



Weis Ecology Center

150 Snake Den Road, Ringwood, NJ 07456
Phone: 973.835.2160 / Fax: 973.835.8986
E-mail: weis@njudubon.org / Website: <http://weis.njudubon.org>

HOURS: Friday through Sunday, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
CLOSED: Monday through Thursday.

Staff:
Phaedra Demers, Sanctuary Director, Teacher-Naturalist
Mike Gaeckle, Maintenance Supervisor
Environmental Educator - to be announced

Associate Naturalists:
Chuck & Margaret Blewett, Dr. Barbara Brummer,
Deb Davidson, Philip/Flip De Rea, Linda DiDonato,
Rob Fanning, Ray Fowlie, Madonna Hayes, Tom Heerema,
Laura Hoogstrate, David Hulmes, George Petty, Rick Radis,
Wendy Rhoads, Dr. Lance Risley, J.J. Rusher,
Suzanne Serafini, Mary Jo Sichak, Ellie Sroczynski, Eve Tomczak,
Rick Weiman, Don Weise, Bob Weismantel, and Ken Witkowski.

Spring 2012 Programs

March through May

EVERY DAY AT THE WEIS ECOLOGY CENTER
Friday through Sunday
9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Hiking trails: Over 24 miles of trails depart from the Weis Ecology Center's private grounds and explore adjacent Norvin Green State Forest and the surrounding Highlands.

Birdfeeding station: Visit our observation deck to view our feeders, which attract a wide variety of birds including many late-winter residents and spring arrivals.

Exhibits: Stop by our visitor center to see our snakes, turtle, and other seasonal displays.

Program Registration

Unless otherwise noted, *all programs require preregistration and payment in order to reserve your place.* Stop in to register in person, or call 973.835.2160 to register over the phone by credit card. Programs are held rain or shine. Directions (if applicable) will be sent upon registration. Refunds are available only if we cancel the event or another participant can fill the place reserved for you. Weis Ecology Center also reserves the right to limit participation in a program where a participant poses a safety risk to either themselves or other participants.

NJ Audubon Nature Store: Your nearby natural resource for field guides, birdfeeders and accessories, children's gift tiems, regional trail maps, and more.

Weis "Quality Time" Programs for Kids and Families

ALL-NATURAL EGG DYEING Friday, April 6

10:00 A.M. to 11:30-ish
or 11:30-ish to 1:00 P.M.
Instead of buying dye at the store, just open up your cupboards or refrigerator! Learn how to dye your eggs with common household foods and items to make a unique color palette. Join in the fun as we prepare over 350 eggs for the hunt on Saturday. Dyeing materials and "practice" eggs provided – feel free to bring your own hard-boiled eggs to dye and take home!
Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.

CAMOUFLAGED EGG HUNT Saturday, April 7

2:00 P.M. start time
Old traditions – with a different twist! Kids search the fields and forests of Weis for naturally dyed eggs in camouflaged colors: stone gray, grass green, and leaf brown. Every participant gets a small bag of treats, plus there are special prizes

for lucky hunters who find the golden eggs! Preregistration is very important, as supplies are limited. Kids hunt (rain or shine) in groups: ages 3 to 4, 5 to 7, and 8 to 10. BYO basket. Limit: 40 per age group.
Cost: \$5 per hunter.

NATURE DISCOVERY TIME: Hikes for Preschoolers Thursdays, April 19 and May 17 10:00 to 11:00 A.M.

Explore the wild wonders of Weis with associate naturalist Margaret Blewett. These short nature discovery hikes and hands-on activities are perfect for preschoolers ages 3 to 5. Limit: 10.
Cost: \$5 per child, adults are free.

VERNAL POOLS ALIVE! For Families Saturday, April 21 Friday, April 27

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.
Spring holds many surprises for the curious family, and some of the most exciting surprises are right in the vernal pools of our backyards. What is a vernal pool, you ask? Why, it's a

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).

great place to observe various species of frogs and salamanders laying their eggs in the springtime. We'll put on hip-waders and boots to count the various species of amphibians (including egg masses, tadpoles, larvae, and adults) such as Wood Frogs and Spotted Salamanders. This program is meant for adults and children alike who are interested in getting their hands dirty in amphibian biology. Wear clothes to get dirty and rubber boots if you have them. Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.

BIRDING BONANZA

Saturday, May 5

9:00 to 10:30 A.M.

As the weather warms, the birds return to their summer stomping grounds. But where have they been and why are they back? Come learn this and the basic skills needed to help identify wild birds in the field or at your feeders so your family too can find joy in watching birds! Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.

MOTHERS' DAY FAMILY HIKE

(Moms Hike Free!)

Sunday, May 13

11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

A moderately paced, 3-mile loop hike. Take your mom to lunch – at the top of a mountain! Weis associate naturalist Ellie Sroczyński will lead moms and their families up to Wyanokie High Point for a picnic lunch with a 360-degree view of spring's return to Norvin Green State Forest. Pack lunch and water, and wear sturdy shoes. Recommended for families with elementary-aged kids and above. Limit: 20. Cost (moms free with a paid registration): \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers; family (parents and their children): \$15 members, \$24 nonmembers.

BUGGIN' OUT

Sunday, May 20

1:00 to 2:30 P.M.

Much-maligned and misunderstood, insects make up most of the earth's critters. Learn about their adaptations, importance, and go on the hunt for these little creatures. Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.

SCOUT MERIT BADGE SUNDAYS

Taught by a certified merit badge counselor. With a little preparation, we should be able to complete each merit badge in one afternoon. These programs fill quickly! Register early.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

Sunday, April 15

1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

Soil and water are the fundamental elements of the world around us. In this class, we will talk about these elements' importance and the importance of their conservation.

REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN STUDY

Sunday May 6

1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

With the help of our scaly resident critters, we will delve into the slimy, slithery, and often misunderstood world of reptiles and amphibians. (Requirement #8 requires a longer period of time than most preparation for the badges. If it is not completed before the class, we can sign off on everything else, and then on that when it is done.)

GEOLOGY

Sunday, May 27

1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

Study the materials that make up the earth and the processes that change it over time. In this program, scouts will use the surrounding geology to earn their merit badge.

Limit: 15. Preregistration is a must!
Cost: \$12 members,
\$18 nonmembers.

Programs for Adults and Teens Nature Study

SPRING BIRDING AT GARRET MOUNTAIN

Saturday, April 21

Meet at 8:15 A.M.

Associate naturalist, Carole Hughes, will lead our first spring Garret

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

NJ Audubon's Weis Ecology Center offers year-round day and overnight residential learning opportunities to schools, scouts, and other groups. Stop by, visit us online, or call for a brochure.

FEATURED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM for SPRING:

Wildlife Ecology – From insects to mammals, the tracks, signs, and adaptations of local wildlife species will be examined along with the impact of humans on the needs of various wildlife species in New Jersey.

Weis also offers birthday parties, off or on-site live animal programs, and scout badge programs.

Call today for more information and available dates!

Mountain birding adventure for spring migrants. This is a joint trip with Sandy Hook.

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

BASICS OF BIRDING: Bird Walks

Saturday, April 28

Sunday, May 20

8:30 to 10:00 A.M.

Come learn the basic skills needed to help identify wild birds in the field or at your feeders on this naturalist-led walk so you too can find joy in watching birds! Walks will meet at Weis and carpool to local sites. This is a joint trip with Sandy Hook. Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.

EARTH DAY WORK DAY AND GREEN THUMB GARDEN PREP

Sunday, April 22

10:00 A.M. to noonish (or later)
The projects we tackle today depend on you! Once we know how many fine folks are coming out to help, we will plan tasks appropriate to their skills and interests. Past projects have included painting, trail maintenance, weeding, and planting in our butterfly garden, light carpentry, and litter patrols. Please let us know if you'll be

Continued

It's never too soon to start thinking about the summer...

NATURE DAY CAMPS

Our day camps give children entering kindergarten through eighth grade opportunities to discover and explore the wonders of the natural world through fun, hands-on activities and adventures. Space is limited. Register early.

JUNIOR NATURALISTS

Three days of fun and learning for children ENTERING Kindergarten.

**Wednesday to Friday,
July 11 to 13**

10:00 A.M. to noon

Cost: \$50 members,
\$65 nonmembers.

WONDERERS

Five days of fun and learning for children ENTERING grades 1 and 2.

Monday to Friday, July 16 to 20

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

Cost: \$130 members,
\$175* nonmembers.

ADVENTURERS

Five days of fun and learning for children ENTERING grades 3 and 4.

Monday to Friday, July 23 to 27

Monday Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Friday: 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Thursday: 4:00 to 9:00 P.M. for an
evening campfire program.

Cost: \$130 members,
\$175* nonmembers.

EXPLORERS

Five days of fun and learning for children ENTERING grades 5 and 6.

**Monday to Friday,
July 30 to August 3**

Monday, Tuesday, and Friday:

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

Wednesday: 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
for a trip to Sandy Hook,

Thursday: 4:00 to 9:00 P.M. for an

evening campfire program.

Cost (includes field trip):

\$155 members, \$200* nonmembers.

TRAIL BLAZERS

Five days of adventure learning for youths ENTERING grades 7 and 8.

**Tuesday to Saturday,
June 26 to 30**

Tuesdays and Wednesdays:

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

Thursday: 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. for a
field trip,

Friday from 3:00 P.M. to Saturday

10:00 A.M. for an overnight camp-out.

Cost (includes field trip):

\$220 members, \$265* nonmembers.

*...Busy the week of camp? ...Can't get
enough of Weis Nature Day Camp?
Returning by popular demand are our
multi-age camps:*

SOAKED AND SLIMY SUPER-

HERO WEEK – *Back by popular
demand!* Open to youths ENTERING
grades 1-6.

**Monday to Friday,
August 6 to 10**

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

Is your child a Mad Scientists or a
Superhero (or both!)? After creating
our own super-hero (or super-villain)
personas, we'll participate in slimy
hands-IN activities and learn about
nature's superheroes.

Cost: \$150 members,
\$195* nonmembers.

Where am I?!

WEIS WILDERNESS SURVIVAL CAMP

Open to youths ENTERING
grades 1-6

**Monday to Friday,
August 13 to 17**

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

Survivorman eat your heart out!

This week, campers will learn skills
to survive in the wild woods
around Weis. Shelters, fires, signals,
water – we'll do it all...except eat
grubs.

Cost: \$130 members,
\$175* nonmembers.

CAPTAIN PLANET'S ENERGY EXTRAVAGANZA

**Monday to Friday,
August 20 to 24**

Earth, Wind, Water, Fire (...and
Heart?! These powerful forces run
the world! Learn how they can
benefit (and harm) the plants and
animals around us, as well as how
we can harness their energy for our
use.

Cost: \$130 members,
\$175* nonmembers.

**Nonmember rates include an
NJ Audubon Family Membership;
successive children attend at the
member rate.*

*******Early Bird Rate – Register by April 15, 2012 to receive a 15% discount*******

celebrating the Earth with us on this
day – Thanks! This is a great day for
scouts looking to do a service project
of some sort.

ALLENDALE CELERY FARM

Sunday, May 6

Meet at 8:15 A.M.

Join Rob Fanning at the Allendale
Celery Farm for some early spring
arrivals and surprises. This is a joint
trip with Sandy Hook.

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

GEOLOGY JAUNT

Saturday, May 12

1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

If you ever tried to dig a hole in this
area, one thing becomes blatantly
clear – we have a lot of rocks. But

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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).

what kind are they and how did they
get here? For one reason or another,
a lot of people are intimidated by
learning about the geology around
us, but during this hike you will
discover that geology ROCKS! Join a
Weis naturalist for this non-intimidat-
ing hike.

Cost: FREE for members,
\$8 nonmembers.

Continued

Weis Ecology Center Spring 2012 Events at a Glance

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Saturday, March 17 | Women's Hike |
| Friday, April 6 | All-Natural Egg Dyeing |
| Saturday, April 7 | Camouflage Egg Hunt |
| Sunday, April 8 | Closed for Easter |
| Saturday, April 14 | Women's Hike |
| Sunday, April 15 | Soil and Water Merit Badge |
| Sunday, April 15 | Almost New England WWW Walk |
| Thursday, April 19 | Nature Discovery Time |
| Saturday, April 21 | Garret Mountain Birding |
| Saturday, April 21 | Vernal Pools for Families |
| Sunday, April 22 | Earth Day, Work Day |
| Friday, April 27 | Vernal Pools for Families |
| Saturday, April 28 | Basics of Birding: Bird Walk |
| Saturday, May 5 | Birding Bonanza |
| Sunday, May 6 | Allendale Celery Farm Birding |
| Sunday, May 6 | Reptile and Amphibian Merit Badge |
| Sunday, May 6 | Jenny Jump Trails WWW Walk |
| Saturday, May 12 | Geology Jaunt |
| Sunday, May 13 | Mother's Day Hike |
| Thursday, May 17 | Nature Discovery Time |
| Saturday, May 19 | Women's Hike |
| Sunday, May 20 | Basic of Birding: Bird Walk |
| Sunday, May 20 | Pingyp Mountain WWW Walk |
| Sunday, May 20 | Buggin' Out |
| Sunday, May 27 | Geology Merit Badge |

Weis Wyanokie Wanderers (WWW) Club Hikes*

Strenuous Hikes Led by Don Weise.

The terrain is steep and the pace is fast. Good cardiovascular fitness is required. Participants must wear appropriate hiking footwear, dress in layers appropriate for weather conditions, and bring lunch and plenty of fluids. Limit 25.

Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.*

ALMOST NEW ENGLAND

Sunday, April 15 9:30 a.m.

Discover the Westchester Wilderness trails and Zofnass Family Preserve, two seldom-visited gems known for their beautiful setting, crags, outcrops, wetlands, and wide diversity of flora and fauna. Meets off-site. Moderately strenuous, 8 miles.

JENNY JUMP TRAILS

Sunday, May 6 9:00 a.m.

Check out the new trails network, featuring pastoral farm scenes and ridge-top views of the Delaware Water Gap. Meets off-site. Moderately strenuous, 9 miles.

PINGYP MOUNTAIN

Sunday, May 20 9:00 a.m.

Harriman's steepest climb rewards you with incredible views and adventure. Meets off-site. Strenuous, 9-10 miles.

*You do NOT need to be a member of the WWW to attend these hikes, but card-carrying WWW Hiking Club members get guaranteed admittance to the 12 monthly WWW hikes and 2 annual Challenge Hikes at a flat annual rate of \$69. New WWW members are welcomed with a pack patch and a Weis Trail Map T-shirt.

Nature Adventure

WEIS WOMEN'S HIKES

Saturdays,

March 17, April 14, and May 19

8:00 to 10:00 A.M.

Moderately paced, 2- to 3-mile hikes. Join the ladies of Weis for these early morning hikes to some of our favorite scenic spots! A great way to enjoy some time outdoors, get some exercise, and get home early enough to spend the rest of the day with family and friends! Hikes meet at Weis (may carpool to the trailhead if needed). Wear appropriate hiking footwear, dress in layers appropriate for weather, and bring plenty of water. Hazardous driving conditions will cancel.

Cost: \$5.

WEEKDAY and WEEKEND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Your Time is Valuable to Us!

✓ **Program Support:** programs that need hands-on volunteers before, during and (for a short while) after each event; All-Natural Egg Dyeing (4/6), and Camouflage Egg Hunt* (4/7).

✓ **Earth Work Day*:** Celebrate Earth Day and help Weis to look beautiful! (4/22).

✓ **Nature Day Camp*:** Our Nature Day Camps use teen counselors to work with the educators and children. There is an application process. (July/August).

✓ **Reception:** Friendly folks to meet and greet center visitors, answer the phone and/or process Nature Store sales.

✓ **Gardening:** Help keep our facility inviting for visitors and our Native Plant and Wildlife Garden free of invasive species. At your convenience, but please call ahead.

✓ **Public Programs:** Weis welcomes skilled amateur (or professional) naturalists and outdoorsy folks to propose classes, walks and workshops they might like to lead.

* Programs appropriate for teen/Service Learning volunteers

Continued

CRITTER-CARE SPONSORSHIPS

Weis Ecology Center has a small menagerie of critters that visit schools, scout groups, and libraries throughout the year (our Environmental Edu-critters). You can help us defer the expenses of their upkeep (care, feeding, checkups, etc.) by becoming a Critter-Care Sponsor!

Each sponsorship packet includes:

- ✓ A certificate of appreciation
- ✓ A photograph portrait of your sponsored animal
- ✓ Natural history information sheet on your sponsored species
- ✓ A Peterson's *First Guide* for either birds or reptiles.

Sponsored Animals:

- Red, the Corn Snake \$25
- Eclipse, the Black Rat Snake \$25
- Tina, the Box Turtle \$20
- Classroom Special \$180 (includes a classroom visit by *at least one of the animals*)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DAY PHONE: _____

EVENING PHONE: _____

This is a gift from: _____

Mail with payment to:
Weis Ecology Center
150 Snake Den Road,
Ringwood, NJ 07456

SANCTUARY NOTES

Weis's Visitor Center will be closed Easter Sunday, April 8.

Weis Ecology Center gratefully acknowledges the following people for their help and support:

Fall/Winter Program and Field Trip Leaders:

Jill Bennetta, Margaret Blewett, Deb Davidson, Phaedra Demers, Philip De Rea, Jennifer Dowd, Ray Fowlie, Don Weise.

Program Support Staff:

Chuck and Margaret Blewett, Deb Davidson, Philip De Rea, Ray Fowlie, Vikki Cheryl, and Mark Gomes, Adam Grennbaum, Joe and Madonna Hayes, Tom and Dave Heerema, Teri Rocco, Paul Saunders, Sue Sparks.

Business Supporters:

Mike's Feed Farm, Chuck Blewett/Pfizer; Tom Heerema/Verizon Volunteer Incentive Program; Sal DiCarlo/Verizon Matching Incentive Program; Bob and Chris Kenyon and Triangle Trophy; Mark Roberts/Roberts Mechanical; Rick Weiman/Waldwick Plastics; Prime 15 Steakhouse.

Technical Support:

Bill Boesenberg (www.snakes-and-scales.com), Joe Hayes, Mike Lynchski/The Harrier Group, Len Soucy/The Raptor Trust, and Joe Troy/Green Mountain Tree Experts.

Resource and Display Donations:

Norman Schantz/William Paterson University, Suzanne Serafini, Isobel Wayrick.

Gardening and Invasive Plant Management:

Rich and Linda Greendyk, NY/NJ Trail Conference Invasives Strike Force. 