

Essex County Environmental Center

A New Jersey Audubon Partner Site

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Building hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. / Saturday, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. / Closed Sundays
Trails: Open dawn to dusk seven days a week.
CLOSINGS: Good Friday, April 2; Memorial Day, Monday, May 3.

Staff: Kelly Wenzel, Environmental Educator

Associate Naturalist: Dave Hall

Spring 2010 Programs

March through May

FAMILY PROGRAMS AT THE ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Programs are designed for children in kindergarten to 5th grade. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Please call 973.226.6082 or e-mail: kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register.

MAPLE SUGARING FUN Saturday, March 13

10:30 A.M. to noon.
Our walk today will find us searching for sugar maple trees. We will "tap" a maple tree, collect some sap, and make some maple syrup. We'll return to the center for hot chocolate and sugar snacks.
Cost: \$5 for NJ Audubon members, \$7 for nonmembers.

EARTH DAY 2010 Saturday, April 17

11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Come out and celebrate nature on this nationally recognized day dedicated to our very own planet, EARTH! Activities include a live honeybee demonstration, nature walks, a composting demonstration, canoeing, kayaking, container

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).

gardening, fishing, music, and more. Don't miss the green vendors' tent and information tables of local environmental groups, outdoor enthusiasts, and other earth-minded organizations working in our bioregion. Snacks and refreshments are included.
Cost: free all day and open to the public.

MIGRATION MAYHEM Saturday, May 8

10:30 A.M. to noon
May is the peak of spring migration for hundreds of bird species. Take a walk through the woods to discover who has returned and have "An Eventful Journey" to learn how hard the trip can be.
Cost: \$5 for NJ Audubon members, \$7 for nonmembers.

NEW! WONDER WALKS

By popular demand, we are now offering "Wonder Walks" for children ages 18 months to 5 years and their caregivers. Children should either be walking or in a carrier. Strollers are not recommended. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Please call 973.226.6082 or e-mail kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION Tuesday, March 9

10:00 to 11:15 A.M.
Bundle up and explore the forest to find early signs of spring! Discover

how trees wake up, look for animal homes, and listen for early spring birds. Meet at the park's Tulip Springs parking area.
Cost (per child): \$5 for NJ Audubon members, \$7 for nonmembers.

BRANCH BROOK PARK Tuesday, April 13

10:00 to 11:15 A.M.
Enjoy the gem of the Essex County park system with your child(ren). Explore hidden habitats and walk among the beautiful cherry blossoms to find wildlife waking up after its winter slumber. Meet at the Cherry Blossom Visitor's Center.
Cost (per child): \$5 for NJ Audubon members, \$7 for nonmembers.

VERONA PARK Tuesday, May 11

10:00 to 11:15 A.M.
Instead of playing on the swings and equipment, give nature's playground a try! Explore the natural areas of Verona Park to look for wildflowers, birds, and even aquatic critters! Meet at the sundial in the Garden of Eden Children's Garden.
Cost (per child): \$5 for NJ Audubon members, \$7 for nonmembers.

BIRD-WATCHING FIELD TRIPS

IN ESSEX COUNTY
Led by Dave Hall

Spring field trips offer the opportunity to see species of birds that are

Continued

passing through New Jersey on their way to breeding territories farther north and migrants that are returning to the state to nest. The trips also offer a chance to learn the territorial songs and behavior of birds that are residents all year long. This is a wonderful time of year to visit the Essex County parks. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Please call 973.226.6082 or e-mail kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

Thursday, March 11
8:30 to 11:30 A.M.

We will hike several trails in search of winter birds and early signs of spring. Target species include Black Vulture, Pileated Woodpecker, and many forest birds. Meet at the parking lot of the Turtleback Zoo in West Orange.

Cost: \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

EVENING WOODCOCK WALK

Thursday, March 18
7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

We will take a short hike at a nearby county park to look for these secretive spring migrants and their strange mating flights. Dress warmly, wear sturdy shoes as we may encounter wet conditions, and bring a flashlight. Meet at the Essex County Environmental Center.

Cost: Free.

CANOE BROOK RESERVOIR

Saturday, March 20
8:00 to 11:00 A.M.

This is a special trip only available twice a year. The Canoe Brook Reservoir is a wonderful staging area for ducks and geese on their way north. It's also an excellent place for raptors. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Cost: \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

VERONA PARK

Thursday, April 8
8:30 to 10:30 A.M.

Take an easy walk around the pond looking for signs of early spring migrants. Meet at the south side of the visitor's center.

Cost: Free.

HATFIELD SWAMP

Thursday, April 22
8:30 to 11 A.M.

Early spring migrants may include both passerines and raptors. If conditions are right, we may also

**Essex County Environmental Center
Spring 2010 Events at a Glance**

Tuesday, March 9	South Mountain Wonder Walk
Thursday, March 11	South Mountain Reservation
Saturday, March 13	Maple Sugaring Fun
Thursday, March 18	Evening Woodcock Walk
Saturday, March 20	Canoe Brook Reservoir
Thursday, April 8	Verona Park
Tuesday, April 13	Branch Brook Park Wonder Walk
Saturday, April 17	Earth Day 2010
Thursday, April 22	Hatfield Swamp
Saturday, April 24	South Mountain Reservation
Thursday, May 6	Great Piece Meadows
Saturday, May 8	Migration Mayhem
Tuesday, May 11	Verona Park Wonder Walk
Thursday, May 20	Becker Farm and Dinosaur Park
Saturday, May 29	Hatfield Swamp

encounter hundreds of waterfowl. Footing may be wet. Meet at the King's supermarket parking lot in West Caldwell.

Cost: Free.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

Saturday, April 24
8:30 A.M. to noon.

We will hike several trails in search of early signs of spring. Target species include early spring migrants and the last of the winter sparrows. Meet at the parking lot of the Turtleback Zoo in West Orange.

Cost: \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

GREAT PIECE MEADOWS

Thursday, May 6
8:00 to 11:00 A.M.

There will be many chances to encounter meadowland birds in spring including herons, sandpipers, swallows, sparrows, and much more. Footing may be wet. Meet at the parking lot of Charlie Brown's Restaurant in Fairfield (337 Fairfield Road, near Route 46).

Cost: \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

BECKER FARM AND DINOSAUR PARK

Thursday, May 20
8:00 to 11:00 A.M.

Enjoy beautiful vistas of the Passaic River Valley at the right time to discover spring migrants in all their glory, including warblers in full song. Meet at the Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland.

Cost: \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

HATFIELD SWAMP

Saturday, May 29
8:00 to 11:00 A.M.

Late spring migrants may include both passerines and raptors, including warblers in full song. Footing may be wet. Meet at the King's supermarket parking lot in West Caldwell.

Cost: \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

