



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: Center closed on Sunday, April 4, for Easter

Staff:

Susan Buffalino, Sanctuary Director
Claire Adair, Teacher-Naturalist

Associate Naturalists:

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

Spring 2010 Programs

March through May

CHILDREN'S NATURE SERIES

Register in advance for all programs.

NATURE TODDLERS

Fridays, March 5, 12, 26

Saturdays, March 6, 13, 27

10:00 to 11:30 A.M.

This weekly program is designed to engage young children, ages 3 to 5, and their parents/caregivers in songs, games, crafts, hikes, and discoveries. Each week a different nature topic, relating to the current season and the natural world, will be explored. Children do not need to attend all weeks of the series.

Cost: NJ Audubon members, \$7 per child per session; nonmembers, \$10 per child per session.

LITTLE SPROUTS

**Fridays, April 16, 23, 30, and
May 7, 14, 21**

**Saturdays, April 17, 24 and
May 1, 8, 15, 22**

10:00 to 11:00 A.M.

This series is very engaging for 2½- to 4-year-olds. Gardens are a wonderful place for young children to have a hands-on experience with nature. Youngsters and their parents/caregivers will share fun-filled mornings learning about garden visitors, spring flowers and fruits, and other garden-related themes in

and around RNC's colorful Children's Garden. Children do not need to attend all weeks of the series.

Cost: NJA members, \$7 per child per session; nonmembers, \$10 per child per session.

SATURDAY NATURE EXPLORERS

Saturdays,

March 6, April 3, May 1

1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

Nurture your child's awareness of the natural world. Each Saturday program, geared toward children aged 5½ to 8, includes a craft, games, activities, and a nature walk. Different themes inspire explorations at the center and on the trail. It's a great venue for children to experience nature first-hand.

Cost: NJ Audubon members, \$7 per child per session; nonmembers, \$10 per child per session.

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

Register in advance for all programs.

INTERPRETIVE TRAIL HIKE AT RANCOCAS

Sundays, March 7 and May 2

1:00 to 2:00 P.M.

On the first Sunday of each month, join an 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, but please use a child carrier to transport small children.

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

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING Saturday, May 15

Support New Jersey Audubon and the Rancocas Nature Center on the "Big Day!" Associate naturalist Sandra Keller and past Teen Bird Club president Sarah Tanedo will be birding Burlington County this year, and your support is needed. Please contact RNC if you would like to sponsor a team.

ADULT PROGRAMS AT RNC

Register in advance for all programs.

MORNING BIRD WALK AT RANCOCAS

Fridays,

March 5, April 2, and May 7

8:15 A.M.

Join an RNC associate naturalist for a

Continued

cancels the walk.

Cost: NJ Audubon members \$7,
nonmembers \$10.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY HOTSPOTS

Sunday, May 2

Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Susan Phelon will lead you on a tour of Cumberland County hotspots for early passerines, raptors, and perhaps a rarity. This is a joint trip with Sandy Hook.

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

FERNS AND FLOWERS AT CROSSWICKS CREEK

Saturday, May 8

9:00 A.M. to early afternoon

Visit Monmouth County's Crosswicks Creek Greenway for a look at spring wildflowers and ferns in a rich flood plain habitat. After lunch it's more botany and a bit of human history at the historic grist mill and village of Walnford. Leader: Karl Anderson.

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

A SHORT WALK AT MARIA BARNABY GREENWALD PARK, CHERRY HILL

Sunday, May 9

8:15 A.M. to late morning

A quick morning trip to a local hot spot is a great way to start your Sunday. The focus will be spring migrants. No reservations are needed, but if you need directions please call the center and leave your e-mail address. Only persistent rain cancels the walk. Leader: Sandra Keller.

Cost: NJ Audubon members \$7,
nonmembers \$10.

FRANKLIN PARKER PRESERVE WITH RICK RADIS

Saturday, May 29

Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Join Pine Barrens expert Rick Radis for a trip to the Parker Preserve and Martha Furnace for rare plants, natural history, and perhaps an *Arethusa* orchid. This is a joint trip with Sandy Hook.

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

BURLINGTON COUNTY NATURAL SCIENCE CLUB

NJ Audubon members are invited to the monthly meetings of the Burlington County Natural Science Club. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month, September through May, at 7:45 P.M. For updates on meeting locations and presentation topics, visit the club's Web site at

<http://oldsquaw.tripod.com>.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Rancocas' dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers contribute many hours of their time each season. Center Focus offers a chance to extend our thanks. The nature center would not be the vibrant place it is without their help. Thank you to Heddy Bauer, Bob Birdsall, John and Marilyn Courtney, James and Fran Cox, Katie Dole, Laura Edwards, Blake Elkins, Bob Hall, Jean Jordan, Bob Lord, Steve Mattan, Mary Metrione, Ken Mitchell, Donna Moffett, Candy Myers, Teddy Pavlin, Pat Pawlowski, Abe Reuther, Diane Rothschild, 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 "get well" wishes go to Pat Pawlowski. Pat, hope you are feeling better soon.

Each of Rancocas's volunteers deserves special recognition. This season, Rancocas would like to highlight the creative work of Laura Edwards. Laura's expertise has transformed the Rancocas pages of the NJ Audubon Web site, which now features a colorful, organized format that is very user-friendly. Thank you, Laura, for your countless hours and energetic dedication to this project. Rancocas would also like to thank Ken Mitchell and Marilyn Courtney for their continued contribution of time and expertise each week handling Rancocas's reconciliations.

Rancocas would also like to thank the Eagle Scouts who chose to complete their 2009 projects at the center. These scouts and their projects include: Robert Gonnelli, wilderness blind; Michael Brady, dragonfly pond; James Varley, numbered trail markers; Stephen Aherns, removal of an abandoned, rusty vehicle from the center grounds; and Ethan Dilks, turtle enclosure. ■