



WEIS ECOLOGY CENTER

150 Snake Den Road, Ringwood, NJ 07456

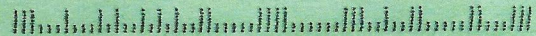
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JACOB BEKRY
OR CURRENT RESIDENT
161 SNAKE DEN ROAD
RINGWOOD, NJ 07456

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SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS: APRIL & MAY 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 ☞

ALL NATURAL EGG DYEING

Friday, April 6

10:00 a.m. to 11:30ish or 11:30ish to 1:00 p.m.

Instead of buying dye at the store, just open up your cupboards or refrigerator! Learn how to dye your eggs with common household foods and items to make a unique color palette. Join in the fun as we prepare over 350 eggs for the hunt on Saturday. Dyeing materials and "practice" eggs provided – feel free to bring your own hard-boiled eggs to dye and take home! Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.



CAMOUFLAGED EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 7

2:00 p.m. start time

Old traditions – with a different twist! Kids search the fields and forests of Weis for naturally dyed eggs in camouflaged colors: stone gray, grass green, leaf brown, etc. Every participant gets a small bag of treats, plus there are special prizes for lucky hunters who find of the "Golden" Eggs! Pre-registration is very important, as supplies are limited. Kids hunt (rain or shine) in groups: ages 3 to 4, 5 to 7, and 8 to 10. BYO basket. Limit: 40 per age group. Cost: \$5 per hunter. ***An excellent deal: buy a family

membership (new member or renewal) while registering for this program and the kids hunt for free!***

NATURE DISCOVERY TIME: Hikes for Pre-schoolers

Thursdays: April 19 and May 17

10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Explore the wonder of Weis with Associate Naturalist Margaret Blewett for short nature discovery hikes and hands-on activities for young naturalists. These programs are perfect for pre-schoolers ages 3 to 5. Limit: 10. Cost: \$5 for kids; adults are free.

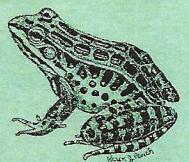
VERNAL POOLS ALIVE!: For Families

Saturday, April 21

Friday, April 27

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Spring holds many surprises for the curious family, and some of the most exciting surprises are right in the vernal pools of our backyards. What is a vernal pool, you ask? Why, it's a great place to observe various species of frogs and salamanders laying their eggs in the spring-time. We'll put on boots to count the various species of amphibians (including egg masses,



tadpoles, larvae, and adults) such as wood frogs and spotted salamanders. This program is meant for adults, teens, and children alike who are interested in getting their hands dirty in amphibian biology. *Wear clothes to get dirty and rubber boots if you have them.* Cost: \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers.

BIRDING BONANZA

Saturday, May 5

9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

As the weather warms the birds return to their summer stomping grounds. But where have they been and why are they back? Come learn this and



the basic skills needed to help identify wild birds in the field or at your feeders so your family too can find joy in watching birds! Cost: \$5.00 members, \$8.00 nonmembers.

MOTHER'S DAY FAMILY HIKE (MOMS HIKE FREE)

Sunday, May 13

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

Take your mom to lunch...at the top of a mountain! A Weis Naturalist will lead moms and their families on a moderately paced, 3-mile hike up to Wyanokie High Point for a picnic lunch with a 365-degree view of spring's return to Norvin Green State Forest. Pack lunch and water, and

wear sturdy shoes. Recommended for families with elementary-aged kids and above. Limit: 20. Cost (moms free with a paid registration): \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers. Family (parents and their children): \$15 members, \$24 nonmembers.



BUGGIN' OUT

Sunday, May 20

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Much maligned and misunderstood, insects

make up most of the earth's critters. Learn about their adaptations, importance, and go on the hunt for these little "monsters".

Cost: \$5.00 members, \$8.00 nonmembers.



NATURE DAY CAMPS

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

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.



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): \$240.00

...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)



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.* Limit: 15. *Pre-registration is a must!* Cost: \$12.00 members, \$18.00 nonmembers.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

Sunday, April 15

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Soil and water are the fundamental elements of the world around us. In this class we will talk about these elements' importance and the importance of their conservation.

REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN STUDY

Sunday May 6

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

With the help of our scaly resident critters, we will delve into the slimy, slithery, and often misunderstood world of reptiles and amphibians. (Requirement #8 requires a longer period of time than most pre-work for the badges. If it is not completed before the class, we can sign off on everything else, and then on that when it is done.)

GEOLOGY

Sunday, May 27

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Study the materials that make up the earth and the processes that change it over time. In this program scouts will use the surrounding geology to earn their merit badge.

SPRING BIRDING AT GARRET MOUNTAIN

Saturday, April 21

Meet at 8:15 a.m.

Sandy Hook Bird Observatory's associate naturalist, Carol Hughes will lead our first spring Garret Mountain birding adventure for spring migrants. Cost: \$15.00 members, \$20.00 nonmembers.

BASICS OF BIRDING: Bird Walks

Saturday, April 28

Sundays, May 20

8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Come learn the basic skills needed to help identify wild birds in the field or at your feeders on this



naturalist-led walk so you too can find joy in watching birds! Walks will meet at Weis and carpool to local sites. Cost: \$5.00 members, \$8.00 nonmembers.

EARTH DAY WORK DAY & GREEN THUMB GARDEN PREP

Sunday, April 22

10:00 a.m. to noonish (or later)

The projects we tackle today depends on you! Once we know how many fine folks are coming out to help, we will plan tasks appropriate to their skills and interests. Past projects have included painting, trail maintenance, weeding and planting in our butterfly garden, light carpentry, and litter patrols. Please let us know if you'll be celebrating the Earth with us on this day – Thanks! *This is a great day for scouts looking to do a service project of some sort.*

ALLENDALE CELERY FARM

Sunday, May 6

Meets at 8:15 a.m.

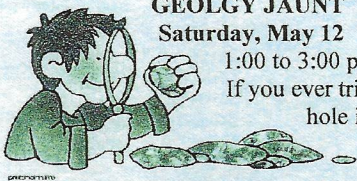
Join Rob Fanning at the Allendale Celery Farm for some early spring arrivals and surprises. Cost: \$15.00 members, \$20.00 nonmembers.

GEOLOGY JAUNT

Saturday, May 12

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

If you ever tried to dig a hole in this area, one thing becomes



blatantly clear - we have a lot of rocks. But what kind are they and how did they get here? For one reason or another, a lot of people are intimidated by learning about the geology around us, but during this hike you will discover that geology ROCKS! Join a Weis naturalist for this non-intimidating hike. Cost: FREE for members, \$8 nonmembers.

WEIS WOMEN'S HIKES

Saturdays: March 17, April 14, May 19
8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Moderately paced, 2 to 3-mile hikes. Join Phaedra Demers, Weis's Sanctuary Director and Teacher-Naturalist, 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



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

- ▶ **Program Support***: Programs that need hands-on volunteers before, during, and (for a short while) after each event; **All Natural Egg Dying** (4/6), **Camouflage egg hunt** (4/7).
- ▶ **Earth Day Work Day***: Celebrate the Earth and make Weis look Beautiful! (4/22)
- ▶ **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.

* Programs appropriate for teen/Service Learning volunteers

WEIS WYANOKIE WANDERERS (WWW): CLUB HIKES*

Strenuous hikes led by **Don Weise**. The terrain is steep and the pace is fast. Good cardiovascular fitness is required. Participants must wear appropriate hiking footwear, dress in layers appropriate for weather conditions, bring lunch, and plenty of fluids. Limit 25. Cost: \$5.00 NJAS members, \$8.00 nonmembers*.

HOOK MTN & THE TORS

Sunday, March 25

9:30am

Look for early signs of spring along the sun-soaked Palisades. Hike the Long Path for cliff top views of the Hudson River, Manhattan, and the scenic Highlands. Meets offsite. Strenuous, 11 miles.

ALMOST NEW ENGLAND

Sunday, April 15

9:30 a.m.

Discover the Westchester Wilderness trails and Zofnass Family Preserve, two seldom-visited gems known for their beautiful setting, crags, outcrops, wetlands, and large diversity of flora and fauna. Meets off site. Moderately strenuous, 8 miles.

JENNY JUMP TRAILS

Sunday, May 6

9:00 a.m.

Check out the new trails network, featuring pastoral farm scenes and ridge top views of the Delaware Water Gap. Meets off site. Moderately strenuous, 9 miles.

PINGYP MOUNTAIN

Sunday, May 20

9:00 a.m.

Harriman's steepest climb rewards you with incredible views and adventure. Meets off site. Strenuous, 9-10 miles.

*You do NOT need to be a member of the WWW Hiking Club to attend these hikes, but card-carrying WWW Hiking Club members get guaranteed admittance to 12 monthly WWW hikes and 2 annual Challenge Hikes at a flat annual rate of \$69.00. New WWW members are welcomed with a pack patch and a Weis Trail Map T-shirt.

SANCTUARY NOTES

Weis's office and visitor center will be closed Sunday, April 8 for Easter.

Weis Ecology Center gratefully acknowledges the following people for their help, devotion & undying support:

Fall/Winter Program and Field Trip Leaders: Jill Bennetta, Margaret Blewett, Deb Davidson, Phaedra Demers, Jennifer Dowd, Don Weise. **Program Support Staff:** Chuck, Margaret, Adam and Corenna Blewett, Tony Cacciapuoti, Gloria Deane, Flip DeRea, Ray Fowlie, Adam Greenbaum, Vikki, Cheryl, and Mark Gomes, Madonna Hayes, Dave, Nancy, & Tom Heerema, Wendy Rhoads, Mark Roberts, Teri Rocco, JJ Rusher, Paul Saunders, Suzanne Serafini, Holly Vandyk, Don Weise, Bob Weismantel. **Technical Support:** Bill Boesenberg (www.snakes-and-scales.com); Joe Hayes; Alan & Zach Ligertwood; Mike Lynchski/The Harrier Group; Joe Troy/Green Mountain Tree Experts. **Resource and Display Donations:** Norman Schantz/William Paterson University.; Suzanne Serafini; Mary Jo Sichak; Isobel Wayrick. **Business Supporters:** Mike's Feed Farm, Riverdale; Chuck Blewett/Pfizer; Tom Heerema/Verizon Volunteer Incentive Program; Sal DiCarlo/Verizon Matching Incentive Program; Bob & Chris Kenyon & Triangle Trophy; Mark Roberts/Roberts Mechanical; Rick Weiman/Waldwick Plastics; Prime 15 Steakhouse.

The Weis Ecology Center is one of nine staffed nature centers operated by New Jersey Audubon. Please consider becoming a member

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (evening): _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

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

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 pterodactyl (not really! I was just checking whether you were actually reading this)
- 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.