



# Rancocas Nature Center

794 Rancocas Road, Mount Holly, NJ 08060  
Phone: 609.261.2495 / Fax: 609.261.9916  
E-mail: rancocas@njudubon.org / Web site: <http://rancocas.njudubon.org>



HOURS: Tuesday to Saturday, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. / Sunday, noon to 5:00 P.M. / Closed Mondays  
CLOSINGS: Sunday, July 4 for Independence Day

Staff:  
Susan Buffalino, Sanctuary Director  
Teacher-Naturalist to be announced

Associate Naturalists:  
Karl Anderson, Tom Bailey,  
John Courtney, Sandra Keller, Frank Lenik,  
Gary and Margie Lizzi, and Lloyd Shaw.

## Summer 2010 Programs

### June through August

#### **NATIONAL TRAILS DAY Saturday, June 5**

Celebrate the day by exploring the Rancocas Nature Center trails. Our yellow-, blue-, red-, and orange-blazed trails wind through woods, meadows, and wetlands. Bring binoculars, cameras, and sketch pads to view and record the abundant flora and fauna found here. Stop by the visitors center for a colorful, interpretive trail map. Cost: Free.

#### **SUMMER NATURE DAY CAMP**

What would summertime be without outdoor fun? At the New Jersey Audubon Rancocas Nature Center there is always something new to discover on the trails. This year's summer season features seven weeks of nature camp. Reserve a space for your child and guarantee that they have an exciting summer exploring New Jersey wildlife in Rancocas's meadows, forests, and streams.

All New Jersey Audubon Summer Nature Camps are staffed by experienced environmental educators. Each week's program is a mix of age-appropriate educational and fun activities, including outdoor discovery hikes. Class size is limited, so sign up today!

NJ Audubon Camp Sessions for children entering grades 1-2 and 3-5:

**Monday through Friday,**  
Session 1: **June 28 to July 2**  
Session 2: **July 5 to July 9**  
Session 3: **July 12 to July 16**  
Session 4: **July 19 to July 23**  
Session 5: **July 26 to July 30**  
Session 6: **August 2 to August 6**  
Session 7: **August 9 to August 13**  
Audubon Junior Naturalists Camp for Grades 6-8 (One Session Only):

**Monday through Friday,  
July 26 to July 30**

**Nature Explorers:**  
Full Day 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. –  
Cost: \$220.

Morning only 9:00 A.M. to noon –  
Cost: \$130.

**Rancocas Rangers:**  
Full-Day 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. –  
Cost: \$220.

Morning only 9:00 A.M. to noon –  
Cost: \$130.

**Audubon Junior Naturalists:**  
Full Day 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. –  
Cost: \$235.00

**Please note:** All campers must be New Jersey Audubon members. NJ Audubon Family Membership is \$35/year for new memberships and \$45/year for renewals.

Registration forms are available online: <http://rancocas.njudubon.org> at the center: 794 Rancocas Road, Mt Holly, NJ, or by calling: 609.261.2495 to request a mailed form.

#### **NATURE EXPLORERS**

For children entering grades 1 and 2.  
Full Day – 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.\*  
Morning only – 9:00 A.M. to noon  
\*Full day campers must bring their lunch.

#### **Critters & Creatures**

**Session 1: June 28 to July 2**  
Campers will have fun while discovering the creatures both great and small that inhabit the diverse habitats of the preserve.

#### **Who's Who on the Trails**

**Session 2: July 5 to 9**  
Who do we hear? What signs do we see? What evidence can we find to prove that Rancocas is home to a variety of wildlife. Campers will have a chance to explore the nature center trails and beyond for plants, animals, and fungi.

#### **Reptiles and Amphibians**

**Session 3: July 12 to 16**  
Rancocas is home to 13 species of reptiles and amphibians. Cold-blooded creatures use special strategies to survive in New Jersey. Campers will explore their special habitats and learn about their adaptations.

#### **Earth, Wind, and Water – The Forces of Nature**

**Session 4: July 19 to 23**  
Digging in the dirt, moving with the wind, and splashing in the water, campers will discover how the forces

*Continued*

of nature – and man – impact our environment.

**Holy Habitat, Batman!**  
**Session 5: July 26 to July 30**

Explore some of the superheroes of our center's habitats. Campers will learn about the special "powers" of local wildlife and discover who might be the villains.

**Spiders, Insects, and Worms, Oh My!**

**Session 6: August 2 to 6**

It's always exciting to explore the fascinating world of invertebrates. Campers will visit forests, meadows, and streams to discover where these animals live and interact.

**Windows on the World**  
**Session 7: August 9 to 13**

Rancocas is a great place to view the natural world. Whether we're on the inside looking out or on the outside looking in, it's always fun to explore. Campers will learn to use binoculars, magnifying glasses, and other optics to discover things small or far away.

**RANCOCAS RANGERS**

*For children entering grades 3 to 5.*

Full Day – 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.\*

Morning only – 9:00 a.m. to noon

\*Full day campers must bring their lunch.

**Adventures with Animals**

**Session 1: June 28 to July 2**

Rancocas is home to a surprising diversity of wild animals and an assortment of residents, too. Campers will learn about the animal groups commonly seen or we find signs of, and they will take part in the care and feeding of the animals at the center.

**Habitat Detectives**

**Session 2: July 5 to 9**

The signs of Rancocas's wild animals are all around us. Sometimes we discover their hiding places, but mostly they are an elusive group. Campers will learn skills that help them hunt for clues.

**Scales and Tails**

**Session 3: July 12 to 16**

The fascinating group of animals with scaly skin and tails is an important part of the Rancocas food chain. Campers will discover the best spots in the preserve where reptiles and amphibians nest, hunt, and hide.

**Eco-Explorations**

**Session 4: July 19 to 23**

Eco is short for ecology, the study of organisms and the environment.

Campers will explore the Rancocas center grounds and look for animal and plant interactions and the way things work in the natural world.

**Heroes and Villains**

**Session 5: July 26 to 30**

What makes a hero so special and a villain so vile? Sometimes it's not so easy to tell the difference. Campers will learn about the balance in nature and how all living creatures have a purpose and are part of the whole.

**Invertebrate Investigations**

**Session 6: August 2 to 6**

Not everyone needs a backbone to be strong and survive. Campers will become familiar with the large group of invertebrate animals and how they are an important and beautiful part of forests, meadows, and streams.

**Micro and Macro Mayhem**

**Session 7: August 9 to 13**

Tiny and big, close up and far away – there are things we want to investigate all around us. Campers will learn to use binoculars, loupes, microscopes, and cameras to explore and record what they want to see.

**AUDUBON JUNIOR NATURALISTS CAMP**

*For children entering grades 6 thru 8.*

**Monday, July 26**

**to Friday, July 30**

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

Campers must bring their lunch. This program is geared toward young teens with a strong interest in nature and the outdoors. Campers will explore Rancocas's habitats with a NJ Audubon naturalist and earn a Junior Naturalist Certificate by completing hands-on activities. Campers must bring their lunch. Activities Include: New Jersey Wildlife, Stream Study, Topography,

*Continued*

**Rancocas Nature Center  
Summer 2010 Events at a Glance**

- Thurs thru Sun, June 3 to 6... Gear Into Summer Sale at the Nature Store
- Friday, June 4 ..... Morning Bird Walk at Rancocas
- Saturday, June 5 ..... National Trails Day
- Sunday, June 6 ..... Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas
- Saturday, June 12 ..... Birding and Botany in the Pinelands
- Sunday, June 13 ..... Double Trouble State Park
- Saturday, June 19 ..... Glassboro Woods, Gloucester County
- Sunday, June 20 ..... Father's Day Frog Fest
- Sunday, June 27 ..... Turkey Swamp Park, Freehold
- Mon thru Fri, June 28-July 2 . Summer Nature Day Camp–Session 1
- Friday, July 2 ..... Morning Bird Walk at Rancocas
- Mon thru Fri, July 5-9 ..... Summer Nature Day Camp–Session 2
- Mon thru Fri, July 12-16 ..... Summer Nature Day Camp–Session 3
- Mon thru Fri, July 19-23 ..... Summer Nature Day Camp–Session 4
- Tuesday, July 20 ..... New Jersey Ferns (first in a 3-part series)
- Saturday, July 24 ..... New Jersey Ferns (second in a 3-part series)
- Sunday, July 25 ..... New Jersey Ferns (third in a 3-part series)
- Mon thru Fri, July 26-30 ..... Summer Nature Day Camp–Session 5
- Mon thru Fri, July 26-30 ..... Audubon Junior Naturalists Camp
- Sunday, August 1 ..... Interpretive Trail Hike at Rancocas
- Mon thru Fri, August 2-6 ..... Summer Nature Day Camp–Session 6
- Friday, August 6 ..... Morning Bird Walk at Rancocas
- Sunday, August 8 ..... Butterflies and Birds, Garden and Meadow Walk
- Sunday, August 8 ..... Forsythe (Brigantine) NWR
- Mon thru Fri, August 9-13 .... Summer Nature Day Camp–Session 7
- Sunday, August 22 ..... Birding Sandy Hook
- Saturday, August 28 ..... Exploring Edwin B. Forsythe NWR
- Sunday, August 29 ..... Finding Fungi at Rancocas

Maps and Orienteering, Survival Strategies and Shelter Building, and Naturalist Detective Skills.

## PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

Register in advance for all programs.

### INTERPRETIVE TRAIL HIKE AT RANCOCAS

**Sundays, June 6, and August 1**  
1:00 to 2:00 P.M.

On the first Sunday of each month, join a NJ Audubon staff person or an associate naturalist for an interpretive hike through our varied habitats. It's a great way to become familiar with our well-maintained trails. Bring a camera and binoculars; we'll stop at various scenic spots along the way. The easy pace is suitable for all ages; please use a child carrier to transport small children.

Cost: Free to NJ Audubon members; nonmembers, \$4 per person, \$10 per family.

### FATHER'S DAY FROG FEST Sunday, June 20

1:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Celebrate Father's Day by joining the excitement at Rancocas. With the wet winter of 2010, we expect the amphibian population to do well this year. The afternoon will include a frog exhibit, frog-related activities; and a hike to various locations along our trails that offer the best possibilities of spotting these vocal creatures that camouflage so well in the wild.

Cost: \$7 per person and \$15 per family for members; \$10 per person and \$21 per family for nonmembers.

### BUTTERFLIES AND BIRDS, GARDEN AND MEADOW WALK Sunday, August 8

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

Associate naturalist Sandra Keller will share her I.D. pointers during this close-up look at butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. The field trip begins in and around the nature center's gardens and meadow, and then moves on to other local open space sites. We will also learn about backyard techniques that ensure healthy habitat for butterflies and birds. Bring binoculars and cameras (don't forget about the annual RNC

Photo Exhibit in the fall).

Cost: \$7 per person and \$15 per family for members, \$10 per person and \$21 per family for nonmembers.

### FINDING FUNGI AT RANCOCAS Sunday, August 29

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

Join the New Jersey Mycological Association (NJMA) on a walk to discover the kinds of fungi found at Rancocas in August. Bracket fungi, typical mushrooms, jellies, cups and corals are some of the many groups to be seen. The morning walk runs from 10:00 A.M. till noon. After the walk, collected specimens are identified and you will have a chance to view the variety of species. Bring a bag lunch if you like. Limit: 12 participants. NJMA Leader: Patrick Bernardo

Cost: NJ Audubon members, \$7 per person, \$15 per family; nonmembers, \$10 per person, \$21 per family.

## PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Register in advance for all programs.

### MORNING BIRD WALKS AT RANCOCAS

**Fridays,  
June 4, July 2, and August 6**  
8:00 A.M.

Join an RNC associate naturalist for a "first-Friday-of-the-month" bird walk; migrants and resident species can be found at our center. Sightings are added to the RNC bird list. Meet at the picnic tables by the parking lot. Walks begin promptly at 8 A.M.

Cost: free to members, \$5 for nonmembers.

### NEW JERSEY FERNS Tuesday, July 20

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

An evening class at the center.

### Saturday, July 24

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

Pine Barrens field trip.

### Sunday, July 25

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

Bull's Island and Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve field trip. Learning to identify New Jersey ferns can be an easy task when guided through the process by former Rancocas sanctuary director Karl Anderson. The three-day course will

include an evening session at the nature center plus two field trips. Topics to be covered, with images and specimens, will include fern taxonomy, the fern life cycle, gross structure, and "what to look for" when identifying a fern. During the field trips we should see over 30 fern species, or more than half of the species native to New Jersey. Participants will be encouraged to bring in specimens of native ferns for identification. Instructor: Karl Anderson, co-author of *Plant Communities of New Jersey* (Rutgers University Press). Cost for the series: members, \$40; nonmembers, \$60.

## FIELD TRIPS

Register in advance for all programs. Please call to preregister for all field trips by calling 609.261.2495. You can also register by mailing a check to Rancocas Nature Center, 794 Rancocas Road, Mount Holly, NJ 08060. To facilitate sending site directions, please include your e-mail address when you register or request directions be mailed. Trips take place rain or shine (within reasonable limits). Group size is limited and a minimum number of participants is necessary. Bring binoculars and/or scopes, lunch (if desired), and dress appropriately for the weather.

### BIRDING AND BOTANY IN THE PINELANDS

**Saturday, June 12**

Meet at 8:30 A.M.

Associate naturalist John Courtney will share his expertise and enthusiasm about the flora and fauna found in the unique habitats of the Pinelands. This trip will be sure to uncover unusual species. This is a joint trip with Audubon Wildlife Society.

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

### DOUBLE TROUBLE STATE PARK Sunday, June 13

Meet at 7:30 A.M.

Join Tom Boyle as he explores Double Trouble State Park in Ocean County for nesting species and other surprises. A preserved historic village associated with early industries adds interest to this site. This is a joint trip

*Continued*

with Sandy Hook Bird Observatory.  
Cost: NJ Audubon members \$15,  
nonmembers \$20.

**GLASSBORO WOODS,  
GLOUCESTER COUNTY  
Saturday, June 19**

Meet at 7:30 A.M.

Explore Glassboro Woods with Lloyd Shaw and look for local nesters, including both Kentucky and Prothonotary Warblers.

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

**TURKEY SWAMP PARK,  
FREEHOLD**

**Sunday, June 27**

Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Andrew Spears, of Monmouth County Parks, will hike Turkey Swamp Park in Freehold searching for local nesters and other surprises. This is a joint trip with SHBO.

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

**FORSYTHE (BRIGANTINE) NWR  
Sunday, August 8**

Meet at 8:00 A.M.

Join associate naturalists Tom Boyle and Mike Britt for an adventure at Forsythe (Brigantine) NWR, searching for shorebirds and other possibilities. The timing should be right for viewing an excellent diversity of species. This is a joint trip with Sandy Hook Bird Observatory.

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

**BIRDING SANDY HOOK  
Sunday, August 22**

Meet at 8:15 A.M.

Try a day of birding at Sandy Hook with Carole Hughes, looking for early passerine migrants, shorebirds, and terns. This is a joint trip with Sandy Hook Bird Observatory.

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

**EXPLORING  
EDWIN B. FORSYTHE NWR  
Saturday, August 28**

Meet at 8:45 A.M.

When the beaches start to quiet down, migration starts to heat up. Join associate naturalists Rob Fanning and Lloyd Shaw for a day of birding at Forsythe (Brigantine) NWR. Visit

this reliable site at the peak of shorebird diversity. Godwits, Buff-breasted and Baird's Sandpipers are possibilities. This is a joint trip with Sandy Hook Bird Observatory.

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

**THANKS  
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Rancocas's dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers contribute many hours of their time each season. Center Focus offers a venue to extend our thanks. The nature center would not be the vibrant place it is without their help. Thank you to Hedy Bauer, Bob Birdsall, John and Marilyn Courtney, Katie Dole, Laura Edwards, Blake Elkins, Peggy Esposito, Bob Hall, Jean Jordan, Bob Lord, Steve Mattan, Mary Metrione, Ken Mitchell, Candy Myers, Eric Rakebrand, Diane Rothschild, Abe Reuther, George Rowland, Arlene Spangler, Louise Tompkins, Mami Umemura, Ken Walters, Rachel Weiss, David White, Barbara Wiley, Bill Wiley, Al Wiley, and the Work Group. Special thanks go to Pat Pawlowski for the many years that she contributed her time and expertise. Pat is recovering from surgery and recently made the difficult decision to resign from her volunteer activities at the center. We wish Pat the best of health and hope she continues to visit the center to say hello.

Each of Rancocas's volunteers deserves special recognition. This season, Rancocas would like to thank John Courtney for his many contributions to NJ Audubon and Rancocas. John has been a long-time NJ Audubon board member and his affiliation with Rancocas spans three decades. As a Rancocas associate naturalist, John mans many a table at fairs and events, presents on- and off-site programs, lends a knowledgeable hand during summer camp season, and works with our data-

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).

bases and POS system. He leads numerous birding and botany field trips, including one of his favorites, an annual fall birding trip to Bombay Hook NWR, Delaware. And, if you stop by Rancocas almost any Friday, you are sure to be greeted by John. He mans the nature store and engages visitors when they stop by the center. ■

It is with sadness that Rancocas acknowledges the passing of Ed Bruder in December 2009. Ed was a long-time Rancocas associate naturalist and was affiliated with the center from its inception in 1977. The Rancocas staff and volunteers extend their deepest sympathies to his wife and children.

**GEAR INTO SUMMER  
SALE**

**NJ Audubon Nature Stores  
June 3 through 6**

Take \$5 off a \$25 purchase, \$10 off of a \$50 purchase, and \$25 off of a \$100, plus 10% member discount! \*

*\*Excludes optics, tripods and plants.*

**Participating Centers:**

- ✓ Cape May Bird Observatory
- ✓ Lorrimer Sanctuary
- ✓ Nature Center of Cape May
- ✓ Plainsboro Preserve
- ✓ Rancocas Nature Center
- ✓ Sandy Hook Bird Observatory
- ✓ Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary
- ✓ Weis Ecology Center

**DON'T MISS IT!**