

Plainsboro Preserve



Location: Plainsboro, NJ 08536
Mailing Address: 80 Scotts Corner Road, Cranbury, NJ 08512
Phone: 609.897.9400 / Fax: 609.897.0287
E-mail: plainsboro@njudubon.org / Website: <http://plainsboro.njudubon.org>

HOURS: Through November 15: Tuesday to Saturday, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. / Sunday, noon to 5:00 P.M.
November 16 through March 15: Tuesday to Saturday, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. / Sunday, noon to 4:00 P.M.
Christmas Eve: 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
TRAILS: Open dawn to dusk daily.
CLOSINGS: Closed Mondays and December 25, 26, and January 1

Staff:
Sean Grace, Sanctuary Director
Melissa Craddock, Teacher-Naturalist
Corey Sperling, Teacher-Naturalist
Reeni Samuel, Nature Store Manager

Associate Naturalists:
Greg Hartman, Valerie Lysenko,
Chris Magarelli, Heidi Mass, Monica McCracken,
Shari-Beth Nadell, Arlene Oley, Henry Schaefer,
and Vicki Schwartz

Winter 2011-12 Programs December through February

EVERY DAY AT THE PRESERVE

(Tuesday through Sunday)

The Plainsboro Preserve is a collaboration with the Township of Plainsboro, the County of Middlesex, and New Jersey Audubon. The preserve is a 1,000-acre natural area that supports a diversity of habitats, and wildlife, with one of the largest lakes in the area. In addition, you will find a nature center with nature exhibits, a reference library, a Nature Store, and several miles of trails. Stop by today and put a little nature in your life.

Nature Store: We have the best selection of field guides, binoculars, birdfeeders, and birdseed in the area. Our expert staff can answer your questions and offer advice.

Hiking trails: Open daily, dawn to dusk. Times are posted by the township rangers. Over 5 miles of trails traverse an interesting variety of habitats.

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).

WINTER CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 3

Stop by and join us at our winter celebration on December 3. There will be hot drinks and activities for the whole family. Pick up a holiday gift for your favorite naturalist. Cost per program: \$3 members, \$5 nonmembers.

LIVE ANIMAL SHOW

Noon to 1:00 P.M.

Meet some of the live animals from our nature center and learn some interesting facts about reptiles and amphibians.

BIRDFEEDING 101

1:30 to 2:30 P.M.

Feeding birds is a great way to connect with nature. Come and earn what kinds of seed attract which birds and what you can do to improve your winter feeding

station. Then we'll get outside and see how many different kinds of birds we can find around the center.

TRACKING HIKE

3:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Join us on a hike exploring and looking for tracks and signs of animals along the trails at the Plainsboro Preserve. We will discuss how our wildlife friends spend the winter season.

FAMILY NATURE PROGRAMS

Saturdays from 2:30-4:00 P.M.

Welcome to Plainsboro Preserve's Family Nature Programs. Each program is designed to explore nature through a theme. A portion of each program may be spent outdoors building a deeper connection to the natural world through fun and informative activities. We

provide a highly trained environmental educator for each of our programs. Join us and create memories that will last a lifetime. Educational and fun, these Family Nature Programs are perfect for beginning naturalists and families ages 6 to adult. Preregistration is encouraged by calling 609.897.9400.

Cost: members, \$3 per person; nonmembers, \$5 per person (unless otherwise noted). *Continued*

WINTER CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 3

Noon to 4:00 P.M.

See highlight box for full details.

FULL MOON HIKE

Saturday, December 10

*****SPECIAL TIME*****

5:00 to 6:30 P.M.

Join us at the nature center and learn about the fascinating rhythm of the moon cycle. Our ancestors followed the heavens carefully, and we will discuss some of these traditions before we go for a hike and hopefully see the moon rise. This program is perfect for the whole family.

THE WONDERS OF WINTER BIRDING

Saturday, December 17

2:30 to 4:00 P.M.

Winter presents a variety of identification challenges for the birder. Many of the birds we see have recently arrived and are here only during the winter months. Join associate naturalist Vicki Schwartz for a fun afternoon in the field identifying some usual and not so usual suspects.

SURVIVAL SERIES: Part 1

Saturday, January 7

2:30 to 4:00 P.M.

Have you ever wanted to learn some skills that will help to keep you alive in a survival situation? This is your chance. This three-part series will expose participants to practical knowledge about shelter, making fire, procuring water, and other survival skills. During our first class we will live through a mock survival situation and put together a survival kit.

ANIMAL TRACKING

SERIES: Part 1

Saturday, January 14

2:30 to 4:00 P.M.

Learn about the art and science of animal tracking in this two part series. In this first class, we will introduce a variety of tracking skills, including clear print classification, trailing, animal locomotion, and reading signs. This class will offer helpful tips for tracking during an outside field session. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring a notebook.

NEW JERSEY OWL PROWL

Saturday, January 21

*****SPECIAL TIME*****

6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Looking and listening for owls is fun, and this is a favorite program with our members. Which owls live here year round and who-oo migrates to New Jersey? Which owl has been known to snack on fish and earth-worms? Join us for a presentation learning some cool owl facts followed by a hike looking for these creatures of the night at the preserve. Join our naturalist as we try to call in some of New Jersey's nocturnal hunters.

SURVIVAL SERIES: Part 2

Saturday, January 28

2:30 to 4:00 P.M.

If you have ever wanted to learn skills that will help to keep you alive in a survival situation, then this is your chance. This three-part series will expose participants to practical knowledge about shelter, making fire, procuring water, and other survival skills. In our second class we will learn how to safely make fire and some of the benefits that a fire can provide.

ANIMAL TRACKING

SERIES: Part 2

Saturday, February 4

2:30 to 4:00 P.M.

Learn about the art and science of animal tracking. In our second class, we will focus on trailing animals, and how animals move. If we have snow, we'll spend our program outside trailing animals on an adventure. Dress appropriately for the weather, and bring a notebook.

SURVIVAL SERIES: Part 3

Saturday, February 11

2:30 to 4:00 P.M.

Have you ever wanted to learn skills that will help to keep you alive in a survival situation? This is your chance. This three-part series will expose participants to practical knowledge about shelter, making fire, procuring water, and other survival skills. In our last class, we will try our hand at making a snow cave (weather permitting), or other forms of shelter.

WINTER WONDERLAND HIKE

Saturday, February 18

2:30 to 4:00 P.M.

The Plainsboro Preserve is a great place to go for a winter wonderland exploration. Associate naturalist Shari-Beth Nadell will be leading us on a hike to seek out signs of winter animal activity, and will be sharing a variety of information on New Jersey's natural history. Bring your hiking shoes, dress in layers, and come prepared for a moderate hike to some of the lesser explored areas on the preserve. Expect to cover a couple of miles at a moderate pace.

ANIMAL DETECTIVES

Saturday, February 25

2:30 to 4:00 P.M.

Animals have a variety of adaptations that allow them to survive in the wild. We will study animal mounts, furs, and live animals before we head outside and look for signs of animals in winter. We will discuss some of the adaptations that allow animals to survive during the winter months.

BIRDSEED SALE DAYS

Saturday, December 10

9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Orders due by Saturday, Nov. 26.

Saturday, March 10, 2012

9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Orders due by Saturday, February 25

NJ Audubon offers birdseed sale days several times a year. Support NJ Audubon's Plainsboro Preserve by purchasing our high-quality, locally grown birdseed, mixes, and suet. Select birdfeeders will be on sale the day of the pickup at the preserve. Our expertly trained staff can help you make your selections to help encourage your favorite local birds to visit your feeders. Birdseed order form: <http://www.njaudubon.org/Calendar/BirdSeed.html>.

FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS AND TEENS

Please preregister ten days in advance with a payment of \$10 for NJ Audubon members or \$15 for nonmembers. Checks must be made

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out to "NJ Audubon." Send payment to Plainsboro Preserve, 80 Scotts Corner Road, Cranbury, NJ 08512, or pay with a credit card over the phone. For more information please call 609.897.9400 or e-mail:

plainsboro@njudubon.org. No refunds are made unless we cancel the trip. Field trips meet at or near the trip locations; instructions are conveniently available online. Group size is limited and a minimum number of participants are necessary. Visit us online at <http://njudubon.org/Centers/Plainsboro>

WINTER TRACKING SERIES AT DUKE FARMS

Saturdays, January 14 and February 4

9:00 A.M. to noon

Come and learn about the art and science of animal tracking. In these classes we will introduce a variety of tracking skills including clear print classification, trailing, animal locomotion, and reading signs. This class will offer helpful tips for tracking during an outside field session. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring a notebook. 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.

NEW JERSEY OWL PROWL

Friday, January 27

6:00 to 8:30 P.M.

Looking and listening for owls is fun, and this is a favorite program with our members. Which owls live here year round and who-oo migrates to New Jersey? Who has been known to snack on fish and earthworms? Join us for a presentation, learning some cool owl facts followed by a hike looking for these creatures of the night at the preserve. Join our naturalist to learn about New Jersey's nocturnal hunters.

RESERVOIR ROMP

Saturday, February 25

8:30 to 11:30 A.M.

Ages 9 to adult

During late winter we get a variety of waterfowl species in central New Jersey. We will visit Round Valley Reservoir to look for roosting and feeding waterfowl. Depending on our luck we may continue along to

Plainsboro Preserve

Plainsboro Preserve Winter 2011-12 Events at a Glance

Thurs and Fri, Nov 10 and 11 ...	Fall Explorers Camp
Thurs, Fri, Mon, and Tues, Nov 17, 18, 21, and 22	All About Animals Half Day Camp
Saturday, November 26	Winter Birdseed Orders Due
Saturday, December 3	Winter Celebration: Animal Show, Birdfeeding, Tracking
Saturday, December 10	Winter Birdseed Sale Day Pickup
Saturday, December 10	Full Moon Hike Family Nature Program
Saturday, December 17	Wonders of Winter Birding Family Nature Program
Saturday, January 7	Survival Series Part 1 Family Nature Program
Saturday, January 7	Summer Camp Open House
Saturday, January 14	Animal Tracking Series Part 1 Family Nature Program
Saturday, January 14	Winter Tracking Series at Duke Farms – Adult Field Trip
Tuesday, January 16	Winter Survival Camp
Saturday, January 21	New Jersey Owl Prowl Family Nature Program
Friday, January 27	New Jersey Owl Prowl Adult Field Trip
Saturday, January 28	Survival Series Part 2 Family Nature Program
Saturday, February 4	Animal Tracking Series Part 2 Family Nature Program
Saturday, February 4	Winter Tracking Series at Duke Farms – Adult Field Trip
Saturday, February 11	Survival Series Part 3 Family Nature Program
Saturday, March 10	Birdseed Sale Day Pickup
Saturday, February 18	Winter Wonderland Hike Family Nature Program
Saturday, February 25	Animal Detectives Family Nature Program
Saturday, February 25	Reservoir Romp Adult Field Trip
Saturday, February 25	Spring Birdseed Orders Due
Saturday, March 10	Spring Birdseed Sale Day
Mon thru Fri, April 9 to 13	Spring into Spring Break Camp

Spruce Run Reservoir to see what other winter waterfowl we can turn up. Join Vicki Schwartz for a fun and informative day in the field.

School Vacation Camps at NJ Audubon's Plainsboro Preserve Grades 1 to 6

Welcome to Plainsboro Preserve's "School Vacation" Camps. Our camps are designed to give the students an exciting outdoor alternative for their school breaks. A portion of each program will be spent outdoors building a deeper connection to the natural world through fun and informative activities. We provide a highly trained environmental educator for

each of our programs. Join us and create memories that will last a lifetime. Each camp runs from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. daily and students can choose to come for just one day or join us for an entire session. Preregistration is mandatory. Cost: \$60 full day, \$30 half day.

FALL EXPLORERS Thursday and Friday, November 10-11

(NJEA Teacher's Convention)
9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Fall is a great time of the year to explore and hike on the preserve. Wildlife is still active and the cooler temperatures are ideal for being outside. Learn to track animals, identify wildlife, and connect with nature.

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**ALL ABOUT ANIMALS
HALF-DAY CAMP
Thursday, Friday, Monday,
and Tuesday,
November 17, 18, 21, and 22**

1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Campers will learn about reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals during this half-day camp experience. We will meet and learn to feed and care for some of the live animals in our nature center and then explore the fall forests and fields of the nature preserve. Come dressed to spend time outside!

**WINTER SURVIVAL
Monday, January 16**

(Martin Luther King Day)

9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Winter is a wonderful time of year if you know a few techniques to cope with the cold and snow. Depending on the weather, we may try our hand at building a traditional snow shelter or warm ourselves up over a hand-made campfire. Join us for a day of practicing survival techniques as we embrace the winter weather!

**SUMMER CAMP
OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday, January 7, 2012

10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Come in and meet the staff during our summer camp open house. We will be available to answer questions and will have sample camp schedules. There will be a special one day price promotion so be sure to come in and visit us!

SPRING INTO SPRING BREAK

**Monday through Friday,
April 9 through 13**

9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Join us for a wonderful week of camp gearing up for spring while participating in some of our time-tested favorite activities. We will explore ecosystems, learn how to care for wildlife, play games, track animals, discover the tools of the naturalist, and make a camp fire, all while making some new friends!

SANCTUARY NOTES

The staff at the Plainsboro Preserve would like to thank all the volunteers for their continuous dedication and support throughout the past season.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:
CALL 609.897.9400**

- ✓ **Winter Celebration Weekend** (December 3): Programs need hands-on volunteers before, during, and after each event.
- ✓ **Reception:** Friendly folks to meet and greet center visitors, answer the phones, and help in the Nature Store.
- ✓ **Naturalist:** Share your passion for nature with others. 