



# Weis Ecology Center

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

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

**Staff:**  
Phaedra Demers, Seasonal Sanctuary Director  
Mike Gaeckle, Maintenance

*Associate Naturalists:*  
Chuck and Margaret Blewett, Dr. Barbara Brummer, Deb Davidson, Philip De Rea, Linda DiDonato, Ray Fowlie, Madonna Hayes, Tom Heerema, Laura Hoogstrate, David Hulmes, Jerry and Sue Kerns, Gina McLaughlin, Penny Nichols Galvany, 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.

## Summer 2011 Programs June through August

### EVERY DAY AT THE WEIS ECOLOGY CENTER

**Friday to Sunday**  
9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

- **NJ Audubon Nature Store:** Your nearby natural resource for field guides, bird feeders and accessories, kid stuff, regional trail maps, and more. Come see what's new!
- **Hiking Trails:** Over 24 miles of trails depart from Weis's private grounds and explore adjacent Norvin Green State Forest and the surrounding Highlands.
- **Exhibits:** Visit our main building to see our snakes, turtle, and other seasonal displays.
- **Butterfly Garden/Model Backyard Habitat:** Stop by to watch the butterflies, hunt for caterpillars in our garden, or pick up ideas to improve your own yard.
- **Bird-feeding station:** Visit our observation deck to view our feeders, which attract a wide variety of birds.

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).

#### Program Registration

Unless otherwise noted, *all programs require preregistration and payment in order to reserve your place.* Call 973.835.2160 to register with a 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 "Quality Time" Programs for Kids and Families

#### FATHER'S DAY HIKE (Dad hikes FREE!) Sunday, June 19

11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.  
Leave the housework and home repairs behind today! Dads and their families can spend quality time together during this special outing. Led by a Weis naturalist, this moderately paced, 2- to 3-mile hike in Norvin Green State Forest is recommended for families with elementary-age kids and above. Appropriate footwear is required; bring a lunch and plenty of fluids. Limit: 25. Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.

### AMAZINGLY AWESOME FAMILY FUN DAYS

Back by popular demand – these short programs/adventures are designed for families looking to beat the heat and the summertime blues with something to do outdoors together. Limit: 25.  
Cost (per program): \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers; family (parents and their children), maximum \$15 members, \$24 nonmembers.

#### 1 – HABITAT HUNT: A Day in the Life of a Forest Saturday, July 9

10:00 to 11:00 A.M.  
Explore the Weis woodland habitat with one of our naturalists to find out what animals live there, what they "do," and why they're important – from the tiniest insect to the biggest bear. This morning is full of nature activities and games sure to please! This program is best suited for elementary-age children – younger siblings are welcome.

#### 2 – FOSSIL FANDANGO Saturday, July 16

10:00 to 11:30 A.M.  
Learn how fossils are formed and how the earth's fossil record helps us to understand our past and present. Join  
*continued*

us for fun-filled activities for studying the earth and the life forms of the past. Create your very own fossil to take home.

### **3 – SOAKED AND SLIMY AQUATIC ADVENTURE**

**Saturday, August 6, and Sunday, August 7**

10:00 to 11:30 A.M.

Everything needs water to live – some more than others! Armed with dip-nets and plastic buckets, we'll be exploring the Blue Mine Brook to look at different organisms' aquatic adaptations. This program is best suited for elementary-age children – younger siblings are welcome.

### **4 – SURVIVAL SHELTERS**

**Saturday, August 13**

10:00 to 11:30 A.M.

Would you know what to do if you were caught in a survival situation? Learn how to build a simple survival shelter, and have a lot of fun, too! Led by a Weis naturalist, this program is best suited for older elementary-age children and pre-teens.

## **Programs for Adults and Teens** Nature Study

### **WILDFLOWERS OF PYRAMID MOUNTAIN**

**Saturday, June 4**

Meet at 9:30 A.M.

Meet at Weis and carpool to the trailhead. Join associate naturalist George Petty for an easy-to-moderate hike on the remains of the Morgan Farm and up Pyramid Mountain to find the early summer wildflowers. In addition, the hike will pass two notable glacial erratics, Bear Rock and Tripod Rock, and two long viewpoints. Distance is 2.8 miles; approximately 3.5 hours of hiking (not including driving time). Heavy soaking rain postpones to next day. Limit: 12.

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

### **HIKING 101**

**Saturday, June 11**

10:00 A.M. to noon

Have you been thinking about getting into hiking, or are you already a hiker and you want to know just a little bit more? Whether

## **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, July 6, to Friday, July 8**

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, July 11, to Friday, July 15**

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, July 18, to Friday, July 22**

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

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, July 25, to Friday, July 29**

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, June 28, to Saturday, July 2**

Tuesday and Wednesday: 10:00

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

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

you're venturing into the woods for fitness, enjoyment, or just to get away from it all, this class is designed to teach you the basics you should be

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

Friday: 3:00 P.M. to 10:00 A.M. on Saturday for an overnight campout.

Cost (includes field trip):

\$220 members,

\$265\* nonmembers.

### **Busy the week of camp?**

Can't get enough of Weis's Nature Day Camp? Come to two bonus camps, **new this year!**

### **SOAKED AND SLIMY SUPERHERO WEEK**

For youths ENTERING grades 1-6

**Monday, August 1, to Friday August 5**

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

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

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

### **RADICAL ROCK STARS WEEK!**

For youths ENTERING grades 1-6.

**Monday, August 8, to Friday, August 12**

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

This week is going to ROCK! We'll study the earth and the forces that have changed it over time (possibly while playing the air guitar). Don't be alarmed by spontaneous volcanic eruptions, fossil excavations, and/or dance parties.

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

Can't make it to Weis by 3:00 P.M.? For an additional charge of \$25 per day, your child can stay with us between 3:00 and 5:00 P.M. to continue their fun and learning. (\$5 per day discount for the whole week.)

aware of before you leave home. We'll be covering local trail information, equipment you should have, *continued*

and even how to use a compass!  
Dress appropriately for the weather.  
Limit: 20.  
Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.

### **TURNING BAT HABITS INTO GOOD**

**Friday, July 22**

7:30 to 9:00 P.M.

Maligned and misunderstood for years, the humble bat is, in truth, a fascinating and beneficial member of the environment. This program, presented by researcher Dr. Lance Risley of William Paterson University, begins indoors with a PowerPoint slideshow on bats, their adaptations, and their many good habits. Then we'll venture outdoors to look for and, with the aid of an electronic bat detector, listen to our neighborhood bats. Interested youth are welcome.  
Limit: 25.

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

### **Birds of New Jersey:**

#### **RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD**

**Sunday, July 10**

**Saturday, July 30**

**Sunday, August 14**

9:00 to 10:30 A.M.

Emeralds and rubies are never more precious than when they combine to form these elegant garden jewels. Join a staff naturalist for a PowerPoint presentation to learn all about the Ruby-throated Hummingbird's amazing adaptations, perilous life, and how to attract these chattering dynamos to your backyard and keep them coming back. Then go out to our outdoor observation deck to view these magnificent birds.

Cost (includes handouts):

\$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.

### **THE WONDERFUL WEIS WHALE WATCH!**

**Saturday, August 20**

7:30 A.M. to midnight

All the whales in half the time...of making a weekend trip on your own! Relax during the coach bus ride to and from Plymouth, Massachusetts, where an 80-foot, double-decked boat awaits to take us on a 4½-hour round trip to Stellwagen Bank, the National Underwater Preserve, for whale-, dolphin-, and bird-watching. Past sightings have included many humpback whales (including moth-

ers with calves), Minke and Finback Whales, Northern Gannet, Wilson's Storm Petrel, Basking Shark, and sea turtles.

Cost: \$85 members,

\$100 nonmembers.

## **WEEKDAY and WEEKEND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Your Time is Valuable to Us!**

✓ **Gardening:** Help keep our facility inviting for visitors and our Native Plant and Wildlife Garden free of invasive species (at your convenience – please call ahead).

✓ **Invasive Plant Removal\*:** Help keep our sanctuary free of invasive species (can be scheduled at your convenience, but please call ahead).

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

✓ **Public display updating and beautification\*:** Update and/or beautify our upcoming events kiosk, bulletin board, and animal informational displays.

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

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

\* Programs appropriate for teen/Service Learning volunteers

## **SANCTUARY NOTES**

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

**Summer program and field trip leaders:** Chuck and Margaret Blewett, Kasey Currier, Phaedra Demers, Rob Fanning, David Hulmes,

*continued*

## **Weis Wyanokie Wanderers (WWW) Club Hikes\* Strenuous Hikes Led by Don Weise.**

The terrain is steep and the pace is fast – good cardiovascular fitness required. Participants must wear appropriate hiking footwear. Dress appropriately for the conditions and bring lunch and plenty of fluids.  
Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers\*.

### **MIGHTY DUNDERBERG, BALD, AND TIMP Sunday, June 12**

9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Three of the finest views in all of Harriman/Bear Mountain can be found on this hike ("on" means off-trail). Explore the historic 1890s spiral railway, two tunnels, Hudson River overlooks, and truly spectacular scenery outlined in Don Weise's upcoming book, "Circuit Hikes in Harriman." Bring a camera if you can. Nine miles.

### **COPPER MINES, CORES, AND SUNFISH POND Sunday, July 10**

9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Bring a swimsuit. We will hike the Kittatinny Ridge and see evidence of the Tocks Island Dam as well as an old mine. Eat lunch and cool off at a beautiful mountaintop lake. About eight miles.

### **STORM KING TOP TO BOTTOM Sunday, August 28**

9:00 A.M. meeting time

Towering high above the Hudson, Storm King is an impressive landmark waiting to be explored. Excellent views of the river, Breakneck Ridge, and Black Rock State Forest. A challenging hike with fairly steep climbs. Don't miss this one and bring a camera. Nine 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 two 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.

## Weis Ecology Center Summer 2011 Events at a Glance

Saturday, June 4 .....	Wildflower Walk
Saturday, June 11 .....	Hiking 101
Sunday, June 12 .....	Mighty Dunderberg, Bald, and Timp
Sunday, June 19 .....	Father's Day Hike
Tues thru Sat, June 28 - July 2 .....	Trailblazers Day Camp
Wednesday thru Friday, July 6-8 .....	Junior Naturalists Day Camp
Saturday, July 9 .....	Habitat Hunt
Sunday, July 10 .....	Hummingbirds
Sunday, July 10 .....	Copper Mines, Cores, and Sunfish Pond Hike
Monday thru Friday, July 11-15 .....	Wonderers Day Camp
Saturday, July 16 .....	Fossil Fandango
Monday thru Friday, July 18-22 .....	Adventurers Day Camp
Friday, July 22 .....	Bat Habits Program
Monday thru Friday, July 25-29 .....	Explorers Day Camp
Saturday, July 30 .....	Hummingbirds
Monday thru Friday, August 1-5 .....	Soaked and Slimy Aquatic Adventu- res Day Camp
Saturday, August 6 .....	Aquatic Adventure
Sunday, August 7 .....	Aquatic Adventure
Monday thru Friday, August 8-12 .....	Rock Star Day Camp
Saturday, August 13 .....	Survival Shelters
Sunday, August 14 .....	Ruby-throated Hummingbirds
Saturday, August 20 .....	Weis Whale Watch
Sunday, August 28 .....	Storm King Top to Bottom Hike

George Petty, J.J. Rusher, Suzanne Serafini, Ellie Sroczyński, Don Weise, and Ken Witkowski.


**Program Support Staff:** Chuck, Margaret, Adam and Corenna Blewett, Tony Cacciapuoti, Gloria Deane, Flip DeRea, Ray Fowlie, Adam Greenbaum, Vikki, Cheryl, and Mark Gomes, Madonna Hayes, Dave, Nancy, Steven, and Tom Heerema, Cliff and Jean Huntington, Lakeland

High School LEAP students, Penny Nichols and family, Ramapo College Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, Wendy Rhoads, Mark Roberts, Teri Rocco, J.J. Rusher, Paul Saunders, Suzanne Serafini, Lauren Sidow, Holly Vandyk, Bob Weismantel, Don Weise, and Bob Weismantel.

**Critter Care sponsors:** Timothy Canali, Laurence Go, Alice Michel, Gabrielle Montegari, Sue Prince,

Chris Schimel, Claire and R. Allen Simpson, Marguerite and Gary VanWowk, Christine Yap

**Technical support:** Bill Boesenberg/Snakes and Scales ([www.snakes-and-scales.com](http://www.snakes-and-scales.com)), Joe Hayes, Alan Ligertwood, Mike Lynchski/The Harrier Group, Len Soucy/The Raptor Trust, and Joe Troy/Green Mountain Tree Experts. Resource and Display Donations: Suzanne Serafini, Norman Schantz/William Paterson University, Isobel Wayrick.

**Business Supporters:** Chuck Blewett/Pfizer; Tom Heerema/Verizon Volunteer Incentive Program; Sal DiCarlo/Verizon Matching Incentive Program; Bob and Chris Kenyon & Triangle Trophy; Mark Roberts/Roberts Mechanical; Rick Weiman/Waldwick Plastics; Prime 15 Steakhouse. 

### THE WONDERFUL WEIS WHALE WATCH!

Saturday, August 20

7:30 A.M. Saturday  
to 12:00 A.M. Midnight Sunday

All the whales in half the time...of making a weekend trip on your own! Relax during the coach bus ride to and from Plymouth, Massachusetts, where an 80-foot, double-decked boat awaits to take us on a 4½-hour round trip to Stellwagen Bank, the National Underwater Preserve, for whale-, dolphin-, and bird-watching. Past sightings have included many humpback whales (including mothers with calves), Minke and Finback Whales, Northern Gannet, Wilson's Storm Petrel, Basking Shark, and sea turtles. Cost: \$85 members, \$100 nonmembers.