



Rancocas Nature Center

794 Rancocas Road, Mount Holly, NJ 08060
Phone: 609.261.2495 / Fax: 609.261.9916

E-mail: rancocas@njaudubon.org / Website: <http://rancocas.njaudubon.org>



HOURS: Tuesday to Saturday, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. / Sunday, noon to 5:00 P.M. / Closed Mondays
The center closes at 4:00 p.m. each day until March 11.

CLOSINGS: The center will be closed on Sunday, April 8, for Easter.

Staff:

Susan Buffalino, Sanctuary Director
Becky Laboy, Teacher-Naturalist
Kerri Sellers, Teacher-Naturalist
Diane Rothschild, Environmental Educator

Associate Naturalists:
John Courtney, Lloyd Shaw,
Sandra Keller, Karl Anderson,
Steve Mattan, Tom Bailey,
and Gary and Margie Lizzi

Spring 2012 Programs

March through May

CHILDREN'S NATURE SERIES

Register in advance for all programs

NATURE TODDLERS

Series 1: **Wednesdays, March 14, 21, 28, and April 4**
Series 2: **Wednesdays, April 18, 25, May 2 and 9**
Series 3: **Wednesdays, May 23 and 30, June 6 and 13**
Morning Session: 10:00 to 11:00 A.M.
Afternoon Session: 1:30 to 2:30 P.M.
Young children are naturally curious about their surroundings. The Nature Toddler series teaches children ages 3 to 5 years about the natural world around them. Through age-appropriate hands-on activities, stories, short hikes, and crafts, children can share educational experiences with their parent/caregiver. Each week offers a different environmental theme that utilizes the Rancocas gardens, trails, and dragonfly pond to reinforce the outdoor experience. Please preregister for the series.

Cost: members, \$25/child for the series; nonmembers, \$38/child for the series.

SATURDAY NATURE EXPLORERS Saturdays,

March 3, April 7, and May 5

1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

The Rancocas Nature Center is an

exciting place to spend a Saturday afternoon. A different environmental topic each week will inspire explorations on the trail. Nurture your child's awareness of the natural world and start them on the path to "growing up green." Children can participate in Nature Explorers on their own, with a friend, or with a parent or other caregiver. It's a great venue for sharing the beauty of the natural world with your children or grandchildren.
Cost: members, \$7/person for each session; nonmembers, \$10/person for each session.

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

Register in advance for all programs

INTERPRETIVE TRAIL HIKE AT RANCOCAS

Sundays,

March 4, April 1, and May 6

1:00 to 2:00 P.M.

On the first Sunday of each month, join an NJ Audubon staff person or an 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 to use as we stop at scenic spots along the way. The easy pace is suitable for all ages; please use a child carrier to

NJ AUDUBON BIRDSEED SALES

Orders due by February 25

Pick up birdseed order on:

Saturday, March 10

9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Orders due by May 26

Pick up birdseed order on:

Saturday, June 9

9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

transport small children.
Cost: members, free; nonmembers, \$4/person and \$10/family.

ADULT PROGRAMS AT RNC

SPEAKING OF NATURE SERIES Thursdays,

March 8, April 12, and May 10

7:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Interested in nature? Looking for a new hobby? The Rancocas Nature Center will be hosting a series of evening presentations that focus on a variety of topics related to the natural world. Watch for details in the weekly e-mail blast, or call the center for information about topics and presenters. Please preregister for this program.

Cost: Free for members; nonmembers, \$5/person suggested donation.

Continued

CONNECT WITH NATURE SERIES

Register in advance for all programs.

SALAMANDER SUNDAY **Sunday, March 25**

1:30 to 3:30 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. Boots are provided or you can bring your own.

Cost: members, \$7/person, \$15/family (limit 5); nonmembers, \$10/person, \$24/family (limit 5).

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY **AT RANCOCAS**

Sunday, April 15

1:30 to 3:30 P.M.

Celebrate the 42nd anniversary of Earth Day. It's a time to thank the earth for its bounty and focus on what we need to do to conserve and protect our important resources. Through interactive activities and games such as "The Incredible Journey" and "Recycling

Relay," children and adults will learn about the environment and how to live a "green" lifestyle. The afternoon will include a tour of Rancocas streams and dragonfly pond, and demonstrations of backyard composting and rain barrels. This program is engaging for all ages.

Cost: members, \$7/person, \$15/family (limit 5); nonmembers, \$10/person, \$24/family (limit 5).

BIRDS, BEES, AND BUTTERFLIES IN YOUR BACKYARD **Sunday, May 20**

1:30 to 3:30 P.M.

Take an afternoon tour of the Rancocas meadows and experience the colors of spring. A variety of flora and fauna can be found in these maintained habitats. With binoculars, field guides, and ID cards, identifying the common species is easy. Participants will also learn tips on creating a wildlife habitat to attract birds, bees, and butterflies to their own backyard. Loaner binoculars will be available.

Cost: members, \$7/person, \$15/family (limit 5); nonmembers, \$10/person, \$24/family (limit 5).

Rancocas Greenway spur that follows the Rancocas Creek.

Cost: \$7 for members,
\$10 for nonmembers.

Cooper River Park, **Camden County** **Sunday, May 27**

Meet at 9:00 A.M.

Cooper River Park encompasses 346 acres of urban preserved land. Its large, open water area is attractive to a variety of wildlife. The morning walk, during this period of spring migration, will follow the shoreline pathways that loop the main area of the park.

Cost: \$7 for members,
\$10 for nonmembers.

29TH ANNUAL **WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING** **Saturday, May 12**

Support New Jersey Audubon and the Rancocas Nature Center on the "Big Day!" Associate naturalist Sandra Keller, Barb Wiley, Rancocas teacher naturalist Becky Laboy, and past Teen Bird Club president Sarah Tanedo will be birding their prime area this year. Your support is needed. Interested in sponsoring a team? Please contact RNC for details.

FIELD TRIPS

All programs require advance registration.

You can register by calling the center or by mailing a check to RNC, 794 Rancocas Road, Mount Holly, NJ 08060. To facilitate sending site directions, please include your e-mail address when you register. Trips take place rain or shine (within reasonable limits). Bring binoculars and/or scopes, lunch (if desired), and dress appropriately for the weather.

EARLY MIGRANTS AT **PEDRICKTOWN** **Saturday, March 17**

Meet at 9:00 A.M.

Join associate naturalist Lloyd Shaw as he "hunts" for ducks and other waterfowl, early shorebirds, and passerines in Salem County. Meet in Pedricktown. The day will include visits to Mannington Marsh and Featherbed Lane. Led by Lloyd Shaw. This is a joint trip with Sandy Hook.

Cost: \$15 for members,
\$20 for nonmembers.

SPRING BIRDING AT FORSYTHE **NWR (BRIGANTINE)** **Saturday, April 7**

Meet at 8:00 A.M.

Spring into the season by spending the day at one of the shore's premiere birding spots. Forsythe is a great location for spotting early spring migrants, raptors, waterfowl, and gulls. This is a joint trip with Sandy Hook. Leader: Lloyd Shaw.

Cost: \$15 for members,
\$20 for nonmembers.

Continued

SHORT WALKS **WITH SANDRA KELLER**

You don't need much time or gas to take advantage of these short walks with associate naturalist Sandra Keller. A quick morning trip to a local hot spot is a great way to start your Sunday. No reservations are needed; the idea is to keep it simple. Only persistent rain cancels a walk. Call the center for directions to the site. Please arrive by 9:00 A.M.

Pennington Park and Rancocas **Greenway, Delanco** **Sunday, April 22**

Meet at 9:00 A.M.

Visit one of the sites highlighted in the *Birding and Wildlife Trails* Burlington map. Pennington Park is accessed from Creek Road and offers trails with overlooks from which to view wildlife in varied habitats. The morning walk will also include the

Rancocas Nature Center Spring 2012 Events at a Glance

Saturday, February 25 Birdseed Orders Due for Pickup March 10
 Saturday, March 3 Saturday Nature Explorers
 Sunday, March 4 Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas
 Thursday, March 8 Speaking of Nature Series
 Saturday, March 10 Birdseed Sale Day
 Wednesday, March 14 Burlington County Natural Science Club
 Wednesday, March 14 Nature Toddlers Series 1 (Morning Session)
 Wednesday, March 14 Nature Toddlers Series 1 (Afternoon Session)
 Saturday, March 17 Early Migrants at Pedricktown
 Wednesday, March 21 Nature Toddlers Series 1 (Morning Session)
 Wednesday, March 21 Nature Toddlers Series 1 (Afternoon Session)
 Sunday, March 25 Salamander Sunday
 Wednesday, March 28 Nature Toddlers Series 1 (Morning Session)
 Wednesday, March 28 Nature Toddlers Series 1 (Afternoon Session)
 Sunday, April 1 Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas
 Wednesday, April 4 Nature Toddlers Series 1 (Morning Session)
 Wednesday, April 4 Nature Toddlers Series 1 (Afternoon Session)
 Saturday, April 7 Spring Birding at Forsythe NWR
 Saturday, April 7 Saturday Nature Explorers
 Wednesday, April 11 Burlington County Natural Science Club
 Thursday, April 12 Speaking of Nature Series
 Sunday, April 15 Celebrate Earth Day at Rancocas
 Wednesdays, April 18 & 25 Nature Toddlers Series 2 (Morning Session)
 Wednesdays, April 18 & 25 Nature Toddlers Series 2 (Afternoon Session)
 Sunday, April 22 Short Walk at Pennington Park
 Saturday, April 28 Atlantic County Park with Lloyd Shaw
 Wednesday, May 2 Nature Toddlers Series 2 (Morning Session)
 Wednesday, May 2 Nature Toddlers Series 2 (Afternoon Session)
 Saturday, May 5 Saturday Nature Explorers
 Sunday, May 6 Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas
 Sunday, May 6 Natural History of the Pine Barrens Trip
 Wednesday, May 9 Nature Toddlers Series 2 (Morning Session)
 Wednesday, May 9 Nature Toddlers Series 2 (Afternoon Session)
 Wednesday, May 9 Burlington County Natural Science Club
 Thursday, May 10 Speaking of Nature Series
 Saturday, May 12 29th Annual World Series of Birding
 Tuesday, May 15 Weekday Birding at Sandy Hook
 Sunday, May 20 Birds, Bees, and Butterflies in Your Backyard
 Wednesdays, May 23 & 30 Nature Toddlers Series 3 (Morning Session)
 Wednesdays, May 23 & 30 Nature Toddlers Series 3 (Afternoon Session)
 Saturday, May 26 Birdseed Orders Due for Pickup June 9
 Sunday, May 27 Short Walk with Sandra Keller at Cooper
 River Park, Camden County
 Saturday, June 9 Birdseed Sale Day

ATLANTIC COUNTY PARK WITH LLOYD SHAW

Saturday, April 28

Meet at 7:30 A.M.

Atlantic County Park has its share of resident and migrant passerines. Lloyd Shaw will lend his expertise, and it is sure to be a productive day for beginners and the experienced birder. Leader: Lloyd Shaw.

Cost: \$15 for members,
\$20 for nonmembers.

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. This is a joint trip with Sandy Hook.

Cost: \$10 members,
\$15 nonmembers.

BURLINGTON COUNTY NATURAL SCIENCE CLUB

NJ Audubon members are invited to the monthly meetings of the Burlington County Natural Science Club. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month, September through May, at 7:00 P.M. For updates on meeting locations and presentation topics, visit the club's website at <http://oldsquaw.tripod.com>.

WEEKDAY BIRDING AT SANDY HOOK

Tuesday, May 15

Meet at 7:00 A.M.

Join birding guru Tom Boyle as he focuses on the arriving warblers and passerines on the tip of New Jersey at Sandy Hook. It's sure to be a great day of birding. Leader: Tom Boyle. This is a joint trip with Sandy Hook.

Cost: \$15 for members,
\$20 for nonmembers.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Rancocas's dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers contribute many hours of their time each season. Center Focus offers a venue to extend our thanks. The nature center would not be the vibrant place it is without their help. Thank you to Joey Baran, Hedy Bauer, John and Marilyn Courtney, Katie Dole, Laura Edwards, Blake Elkins, Bob Hall, Bill Holloway, Jean Jordan, Dave and John Lestino, Bob Lord, Steve Mattan, Mary and Bob Metrione, Ken Mitchell, Candy Myers, Abe Reuther, Diane Rothschild, Arline Spangler, Murray Stern, Laura Tanedo, Louise Tompkins, Mami Umemura, David White, Barbara Wiley, Bill Wiley, Al Wiley, and the Work Group.

With each season of Center Focus, Rancocas highlights the contributions of one of its volunteers. This issue focuses on Bob Lord's very gener-

Continued

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).

ously donation of his time and expertise. Bob has the unique job of connecting with and coordinating the efforts of the Work Group, a local alternative high school. The group volunteers at Rancocas several mornings a month and they tackle assorted projects in the field and at the center. Bob also utilizes his design and construction skills to handle ongoing issues relating to facilities and trails. Thank you, Bob, for your expert help. 