

Duke Farms

A New Jersey Audubon Partner Site

80 Route 206 South, Hillsborough, NJ 08844 (enter via Dukes Parkway East)
Phone: 908.722.3700 Website: www.dukefarms.org

HOURS: Those wishing to attend a program at Duke Farms must register in advance with Duke Farms.

A 1.25-mile self-guided nature trail located on the property is free and open to the public Friday through Sunday, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., with no advance registration required.



Michael Pollock, Teacher-Naturalist

Winter 2011-12 Programs

December through February

NOTE: REGISTRATION THROUGH DUKE FARMS ONLY

Located on 2,740 acres in Hillsborough, Somerset County, Duke Farms is one of the largest privately owned parcels of undeveloped land in the state and one of the first sites designated by New Jersey Audubon as an Important Bird Area. NJ Audubon has been working with Duke Farms to conduct natural history programming on the property. These programs require preregistration, which **MUST** be done through the reservation system at Duke Farms. **You can find more information and register online by visiting www.dukefarms.org or by calling 908.722.3700 between 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.**

NOTE: Changes are coming soon at Duke Farms. We will make every effort to make registrants aware of these changes, but you should check the website or call Duke Farms for updates on program times and meeting locations just before your program.

All programs are held rain or shine unless stated otherwise. It is always a good idea to check the weather before you come to make sure that you are appropriately dressed. You will be contacted in the event that a program is cancelled, and will be provided with rescheduling information or the option of receiving a refund.

WINTER WATERFOWL AND BIRDS OF PREY

Saturday, December 10

9:00 A.M. to noon

The lakes, fields, and forests of Duke Farms attract a host of ducks, geese, and hawks. Our nesting Bald Eagles have usually returned by December and we may catch a glimpse of them during the morning. This birding experience is designed for beginning and intermediate birders. No bird-watching experience is necessary. Led by New Jersey Audubon naturalists, this tour of Duke Farms will focus on the ways to identify these seasonal visitors to central New Jersey. For novice and intermediate birders. Limit: 15.

Cost: \$10 NJ Audubon member, \$15 nonmember.

BACKYARD HABITAT DESIGN WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 10

1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

There is no better time than winter to sit back and look at ways to improve your property to enhance the lives of New Jersey's wildlife. In this workshop, we will look at the essential features of wildlife habitat, including the importance of using native plants in the landscape. We will then examine each of our own yards for ways that habitat can be improved. Bring copies of a scale drawing of your yard on which you can draw (a copy of the property survey works

best). Limit: 15.

Cost: \$10 NJ Audubon member, \$15 nonmember.

ANIMAL TRACKING – THE BASICS

Saturday, January 14

9:00 A.M. to noon

Come and learn about the art and science of animal tracking. In this class we will introduce a variety of tracking skills, including clear print classification, trailing, animal locomotion, and reading animal signs. Plainsboro Preserve director Sean Grace has utilized tracking as a means for studying coyotes, elk, and moose, and has trained a corps of bobcat volunteers for the State of New Jersey. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring a notebook. Program will run rain, snow, or shine. Limit 15. Cost: \$10 NJ Audubon member, \$15 nonmember.

WONDER WALK FOR FAMILIES: THE MAGIC OF WINTER

Saturday, January 14

1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

Every day outdoors brings a new experience. Walk with us through a section of the woods at Duke Farms, *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).

Duke Farms Winter 2011-12 Events at a Glance

Saturday, December 10	Winter Waterfowl and Birds of Prey
Saturday, December 10	Backyard Habitat Design Workshop
Saturday, January 14	Animal Tracking – The Basics
Saturday, January 14	Wonder Walk for Families: The Magic of Winter
Saturday, January 28	Winter Sparrows and More
Saturday, February 4	Animal Tracking – The Basics
Saturday, February 18	Winter Birds and Birdfeeding
Monday, February 20	Presidents' Day Family Program – Mammals of Duke Farms

touch the tree bark, check for animal tracks in the snow or mud, and listen for the sounds of birds in the trees. Whatever we find we will explore. This program is designed for families with children ages 5 and above. Dress for the weather, including appropriate footwear. (*Note: This program will be rescheduled in the event of inclement weather.*) Limit: 8 families or approximately 16 people. Cost: \$5 NJ Audubon member; \$8 nonmember; maximum of \$20 per family.

WINTER SPARROWS AND MORE Saturday, January 28

9:00 A.M. to noon
Winter weather brings a host of birds into central New Jersey, including some that are small and difficult to locate. Join NJ Audubon naturalists on a search for the less-common winter visitors to this area. Possibilities include wintering Savannah and White-crowned Sparrows, Horned Larks, and perhaps winter finches such as siskins or crossbills. This tour through a variety of habitats of Duke Farms is designed for those with birding experience and should provide a great way to kick off your year list. For intermediate and advanced birders. Limit: 20. Cost: \$10 NJ Audubon member, \$15 nonmember.

ANIMAL TRACKING – THE BASICS

Saturday, February 4

9:00 A.M. to noon
(NOTE: See program description on January 14).

WINTER BIRDS AND BIRDFEEDING

Saturday, February 18

10:00 A.M. to noon
This is the weekend of the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), an annual, national, citizen-science event sponsored by Cornell University and the National Audubon Society. Join a New Jersey Audubon naturalist at Duke Farms for a one-hour indoor program on the identification and feeding of the common birds found in the backyards of central New Jersey. Following the indoor program, we will venture out to feeders and nearby trees and hedgerows on the property to learn some of the secrets to successfully seeing birds and some identification tips. You will still have time to participate in the GBBC after the program is over! This program is intended for beginning birders of all ages. Binoculars will be provided for those who need to borrow a pair, and suggestions on types to purchase will be available. Limit 20. Cost: Free but preregistration is required.

PRESIDENTS' DAY FAMILY PROGRAM – MAMMALS OF DUKE FARMS

Monday, February 20

9:30 to 11:30 A.M.
Kids, you're off from school today, so why not spend it outdoors. Bring your parents to Duke Farms for a nature experience like no other. Groundhog Day has passed and maybe the groundhog saw his shadow (or maybe he didn't). In either case, groundhogs, foxes, squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, otters, and many other mammals find habitat to their liking at Duke Farms. Join a naturalist from New Jersey Audubon on this day of exploration. This program is designed for families with children 5 and older. Dress for the weather, including appropriate footwear for snow and/or mud and plan to have fun! Limit: 8 families or approximately 16 people. Cost: \$5 NJ Audubon member, \$8 nonmember; maximum of \$20 per family. 