



WEIS ECOLOGY CENTER

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SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS: JUNE - AUGUST 2012

EVERY DAY AT THE WEIS ECOLOGY CENTER

Friday through Sunday, 9 am - 4 pm ☞ NJAS Nature Store: *Your Nearby Natural Resource* for field guides, bird feeders and accessories, kid stuff, regional trail maps and more. Come see what's new! ☞ **Bird Feeding Station:** Visit our observation deck to view our feeders which attract a wide variety of birds including our resident hummingbirds during the summer. ☞ **Butterfly Garden/Model Backyard Habitat:** May ~ September stop by to watch the birds, butterflies, and caterpillars who frequent our garden or pick up ideas to improve your own yard. ☞ **Exhibits:** Stop by our Visitor's Center to see our live snakes, turtle, and other seasonal displays. ☞ **Hiking Trails:** Over 24 miles of trails depart from the Weis' private grounds to explore Norvin Green State Forest and the surrounding Highlands.

SAVE A TREE & GO GREEN!

Opt to receive our Calendar of E-vents! Send an email to weis@njudubon.org and include your name & mailing address - we'll switch your quarterly mailing to an electronic version!



Program Registration ~ Unless otherwise noted, all programs require pre-registration and payment in order to reserve your place. Stop in or call 973-835-2160 to register by credit card. Directions (if applicable) will be sent upon registration. Refunds are available only if the event is cancelled by us or the place reserved for you can be filled by another participant. Programs are held rain or shine.

WEIS "QUALITY TIME" PROGRAMS FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

AMAZING AQUATIC ADVENTURE

Saturday, June 9

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

It's National Get Outdoors Day, and that's what we plan to do! Armed with dip-nets and plastic buckets, we'll be exploring the Blue Mine Brook to look at different organisms' aquatic adaptations. This program is best suited for elementary aged children - younger siblings are welcome. Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers. Family (parents plus children): \$15 members, \$24 nonmembers

FATHER'S DAY HIKE (Dad hikes FREE!)

Sunday, June 17

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Leave the housework and repairs behind today! Dads and their families can spend quality time together during this special outing. Led by a Weis naturalist, this moderately paced, 2-to-3-mile hike in Norvin Green State Forest is recommended for families with elementary-aged kids and above. Appropriate footwear is required; bring a lunch and plenty of fluids. Limit: 25. Cost: \$5 members, \$8

nonmembers. Family (parents plus children): \$15 members, \$24 nonmembers

THE ROOTS OF ROOT BEER

Saturday, July 7

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

We've all had our fair share of root beer, but how often do you stop to think about that fact that it was originally flavored with...ROOTS! We will learn about plants and trees used to make this tasty beverage, collect the ingredients needed, and then make a delicious batch of (unfermented) root beer. Appropriate for elementary age children and older. Limit: 15. Cost: \$8 members, \$12 nonmembers.

DARING DECOMPOSERS

Saturday, July 21

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Squirm on over to the Weis Ecology Center to hunt for the unsung heroes of the forest floor, the daring decomposers.

Worms and fungi and molds, oh my! Learn why they are so important and what would happen without them. Cost: \$5



members, \$8 nonmembers. Family (parents plus children): \$15 members, \$24 nonmembers

PLANTABLE PAPER

Saturday, August 4

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Instead of throwing junk mail, newspaper, and paper bags in the trash, we are going to make our own recycled, seeded paper. Send a card that you can plant! Limit: 15. Cost: \$6 members, \$9 nonmembers.

AMAZING AQUATIC ADVENTURE II

Saturday, August 11

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Beat the summer heat with this cool program. Armed with dip-nets and plastic buckets, we'll be exploring the Blue Mine Brook to look at different organisms' aquatic adaptations. This program is best suited for elementary aged children - younger siblings are welcome. Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers. Family (parents plus children): \$15 members, \$24 nonmembers

FAMILY CAMPFIRE

Saturday, August 18

7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Bring your family and friends to Weis for a campfire with amazing nighttime activities, songs, stories, and, of course, s'mores. Cost: \$6 members, \$9 nonmembers. Family: \$18 members, \$27 nonmembers



NATURE DAY CAMPS

Helping connect your child to nature! Space is limited. Register now.

JUNIOR NATURALISTS

Three days of fun and learning for children ENTERING Kindergarten.

Wednesday, July 11 to Friday, July 13

10:00 a.m. to noon

Cost: \$50.00 members, \$65.00 nonmembers.

(wanderers)?

WONDERERS

Five days of fun and learning for children ENTERING grades 1 and 2.

Monday, July 16 to Friday, July 20

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. every day

Cost: \$150*



ADVENTURERS

Five days of fun and learning for children ENTERING grades 3 and 4.

Monday, July 23 to Friday, July 27

Mon., Tues., Wed., and Fri.: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thurs.: 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. for an evening campfire program.

Cost: \$150*



EXPLORERS

Five days of fun and learning for children ENTERING grades 5 and 6.

Monday, July 30 to Friday, August 3

Mon., Tues., and Fri.: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Wed.: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for a trip to Sandy Hook

Thurs.: 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. for an evening campfire program.

Cost (includes field trip): \$175*

TRAIL BLAZERS

Five days of adventure learning for youth ENTERING grades 7 and 8.

Tuesday, June 26 to Saturday, June 30

Tues. and Wed.: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,

Thurs.: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for a field trip

Fri.: 3:00 p.m. to Sat.: 10:00 a.m. for an overnight camp-out.

Cost (includes field trip): \$240*

...Busy the week of camp? ...Can't get enough of Weis Nature Day Camp? Come to three BONUS CAMPS!!

Back by popular demand- SOAKED AND SLIMY SUPERHERO WEEK

Open to youth ENTERING grades 1-6

Monday, August 6 to Friday, August 10

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. every day.

Is your child a Mad Scientists or a Superhero (or Both!)? After creating our own superhero (or super-villain) personas, we'll participate in slimy hands-IN activities and learn about nature's superheroes.

Cost: \$165* (includes a guest wildlife appearance from the critters of *Snake and Scales* and *Turtle*



Tails)



Where am I?! WEIS WILDERNESS SURVIVAL CAMP

Open to youth ENTERING grades 1-6

Monday, August 13 to Friday, August 17

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. every day.

Survivorman eat your heart out! This week, campers will learn skills to survive in the wild woods around Weis.

Shelters, fires, signals, water; we'll do it all...except eat grubs.

Cost: \$150*

CAPTAIN PLANET'S ENERGY EXTRAVAGANZA

Open to youth ENTERING grades 1-6

Monday, August 20 to Friday, August 24

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. every day.

Earth, Wind, Water, Fire (...and Heart?!). These powerful forces run the world! Learn how they can benefit (and harm) the plants and animals around us, as well as how we can harness their energy for our use.

Cost: \$150*

Can't make it to Weis by 3:00? For an additional \$5 per day we will accompany your child to the Highland's Natural Pool, a stream fed, life-guarded pool adjacent to Weis.

*A current NJAS membership is required to attend camp. New membership - \$35. Renewal - \$45.

☞ Nature Study & Adventure Programs for Adults & Teens ☜

SCOUT MERIT BADGE SUNDAYS

Taught by a certified Merit Badge Counselor. With a little pre-work we should be able to complete each Merit Badge in one afternoon. *These programs fill quickly. Register early.*

PLANT SCIENCE

Sunday, July 15

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

"Plant scientists use their curiosity and knowledge to develop questions about the world of plants. Then they try to answer those questions with further observations and experiments in the laboratory and in the field." Limit 15. Cost: \$15 members, \$20 nonmembers.

FORESTRY

Sunday, August 12

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

"In working through the Forestry merit badge requirements, Scouts will explore the remarkable complexity of a forest and identify many species of trees and plants and the roles they play in a forest's life cycle. They will also discover some of the resources forests provide to humans and come to understand that people have a very large part to play in sustaining the health of forests." Limit 15. Cost: \$15 members, \$20 nonmembers.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY - HIGH POINT HIKE

Saturday, June 2

9:00 a.m. to noon

Celebrate the 20th annual National Trails Day with us on a moderate 3-mile loop hike to Wyanokie High Point. Whether you have never hiked but want to try it out or you are a seasoned veteran, everybody is welcome for this naturalist-led adventure. Bring plenty of water and dress appropriately for the weather (good footwear is required). Limit: 20. Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.

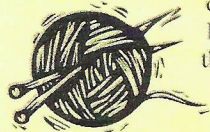
KNITTING IN NATURE (knitting optional)

Sunday, June 16

1:00 to 3:00 p.m. (or later if there are people still knitting)

Are you a knitter? Do you like to be outside? World Wide Knit in Public Day is the week of June 9-17 (yes, this "day" is actually a week).

Bring your knitting (or crochet-we don't discriminate) project and be inspired by the trees and fresh air. Weather permitting, we will be outside on or around the field and picnic area. If there is an interest, we can also take a short walk into the forest to find a wilderness-knitting niche. ...Don't knit but want to learn? Bring some yarn and needles and Weis's Sanctuary Director, Phaedra Demers, will do her best to help you learn. Don't knit and don't want to learn? Come anyway- remember, we don't discriminate! Cost: FREE



WEIS WOMEN'S HIKE

Saturdays, June 16 & August 25

8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Moderately paced, 2 to 3-mile hikes. Join the ladies of Weis for these early morning hikes to some of our favorite scenic spots! A great way to enjoy some time outdoors, get some exercise, and get home early enough to spend the rest of the day with family and friends! Hikes meet at Weis (may carpool to the trailhead if needed). Wear appropriate hiking footwear, dress in layers appropriate for weather, and bring plenty of water. Cost: \$5.

Birds of New Jersey: RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS

Sunday, June 24

9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Emeralds and rubies are never more precious than when they combine to form these elegant garden jewels. Join a staff naturalist for a power point presentation to learn all about the Ruby-throated Hummingbird's amazing adaptations, perilous life, and how to attract these chattering dynamos to your backyard habitat and keep them coming back. Then go out to our outdoor observation deck to view these magnificent birds. Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.



EAT YOUR WEEDS

Sunday, July 8

11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Believe it or not, many of the plants that are now considered invasive weeds were originally planted for food or medicine. At times it seems like these weeds are taking over the forest, but we are going to fight back and get to the root of the problem (pun intended) by making a gourmet meal out of those little green invaders. Bring your appetite! Limit 10. Cost: \$12 members, \$15 nonmembers.



MEDICINAL PLANT WALKS with Robin Rose Bennet

Sundays, July 22 and August 19

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Discover natural remedies for many of your summer ailments with herbalist and author, Robin Rose Bennet. Scratches, stings, and itches are no match for the plants around us. Each program will cover different plants and topics - come for one or both. Cost: \$10 NJAS or Community Association of the Highlands members, \$12 nonmembers.

Weekday and Weekend Volunteer Opportunities. Your Time is Valuable to Us!

► **Nature Day Camp***: Make the difference in a child's life by volunteering as a counselor (July/August).

► **Public display updating and beautification***: Update and/or beautify our upcoming events kiosk, bulletin board and our animal informational displays.

► **Reception**: Friendly folks to meet and greet Center visitors and hikers as well as answering the phones.

► **IT**: We aren't incredible tech-savvy. We can always use help with computer equipment and web design.

► **Gardening***: Help keep our facility and our Native Plant and Wildlife Garden inviting for visitors.

► **Invasive Plant Removal***: Help 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. Proposed classes, walks and workshops can be submitted, and volunteers will be asked to participate in volunteer training arranged and supervised by Weis' Program Director.

WEIS WYANOKIE WANDERERS: 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, dress appropriately for the conditions; bring lunch and plenty of fluids. Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers*. All hikes meet offsite

Gertrude's Nose and Millbrook Mountain.

Sunday June 10, 8:30am.

Join us for a spectacular loop hike in Minnewaska State Park, featuring endless views from ivory-colored cliff tops, a scenic ravine, a glacial lake and large rock formations. 9 miles.

Shawangunk-High Point Hike & Swim.

Sunday, July 1, 8:30am.

Hike high on the Kittatinny/Shawangunk Ridge where the breezes are cool, the views expansive, and the water inviting. 8-10 miles, end to end.

High Peaks Getaway Weekend! August 25 and 26. Location and peaks to be announced! For more info, contact donweise@hotmail.com.

*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 2 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.

SANCTUARY NOTES

Weis Ecology Center gratefully acknowledges the help, devotion & undying support of:

Spring Program and Field Trip Leaders: Margaret Blewett, Phaedra Demers, Jennifer Dowd, Rob Fanning, Carol Hughes, Ellie Sroczynski, Don Weise. **Program Support Staff:** Margaret Blewett, Adam Greenbaum, Vikki, Cheryl, and Mark Gomes, Sheera Martin, Ramapo College Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, Paul Saunders, Don Weise. **Technical Support:** Bill Boesenberg/Snakes and Scales (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:** Suzanne Serafini, Norman Schantz/William Paterson University, Isobel Wayrick. **Business Supporters:** Bob and Chris Kenyon & Triangle Trophy; Mark Roberts/Roberts Mechanical; Rick Weiman/Waldwick Plastics; Prime 15 Steakhouse.

Critter-Care Sponsorships

We have animals that participate in educational programs and visit schools and libraries throughout the year. You can help defer the expense of their upkeep by becoming a Critter-Care Sponsor! Each sponsorship packet includes:

- A certificate of appreciation
- A photograph portrait of your sponsored animal
- Natural history information on your sponsored species
- A Peterson's First Guide to either birds or reptiles

Sponsored Animals:

Name tba, the Pine Snake \$30 **Sass**, the Rat Snake \$30

Tina, the Box Turtle \$25 **Classroom Special**,* \$150

*Classroom Special includes a classroom visit by *at least* one of our educritters.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Wish List – We hate to ask, but we have to. We can only continue our work with the generous donations of people like you. Any donation is a big donation to us.

Weis is a 501(c)3 nonprofit - your donations are tax deductible.

- Craft supplies (washable markers, crayons, construction paper, tempera paint, Elmer's glue, plaster of Paris)
- Dry erase markers
- Disposable ice packs
- A Dodo Bird (How cool would that be?!)
- Hot laminator
- Small, sturdy nets for stream study programs
- Small Digital Camera
- Skulls and skins of native NJ animals
- Gift Cards – Home Depot, WalMart, Michael's, etc.

...This is a very small list with only a few of the things that we could actually use. If you have anything else that you think would be useful, please let us know.

The Weis Ecology Center is one of ten staffed nature centers operated by New Jersey Audubon.
Won't you please consider joining us?

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone (daytime): _____ Phone (evening): _____



Become a New Jersey Audubon member and enjoy *discounts on tours, events and field trips* at all NJA centers, *receive a 10% discount* at our nature stores, and receive NJA publications. *New members enjoy a reduced introductory rate!

Basic \$39/\$30* Family \$45/\$35* Friend \$100 Goldfinch \$250 Eagle \$500 Life \$2,000 Life Couple \$3,000