



# Weis Ecology Center

150 Snake Den Road, Ringwood, NJ 07456  
Phone: 973.835.2160 / Fax: 973.835.8986  
E-mail: [weis@njudubon.org](mailto:weis@njudubon.org) / Web site: <http://weis.njudubon.org>

HOURS: Wednesday to Sunday, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.  
CLOSED: Mondays and Tuesdays

*Staff:*  
Karla Risdon, Sanctuary Director  
Phaedra Demers, Teacher-Naturalist  
Educator to be announced  
Nancy Morton, Office Assistant  
Mike Gaeckle, Maintenance Supervisor

*Associate Naturalists:*  
Chuck & Margaret Blewett, Dr. Barbara Brummer,  
Deb Davidson, Philip De Rea, Linda DiDonato, Ray Fowlie,  
Madonna Hayes, Tom Heerema, Laura Hoogstrate,  
David Hulmes, Jerry and Sue Kerns, George Petty, Rick Radis,  
Wendy Rhoads, Dr. Lance Risley, J.J. Rusher, Suzanne Serafini,  
Mary Jo Sichak, Ellie Sroczyński, Eve Tomczak, Rick Weiman,  
Don Weise, Bob Weismantel, and Ken Witkowski.

## Autumn 2010 Programs September through November

### EVERY DAY AT THE WEIS ECOLOGY CENTER

Wednesday to Sunday  
9:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

**NJ Audubon Nature Store:** The nearby natural resource for field guides, bird feeders and accessories, kid stuff, regional trail maps, and more. Come see what's new!

**Hiking trails:** Over 24 miles of trails depart from the Weis Ecology Center's private grounds and explore adjacent Norvin Green State Forest and the surrounding Highlands.

**Exhibits:** Visit our main building to see our snakes, turtle, and other seasonal displays.

**Butterfly Garden/Model Backyard Habitat:** Stop by to watch the butterflies and hunt for caterpillars in our garden or pick up ideas to improve your own yard.

**Bird-feeding station:** Visit our observation deck to view our feeders, which attract a wide variety of birds.

**Aviary:** Built by a crew of volunteers, our aviary is home to Weis's Red-tailed Hawk and Screech Owl.

### Program Registration

Unless otherwise noted, all programs require preregistration and payment in order to reserve a place. Call 973.835.2160 to register. Programs are held rain or shine. Directions (if applicable) will be sent upon registration. Refunds are available only if we cancel the event or another participant can fill the place reserved for you.

### Weis 'Quality Time' Programs for Kids and Families

#### NATURE DISCOVERY TIME: PRE-SCHOOLER and TODDLER HIKES

**Thursdays: September 2,  
October 7, and November 11**  
10:00 to 11:00 A.M.

Join associate naturalist Margaret Blewett as we explore the wild wonders of Weis! These short nature discovery walks and hands-on activities are perfect for mommies, daddies, and their toddlers or preschoolers. (Note: Babies in backpacks are also welcome.)  
Limit: 10 children.  
Cost: \$5 per child (parents free!).

### FALL FOLIAGE HIKE FOR FAMILIES

**Saturday, October 9  
Sunday, October 10**  
1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

Moderately easy (one steep up/down) 2- to 3-mile hike. Join a Weis naturalist for a slow-paced hike in Norvin Green State Forest to see the Highlands in all their autumn glory! The hike includes a stop at the abandoned Roomey iron mine and a possible side trip to a waterfall. For families with pre-teens.  
Hike meets at Weis.  
Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.

### CAMPFIRE IN THE PUMPKIN PATCH

**Saturdays, October 16 and 23  
Friday, October 22**  
7:30 to 9:00 or 9:30 P.M.

All the fun without the cleanup! Bring your pumpkin(s) and carving tools to Weis's dining room to enjoy an evening of family and friendship. After the jack-o-lantern carving is complete, get ready to gather 'round the campfire for marshmallow toasting and stories of the season.  
Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.  
Families (parents and their children):  
\$15 members, \$24 nonmembers.

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**PATTERNS IN NATURE:  
DRAWING AND JOURNALING  
FOR FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS  
Saturday, November 6**

1:30 to 3:30 P.M.

Associate naturalist and illustrator Margaret Blewett will teach families how to draw favorite birds, butterflies, and wildflowers using shapes, colors and patterns. Participants can practice their new skills by illustrating one of Weis's live animals that will visit the class. Most appropriate for families with children grade 2 and up. Limit: 20.

Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers (includes one chaperone/child) .

**OPEN HOUSE:  
HOLIDAY NATURE FESTIVAL  
Saturday, December 4**

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

Crisp mountain air, live animal programs, friendly faces, fresh-baked goodies, crafts for kids, and fun for the whole family kick off our annual fresh-cut Christmas Tree Sale fundraiser at Weis. We'll see you there! Cost: free (no preregistration necessary).

**Programs for Adults  
and Teens  
Nature Study**

**THE WONDERFUL  
WEIS WHALE WATCH!  
August 21-22**

7:30 A.M. Saturday returning

at 12:00 A.M. (midnight) Sunday

All the whales in half the time...of making a weekend trip on your own! Relax during the coach bus ride to and from Plymouth, Massachusetts, where an 80-foot, double-decked boat waits to take us on a 4½-hour round trip to Stellwagen Bank – the National Underwater Preserve – for whale, dolphin, and bird watching. Past sightings have included many Humpback Whales including mothers with calves, Minke and Finback Whales, Northern Gannet, Wilson's Storm Petrel, Basking Shark, and sea turtles.

Cost: \$85 members,  
\$100 nonmembers.

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).

**WILDFLOWERS  
OF PYRAMID MOUNTAIN**

**Saturdays,  
August 28 and September 4**

10:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Join associate naturalist George Petty on this expedition to observe late-blooming summer wildflowers. Bring your field guide, proper footwear, and water. If it is a nice day, the hike will conclude with a climb to the top of Pyramid Mountain to enjoy the view. Highlights may include: cardinal flower, Joe Pye weed, bottle gentian, turtlehead, goldenrods, and silverrod. (Heavy soaking rain may postpone hike to next day.) Hike meets at Pyramid Mountain; directions will be sent upon registration. Limit: 12.

Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.

**BEECH ROAD BIRD WALKS  
Thursdays, September 9  
through October 21**

7:30 to 9:00 A.M.

Located across Route 511 from the Long Pond boat launch in Ringwood, this area has open water, mudflats, meadows, woodlands, and stream habitats that attract diverse migrating and breeding birds. Join associate naturalist Suzanne Serafini for these weekly snapshots of the changes that come with fall. Bring binoculars if you have them and meet at the site.

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

**HISTORIC MONTCLAIR  
HAWK WATCH**

**Sunday, September 19**

9:00 to 11:00 A.M.

Since its founding in 1957, approximately one million migrating hawks have been counted over the Montclair Hawk Watch. Peak flights during the fall occur between the middle and end of September, making this the perfect time to go and hopefully see some of the 15,000 Broad-winged Hawks that may pass the lookout during this window of time. The hawk watch, a NJ Audubon sanctuary, is the second-oldest continuous hawk watch in North America. NJ Audubon staff members and volunteers will be on hand during this visit to the lookout to explain the dynamics of hawk migration and assist with the identifi-

cation of raptors. Directions will be sent upon registration.

Cost: free for members,  
\$5 nonmembers.

**BASICS OF BIRDING:  
AUTUMN HAWK WATCH**

**Saturday, October 2**

8:30 A.M. to noon.

Join associate naturalist Suzanne Serafini and learn new ID skills or brush up on old ones. We will begin with a short slide show, handouts, and discussion at Weis followed by an outing to nearby Mount Peter to take in the migration phenomenon. Limit: 15. Cost (includes handouts): \$6 members, \$10 nonmembers.

**CELERY FARM  
Saturday, October 2**

Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Allendale Celery Farm expert Rob Fanning will guide you there in search of passerines and surprises.

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

**THE PINE BARRENS  
Sunday, October 3**

Meet at 8:45 A.M.

New Jersey Pines Barrens expert Rick Radis will take you to some of his favorite haunts for Pine Barrens natural history.

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

**BASICS OF BIRDING:  
BACKYARD BIRD FEEDING**

**Saturdays:**

**October 2 and November 13**

**Sundays:**

**October 3 and November 14**

1:30 to 3:00 P.M.

Learn the basics of feeding wild birds (and not the bears or squirrels) in winter. What works depends on your yard and which species you want to attract. Bring your questions, stories, and problems to Weis so we can help you make the best choices in feeders, seed type, and placement. Our discussion will be followed by a short bird walk and observation of the center feeding stations. The cost of this workshop can be applied to a bird feeder, accessory, or bird seed purchase made in Weis's nature store the day of the workshop. Limit: 15. Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.

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## **SOWING THE SEEDS FOR OPEN SPACE: BIRD SEED SALE**

### **Saturday, October 2**

(order by September 18)

### **Saturday, December 4**

(order by November 20)

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

Help preserve open space in New Jersey! When you purchase your bird seed in support of this fundraising effort by NJ Audubon, you are providing food for wildlife and supporting local farms. New this year, you may purchase local, New Jersey-grown black oil sunflower seed. Order forms are mailed to members about 6 weeks before each pickup date (extra forms can be picked up at WEC, or call and we'll mail you one).

To order seed, download a form from [www.nj Audubon.org](http://www.nj Audubon.org) and return the completed form and payment to Weis two weeks before the pickup date, or call to order over the phone with a credit card.

### **WHERE IT'S "AT" FOR HAWKS**

The Appalachian Trail (AT) is "where it's at," especially during autumn hawk migration. Join associate naturalists Philip (Flip) De Rea and Ray Fowlie for one or both of these field trips to popular hawk-watching spots along the Appalachian Trail.

#### **I. SUNRISE MOUNTAIN**

### **Sunday, October 10**

9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Meet at the summit of Sunrise

Mountain, just a short walk from the parking area, for a beginner-friendly hawk-watching adventure. Directions sent upon registration.

Cost (includes handouts):

\$6 members, \$10 nonmembers.

#### **II. RACCOON RIDGE**

### **Sunday, November 7**

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

This late-in-the-season all-day excursion to Raccoon Ridge in Warren County can offer great rewards to those willing to make the moderately strenuous hike to get to the spot along the Appalachian Trail, where the Kittatinny Mountains become a single ridge 1,200 feet above the Delaware River. *A Guide to Bird Finding in New Jersey* says, "This is the best place in northern New Jersey to see Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, and Common Raven during fall migration." Directions sent upon registration. Limit: 20.

Cost (includes handouts):

\$10 members, \$15 nonmembers.

### **Nature Adventure**

#### **WEIS WOMEN'S HIKES**

### **Saturdays, September 18,**

### **October 23, November 20**

8:00 to 10:00 A.M.

Moderately strenuous 2- to 3-mile hikes. Join the ladies of Weis for these early morning hikes to some of their favorite scenic spots! A great way to enjoy time outdoors, get some exercise, and get home early enough to spend time with family and friends! Each hike will meet at Weis and carpool to the trailhead if needed. Please wear appropriate hiking footwear, bring plenty of water, and dress in layers for the weather. Cost: \$5.

#### **WEEKDAY and WEEKEND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Your Time Is Valuable to Us!

✓ **Nature Store Inventory:** A few detail-oriented people needed to help count our stock (Sunday, August 29).

✓ **Program Support:** Campfire in the Pumpkin Patch\* (Saturday, October 16, Friday, October 22, Saturday, October 23) and Holiday Nature Fest\* (Saturday., December 4). These family-oriented public programs need hands-on volunteers before, during, and (for a short while) after each event.

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## **Weis Wyanokie Wanderers (WWW) Club Hikes\***

### **Strenuous hikes led by Don Weise.**

The terrain is steep and the pace is fast – good cardiovascular fitness required. Participants must wear appropriate hiking footwear and dress appropriately for the conditions; bring lunch and plenty of fluids.

Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers\*.

#### **BREAKNECK TO BEACON**

**Sunday, September 12** 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

"America's favorite day hike" is reserved for those who are fit and at ease with heights and extremely steep climbs. Hike includes Breakneck Ridge, a 1,500-foot climb, a reservoir, a fire tower view, and amazing views of the Hudson River and Storm King Mountain; 11 miles, very strenuous. Meets off-site.

#### **POCONO GORGES & RIDGES**

**Sunday, October 3** 9:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Explore great hiking at the Pocono Environmental Education Center. Tumbling waters, fossils, gorges, ponds and early fall color can be found just across the Delaware River; 9 miles, strenuous. Meets off-site.

#### **HOWL, GROWL, & GRIND HIKE**

**Sunday, October 17** 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Fearlessly climb the Appalachian Trail's not-so-agonizing "Agony Grind." Explore beautiful Indian Hill, check out Southfields Furnace and much more; 9-10 miles, strenuous. Meets off-site.

#### **SCHUNEMUNK & THE MEGALITHS**

**Sunday, November 7** 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Take the less-traveled route up mighty Schunemunk Mountain to enjoy great fall color and the megalith rock formations. Diverse scenery and spectacular views of the Hudson River, Shawangunks, and Catskills; 9 miles. Meets off-site.

#### **HIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

**Saturday, December 4** 9:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Celebrate the holiday season with a fun, challenging local loop hike. Afterward, enjoy the Weis Holiday Nature Festival and Bird Seed Sale, complete with food, crafts, gift ideas, and Christmas trees. Hike meets at Weis; 9 miles.

\*You do NOT need to be a member of the WWW to attend these hikes, but card-carrying WWW Hiking Club members get guaranteed admittance to the 12 monthly WWW hikes and two annual Challenge Hikes at a flat annual rate of \$69. New WWW members are welcomed with a pack patch and a Weis trail map T-shirt.

## Weis Ecology Center Autumn 2010 Events at a Glance

Saturday, August 21 .....	Wonderful Weis Whale Watch
Saturday, August 28 .....	Wildflower Walk
Thursday, September 2 .....	Nature Discovery Time
Saturday, September 4 .....	Wildflower Walk
Thursday, September 9 .....	Beech Road Bird Walk
Sunday, September 12 .....	WWW Hike
Thursday, September 16 .....	Beech Road Bird Walk
Saturday, September 18 .....	Women's Hike
Sunday, September 19 .....	Montclair Hawk Watch
Thursday, September 23 .....	Beech Road Bird Walk
Thursday, September 30 .....	Beech Road Bird Walk
Saturday, October 2 .....	Bird Seed Sale Pickup
Saturday, October 2 .....	Back Yard Bird Feeding
Saturday, October 2 .....	Basics of Birding: Autumn Hawk Watch
Saturday, October 2 .....	Celery Farm Hike
Sunday, October 3 .....	Backyard Bird Feeding
Sunday, October 3 .....	WWW Hike
Sunday, October 3 .....	The Pine Barrens
Thursday, October 7 .....	Nature Discover Time
Thursday, October 7 .....	Beech Road Bird Walk
Saturday, October 9 .....	Fall Foliage Hike
Sunday, October 10 .....	Fall Foliage Hike
Sunday, October 10 .....	Sunrise Mountain Hawks
Thursday, October 14 .....	Beech Road Bird Walk
Saturday, October 16 .....	Campfire in the Pumpkin Patch
Sunday, October 17 .....	WWW Hike
Thursday, October 21 .....	Beech Road Bird Walk
Friday, October 22 .....	Campfire in the Pumpkin Patch
Saturday, October 23 .....	Women's Hike
Saturday, October 23 .....	Campfire in the Pumpkin Patch
Saturday, November 6 .....	Drawing and Journaling for Families
Sunday, November 7 .....	Raccoon Ridge Hawks
Sunday, November 7 .....	WWW Hike
Thursday, November 11 .....	Nature Discovery Time
Saturday, November 13 .....	Backyard Bird Feeding
Sunday, November 14 .....	Backyard Bird Feeding
Saturday, November 20 .....	Women's Hike
Saturday, December 4 .....	Holiday Nature Fest
Saturday, December 4 .....	Bird Seed Sale Pickup
Saturday, December 4 .....	Christmas Tree Sale Kickoff
Saturday, December 4 .....	WWW Hike

✓ **Bakers:** For the Holiday Nature Fest bake sale (Saturday, December 4).

✓ **Tree Yard Helpers\*:** Saturdays and Sundays in December.

✓ **Reception:** Friendly folks to meet and greet center visitors and hikers, answer the phones, and/or process nature store sales.

✓ **Gardening:** Help keep our facility and our native plant and wildlife garden inviting for visitors or keep our sanctuary free of invasive species. Can be scheduled at your convenience, but please call ahead.

✓ **Public Programs:** Weis welcomes skilled amateur (or professional) naturalists and outdoor folks to propose classes, walks, and workshops they might like to lead.

\* Programs appropriate for teen/Service Learning volunteers

### SANCTUARY NOTES

The Weis Ecology Center gratefully acknowledges the following people for their help and support:

**Summer Program and Field Trip Leaders:** Margaret Blewett,

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## CRITTER-CARE SPONSORSHIPS

Weis Ecology Center has a small menagerie of critters that visit schools, scout groups, and libraries throughout the year (our Environmental Edu-critters). You can help us defer the expenses of their upkeep (care, feeding, checkups, etc.) by becoming a Critter-Care Sponsor!

### Each sponsorship packet includes:

- ✓ A certificate of appreciation
- ✓ A photograph portrait of your sponsored animal
- ✓ Natural history information sheet on your sponsored species
- ✓ A Peterson's *First Guide* to your animal's class (either birds or reptiles)
- ✓ Two invitations to our Owl Prowl (winter date to be announced)

### Sponsored Animals:

- Kili, the Red-tailed Hawk \$40
- Winky, the Screech Owl \$30 (can substitute a small plush owl for field guide)
- Red, the Corn Snake \$25
- Eclipse, the Black Rat Snake \$25
- Tina, the Box Turtle \$20
- Classroom Special \$180 (includes a classroom visit by at least one of the animals)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

DAY PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EVENING PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

*This is a gift from:* \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with payment to:  
**Weis Ecology Center**  
150 Snake Den Road,  
Ringwood, NJ 07456



## CHRISTMAS TREE SALE/YEAR-END FUNDRAISER

Saturdays and Sundays, December 4-5, 11-12, and 18-19

10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

**Our customers come back year after year because of the quality of our trees! You will too, once you pick the perfect-shaped, farm-raised, fresh-cut tree from Weis for your home this holiday season. Choose from Fraser, Douglas or white firs, blue spruce, and more. Trees range from 6' to 10' (not all species available at all heights). Prices range from \$35 to approximately \$80.**

Terry Caruthers, Linda DiDonato, Laura Hoogstrate, Wendy Rhoads, Dr. Lance Risley, J.J. Rusher, Suzanne Serafini, Don Weise, Bob Weismantel, and Ken Witkowski.

**Program Support Staff:** Dennis Arnold; Emily Berry; Chuck, Margaret, and Corenna Blewett; Tony Cacciapuoti; Sarah Crosby; Dr. Anthony DeFina; Connie Desiderio; the Garceau Family; the Gomes

Family; Adam Greenbaum; Madonna and Joe Hayes; Tom, Nancy, Dave, and Steven Heerema; Laura Hoogstrate; Cliff and Jean Huntington; Barry Milligan; Laura Moskin; Penny Nichols-Galvany; Kari Post; Mark Roberts; Wendy Rhoads; Teri and Evelyn Rocco; Paul Saunders; Suzanne Serafini; MaryJo and Steve Sichak; Lauren Sidow; Stephan, Sue, and Anika Szardening; and Holly VanDyk.

### **Adopt-a-Maple Sponsorships:**

The Breen Family, the Desiderio Family, the Franks Family, Carl Leiberman, Angie Otto, Mathew and Catherine Geisel, and the Greenbaum Family.

**Critter Care Sponsors:** Timothy Canali, Bruce and Cathi Darling, Chris Schimel, and Britta Eresman's 2nd grade class.

**Technical Support:** Bill Boesenberg/Snakes and Scales ([www.snakes-and-scales.com](http://www.snakes-and-scales.com)), Joe Hayes, Alan Ligertwood, Mike Lyncheski/The Harrier Group, Len Soucy/The Raptor Trust, and Joe Troy/Green Mountain Tree Experts.

**Resource and Display Donations:** Norman Schantz/William Paterson University, Suzanne Serafini, and Isobel Wayrick.

**Business Supporters:** Chuck Blewett/Pfizer, Tom Heerema/Verizon Volunteer Incentive Program, Sal DiCarlo/Verizon Matching Incentive Program, Bob and Chris Kenyon/Triangle Trophy, Prime 15 Steakhouse, Mark Roberts/Roberts Mechanical, and Rick Weiman/Waldwick Plastics.