Cape May. We order a variety of top-quality birdseed including our own New Jersey Audubon S.A.V.E.™ brand N.J. locally grown black oil sunflower seed, thistle seed, custom blends, suet, and other varieties. Call or stop by NCCM for an order form, and get on our mailing list. Pickup dates:

Saturday, March 10

orders due Saturday, February 25.

Saturday, June 9

orders due Saturday, May 26.

Become a New Jersey Audubon member and enjoy discounts on tours, events, and field trips at all NJ Audubon centers. Members also get a 10% discount at our Nature Stores (greater discount on optics).

FAMILY FUN FOR FIVE DOLLARS

FAMILY HIKE: CAPE MAY NWR TWO MILE BEACH UNIT* **Saturday, March 24**

11:00 A.M.

A-hiking we will go! Join naturalist Kim Hannum as we hike in Cape May National Wildlife Refuge's Two Mile Beach Unit. This 507-acre site is managed to protect one of the last remaining tracts of undeveloped maritime forest and beach in New Jersey. Join us and explore this wonderful dune and beach habitat. The Two Mile Beach Unit is located in Lower Township south of Wildwood Crest. It is accessed off of Ocean Drive by Loran Drive. Please call for directions and to register. Cost: \$5 per person.

FAMILY CAMPFIRE: FULL MOON FIRE* **Friday, April 6**

6:30 P.M.

The full moon is beautiful on Cape May Harbor, and the marsh is full of mystery. In April, the full moon is called the "Pink Moon" as it heralds the appearance of moss pink, or wild ground phlox – one of the first spring flowers. It is also known as the Sprouting Grass Moon, the Egg Moon, and the Fish Moon. Join us for good old-fashioned campfire fun

as we roast marshmallows and listen to the sounds of the night. Cost: \$5 per person.

FAMILY BIKE: CAPE ISLAND TOUR* **Saturday, April 7**

11:00 A.M.

Join naturalist Linda Dill for a leisurely, twelve-mile bike ride around beautiful Cape May. We'll make short stops at several natural habitats along the way to hear about the ecological significance of beautiful Cape Island. Preregistration is required. Bring your bike, helmet, water and sunscreen. Cost: \$5 per person.

FAMILY HIKE: BIRDS, BUGS, AND MORE* **Saturday, May 12**

1:00 P.M.

Join naturalist Kim Hannum at the nature center as we explore our own backyard and identify butterflies, birds, mammals and more. Learn basic identification and natural history information. We'll explore wildlife close to home and find natural wonders in our meadows and gardens. This is a family walk... don't let the kids have all the fun!! Cost: \$5 per person.

SPRING CRAFTS OPEN HOUSE **Tuesday through Thursday** **April 3, 4, and 5**

April 10, 11, and 12

10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., ongoing
Hooray – it's Spring Break! The Nature Center of Cape May is opening its doors to you and your family. Come and explore the classrooms and experience the fantastic views from our observation tower. Our classrooms will be open with arts-and-crafts and games. These self-directed activities are fun for the whole family, and they are free!

SALT MARSH SAFARI: BACKBAY BIRDS AND MORE* **Saturdays, April 7 to May 26**

1:30 P.M.

Welcome aboard the Jersey Cape's premier wildlife tour boat, the 40-foot *Skimmer*, and explore Cape May's beautiful coastal wetlands. Get ready

for close encounters with Ospreys, egrets, gulls, crabs, and other marine life. Fun and educational for the whole family! To preregister, call the Skimmer at 609.884.3100.

*Boat leaves from Dolphin Cove Marina, across from the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge on Ocean Drive by Wildwood Crest. Cost: \$27 adults, \$15 children, ages 2 and under are free.

EARTH DAY AND MARINE DEBRIS CLEANUP **Saturday, April 28**

9:00 A.M. to noon

Learn about wildlife gardening and other basic maintenance chores while you assist nature center staff and volunteers in sprucing up the gardens for spring. We'll plant, mulch, deadhead, weed, and prune throughout the center's grounds and along the harbor. This date coincides

with Clean Ocean Action's annual Beach Sweeps. Join us at the nature center to help clean our ocean and harbor beaches here in Cape May. Our Earth Day Cleanup is a great community service project for your civic organization or scout group. We ask that you bring along your own tools (our supply is limited). Preregistration is not required; however, if you plan to bring a large group, we would appreciate a call ahead of time. Call Gretchen Whitman at 609.898.8848 ext.1. Cost: Free! Refreshments will be offered.

SEASIDE CONNECTIONS EVENING LECTURE SERIES

Tuesdays, May 1 to May 22

6:30 P.M.

Join us for coffee, confections, and seaside connections as we explore local, historical, adventure, and nautical themes. This informative and fun lecture series will be held every Tuesday evening through the month of May! Call the nature center at 609.898.8848 to learn the topic for the week.

Cost: \$5 per person per lecture.

EXPLORE THE SHORE

Saturdays, May 5 to June 9

11:00 A.M.

Discover the secrets of Cape May Harbor as we explore the shore and marsh. Join our naturalists as we hike the beach, pull a seine net (weather permitting), and encounter an incredible diversity of marine life, and learn about the fascinating lives of the animals that inhabit our coastal and wetland habitats. Have an up-close experience with Horseshoe Crabs, sea stars, and other local marine critters in our laboratory and learn why these animals are so important. Walk-ins welcome-no preregistration necessary. Cost: \$10 adults, \$5 children ages 3-12, children under 3 free.

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE PINE BARRENS WITH RICK RADIS **Sunday, May 6**

Meet in Warren Grove at 9:00 A.M.

Trip 1. Visit the pygmy forest of the East Plains for spring wildflowers and botany, fire ecology, herps, nesting birds, a little geology and history, and a lot more.

Cost: \$10 members,

\$15 nonmembers. *Continued*

WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING

Saturday, May 12

The World Series of Birding will be held Saturday, May 12. This event has changed the birding landscape, and raised over \$9 million for bird conservation. Every species found, every dollar raised preserves and

protects critical bird habitat. Last year's event raised almost \$700,000 for the teams' various conservation causes throughout the world. Be sure to make Cape May Harbor one of your stops with your WSB team. Call 609.884.2736 for more information.

AQUA TRAILS

KAYAK NATURE TOURS

Beginning May 26

Saturdays at 11:00 A.M.

Join Aqua Trails Kayak Nature Tours for a two-hour, guided kayak eco-tour through Cape May Harbor and

Continued

WILDLIFE GARDENING PROGRAMS AND NATIVE PLANT SALES

LANDSCAPE DESIGN WORKSHOP (WILDLIFE GARDEN)

Saturday, April 14

10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Join Pat Sutton for this property-owner workshop, which builds on the series of in-depth, content-filled gardening for wildlife workshops that Pat has previously taught. Design a plan for your own property which integrates the key elements of a wildlife garden: food (berry, seed, and nectar-producing native plants, insect-rich sites); water (birdbath, wildlife pond, mister); and cover (shrub islands, evergreens, living fences). Limit: 20. Preregistration is required. Cost (includes handouts): members \$35, nonmembers \$45.

MILKWEED FOR MONARCHS

Saturday, April 21

10:30 A.M. to noon

Northbound Monarchs are due back any day; their survival depends on healthy milkweed stands being available from spring through fall. Join Pat Sutton, coauthor of *How to Spot Butterflies*, for this indoor presentation about the Monarch's fascinating life cycle and journey between Mexico and the U.S. and Canada. Learn how to attract Monarchs and aid their survival as a species by planting a range of milkweed species. Limit: 20 participants. Preregistration is required. Cost (includes handouts and milkweed seeds): members \$15, nonmembers \$20.

HUMMINGBIRDS 101:

All about Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and How to Attract Them

Saturday, April 21

1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

Get ready, get set, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are coming. Where

have they been all winter? In the Neotropics! Why leave a tropical area to return to New Jersey? Will more than one settle into a backyard garden? Where is the nest? What does the female use to build her tiny nest? Do I need to buy bottled nectar for my feeder? Is red dye needed in feeders? Did you know that hummingbirds like spiders (for at least two reasons)? Even if you think you know everything about these winged jewels, expect to be surprised by what you learn during this presentation by Pat Sutton, naturalist and wildlife gardener. Pat will show off an actual hummingbird nest and share essential tips on how to ready your yard so that you can be entertained by a blizzard of hummingbirds for the next five months. Before this program, download, print, and read the NJ Audubon articles by Pat Sutton: *How to Create a Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden* and *Recommended Plantings to Attract Hummingbirds, Butterflies, and Moths*. They are available at: www.njaudubon.org/SectionBackyardHabitat/CreateaGarden.aspx and www.njaudubon.org/SectionBackyardHabitat/RecommendedNectarPlants.aspx Limit: 20 participants; preregistration is required. Cost (includes handouts and Tropical Salvia seeds): members \$15, nonmembers \$20.

BACKYARD HABITAT PLANT SWAP

Saturday, April 28

10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

This year's theme is caterpillar host plants! Now is the perfect time to thin out the perennial garden and share some of your garden success with others. Admission to the swap is one plant and a new or used garden tool.

The new or used garden tool is your "shower gift" to help the nature center stock up on equipment to use in educational gardening programs. For your admission, you will be entitled to take one "swap plant" home with you. Bring additional plants to swap on a 1:1 ratio. Plants may be dropped off on Friday, April 27, and you will be given a credit voucher to use on your return on Saturday. Please check out our website at www.njaudubon.org/nccm for a list of caterpillar host plants. Admission: One plant and one new or used garden tool.

NCCM's ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Order by April 28

for pick up May 12 and 13

Your gardens will be the buzz, tweet, and talk of the neighborhood when you get off to a good start with top-quality plants. We emphasize the use of New Jersey native plants, which benefit wildlife and have a strong ornamental appeal for the backyard landscape. Some non-native (but non-invasive) perennials and annuals, which offer an added boost to butterfly gardens, will also be available. For an order form, call the nature center at 609.898.8848. Order plants during this sale and receive a coupon for 20% off orders of \$40 or more at our new Late Bloomers Plant Sale in June. Pick up will start on Saturday, May 12 and run through May 13 from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. each day.

LATE BLOOMERS PLANT SALE

Saturday June 16

10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

We just had to do it again! Part two of our plant sale will be offered during the Harbor Fest celebration. Late-to-emerge perennials and bloomers like the milkweeds will be available.

surrounding coastal wetlands. Naturalists will point out migratory birds and marine life and explain the local ecology of the region. Tours depart at 11:00 A.M. daily from the nature center. Spaces are limited; reservations are strongly suggested. Cost: single \$40, double \$70.

BIRD SEED SALE

Orders due by May 26 for pickup on Saturday, June 9
Maintaining bird feeders is a great way to benefit our feathered friends all throughout the year. Don't miss this great opportunity to stock up on birdseed AND support the Nature Center of Cape May. We order a variety of top-quality bird seed including our own New Jersey Audubon S.A.V.E.™ brand New Jersey locally grown Black Oil sunflower seed, thistle seed, custom blends, suet, and other varieties. Call or stop by NCCM for an order form, and get on our mailing list.

SISTER CAPE BIKE TOUR

Saturday, June 2
(Rain date Sunday, June 3)
9:00 A.M. to approximately 6:00 P.M.
Meet sanctuary director Gretchen Whitman for a tour of "the other side," our sister cape, Cape Henlopen State Park and the Junction & Breakwater Trail connecting Lewes and Rehoboth Beach. Expect to cover approximately 20 miles throughout the day, but know that frequent stops will occur to explore the natural and cultural gems of the region. We will step back in the rich WWII history of Fort Miles Historic area, climb the old bunker and lookout tower and stop by the Seaside Nature Center and fishing pier. Next a short tour through historic Lewes and marina-side stop for lunch allows a break before we tackle the converted railroad bed trail to Rehoboth. Time permitting we may also take a side trip to the University of Delaware's Hugh R. Sharp Campus in Lewes to check out the wind turbine we can see from our Cape May shoreline. Bring your own bike, or bike rentals can be arranged on the Delaware side. Pack refreshments and lunch, or bring money for our stop at the marina in Lewes. Meet at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal by 8:30 A.M. Preregistration is required. Cost (Includes walk-on ferry pass): \$50 members, \$70 nonmembers.

Nature Center of Cape May

GREAT AMERICAN BACKYARD CAMPOUT

Saturday and Sunday, June 23-24
Join the National Wildlife Federation, NJ Audubon, and outdoor enthusiasts from across the country at the Nature Center of Cape May for the "Great American Backyard Campout!" Program director Sue Slotterback will lead this family celebration of "getting out there" for an overnight campout under the stars. Activities will include a night hike, campfire fun, and a Sunday morning beach cleanup. Arrive at the nature center by 5:00 P.M. Children must be accompanied by an adult camper. Some equipment may be available so call to get more information if interested. Participants must pre-register by June 16 by calling 609.898.8848. Cost: \$5 per person includes s'mores and breakfast.

HARBOR FEST 2012 WEEKEND

Friday, June 15
5:30 P.M.
Blessing of the Waters: Cape May Fisherman's Memorial
Saturday, June 16
10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Street Festival: A Celebration of Seafood and Song
(Rain date: Sunday, June 17)
Join the Nature Center of Cape May and its community partners for the fifth annual Harbor Fest, which will take place along Delaware Avenue, on Cape May Harbor beaches, and at the nature center's environmental education campus. There will be lots of fresh seafood, live music, a blessing of the waters, a kayak and canoe regatta, educational programs, fun children's activities, and arts-and-crafts vendors. For more information, go to www.capemayharborfest.com.

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*** OUTDOOR activities may be canceled for bad weather. Please call 609.898.8848 to confirm.**



HARBOR FEST
A WEEKEND CELEBRATION OF THE SEA
SATURDAY
JUNE 16, 2012
10AM TO 5PM
DELAWARE AVENUE
CAPE MAY, NJ
HARBOR AND STREET FESTIVAL
ARTS AND CRAFTS VENDORS
SCALLOP CHALLENGE
NATURE PROGRAMS
FOOD AND SEAFOOD
KIDS' ACTIVITIES
BEER GARDEN
LIVE MUSIC
KAYAKING
RAIN DATE
SUNDAY, JUNE 17
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF GREATER CAPE MAY
609.884.5508
WWW.CAPEMAYHARBORFEST.COM



BLESSING OF THE Waters CEREMONY
FRIDAY
JUNE 15, 2012
5:30PM TO 6:30PM
AT THE CAPE MAY FISHERMAN'S MEMORIAL
AT THE END OF MISSOURI AVENUE ON CAPE MAY HARBOR
HARBOR FEST
PADDLE FOR A PURPOSE
KAYAK AND CANOE REGATTA ON CAPE MAY HARBOR
SUNDAY, JUNE 17
AT 1:00PM
TO REGISTER CALL
609.898.8848

**B-EARTH-DAY
PARTIES
at the Nature Center of
Cape May**

Looking for something different for an upcoming birthday celebration?

What about a nature theme?

Seashore, birds, reptiles, gardens, and more! Celebrate your child's next birthday party with us.

An outdoor experience (weather permitting) allows for even more hands-on fun!

Each program includes a one-hour nature program with an NJ Audubon naturalist engaging the children with age-appropriate games and activities and one hour of free time and room use for your cake, ice cream, and gift-giving. Call for our detailed brochure or check us out online at www.njaudubon.org.

The fee of \$75 for NJ Audubon members and \$100 for nonmembers covers up to ten children. Additional participants are \$5 per child. Additional time can be added to the two-hour program for \$50 per half-hour. A \$50 nonrefundable deposit is required to hold your date. Parties must be booked two weeks in advance.

**To book a
BIRTHDAY PARTY
call 609.898.8848**

**Check out our Nature Store for
a great selection of birthday
presents and party favors!**

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR TEENS

4-H JUNIOR INTERNSHIPS

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

The Junior Intern Program provides opportunities for junior and high school students to work as assistants during the eight-week Children's Summer Programs held at the nature center. Junior interns receive training, program and teaching materials, as well as guidance from the teacher-naturalists who mentor them. Daily assignments are flexible and activities take place each day between 9:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M. A mandatory training session is held every Friday at 12:30 P.M. The program also includes a community service project. This special project feature of the program provides opportunities for participants to share what they have learned and make a lasting contribution to the Nature Center of Cape May. Interested students should contact Rutgers Cooperative Extension, 4 Moore Road, Cape May Court House, NJ, 08210, phone 609.465.5115, fax 609.465.5953, or e-mail capemay4h@njaes.rutgers.edu for more information and an application. 