

A Service of the Union County
Board of Chosen Freeholders



UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!

Register
Online



Experience Nature at Trailside

April - June 2017



Trailside

Nature & Science Center

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders invites you to visit Trailside Nature and Science Center to experience over 4,500 square feet of interactive environmental exhibits. Take part in one of the many unique and educational programs designed to spark an appreciation of nature for you and your family. Trailside's location in the scenic Watchung Reservation provides the perfect classroom for fun while learning about the environment and the natural world around us.

Hours of Operation are 12 - 5 p.m. daily.



In order to accommodate everyone, please let us know in advance if you or a member of your group has any special needs.

A note about the program fees:

IC = Union County Resident OC = Out of County Resident

Holiday Hours



Normal Operating Hours 12 - 5 p.m.

Good Friday
April 14

Memorial Day
May 29

Trailside will be closed on Sunday, April 16.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

NEW

Register online at www.ucnj.org/trailside. A new online registration system, designed to make access to our services easy and convenient, has been adopted. Please visit our new site to create your account and password.

Register in-person 12:00 - 4:45 pm daily at Trailside. Credit card payments cannot be accepted over the phone or by mail.

We are unable to accept personal checks as of January 1, 2017.



Trailside reserves the right to cancel a program due to low enrollment or severe weather. In the event of cancellation, a Trailside credit will be issued.

Trailside credit will be issued **ONLY** if the program is cancelled by the registrant at least three (3) days in advance. Please call if your child cannot attend a program.

No refunds will be given for any program. Please be prompt when dropping off or picking up your child.

Trailside reserves the right to remove a disruptive or inappropriately aged child from a program. If a child is removed from a program, no credit or refund will be offered.

Each class will spend some time outside, so please, dress your child appropriately for the weather. Long pants tucked into socks offer protection from ticks.

TODDLER TIME

Sensory hikes, stories, crafts and activities to acquaint adults and children with the natural world. Dress for outdoors.

Please register for this class using the adult's name.

- BRING:** A baby carrier or sling; strollers are **not** recommended.
WHO: Adult with child/children up to three years of age. Older children will not be permitted to attend.
Maximum 4/family per class.
WHEN: Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 AM or 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM
or Fridays, 10:00 - 11:00 AM
MEET: Trailside Visitor Center
DRESS: Appropriately for the weather; if possible, we *will* go outside.
FEE: **Per class:** **IC** - \$10/family **OC** - \$12/family
-

**Apr. 6
or 7** **Color Walk** - Take a walk to look for signs of spring. Go on a scavenger hunt to see if we can find red birds, orange rocks, yellow flowers, green leaves and blue skies.

**Apr. 13
or 14** **'Possum Pals** - Learn about the only North American marsupial that lives right here in our own backyard. Discover where opossums sleep, find food and care for their young.

**Apr. 20
or 21** **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** - Celebrate Earth Day! Find out how you can give a gift to our planet on its special day. Make a recycled craft, then take a hike outside to look for nature's recyclers.

**Apr. 27
or 28** **Music Makers** - Use your ears to identify recorded animal sounds of frogs, coyotes, geese and insects. Discover why animals make sounds & listen for local wildlife.

**May 4
or 5** **The Counting Craze** - One, two, three, four, come along and count some more! Count petals on a flower, seeds in a pod, leaflets on a twig and legs on a bug.

**May 11
or 12** **Animal Mothers** - Discover how wildlife moms care for their young. Find out which baby rides in momma's pouch, lives under ground and hatches from an egg. Make a special gift for your mom to say thanks.

**May 18
or 19** **Sow the Seeds** - Discover the importance of seeds and learn which animals depend on them. Hike to Trailside's wildflower meadow and take turns spreading seeds.

Toddler Time continued...

- May 25 or 26** **Camping is Fun** - Have fun learning about camping. Bring your teddy bear and find out what to bring on a camping trip. Discover which animal neighbors you may see and hear in the woods and listen to a story around a campfire.
- June 1 or 2** **Ladybug, Ladybug...Fly Away Home** - Learn about the ladybug's life cycle and find out why they are good for the environment. Search for these special beetles outdoors and make a ladybug craft.
- June 8 or 9** **Go Wild With Water** - Wear your bathing suit and bring your towel because it's time to play in the water! Rotate through a series of stations designed to tap into your child's natural curiosity. Use household items like sponges, paint brushes, egg cartons and spray bottles as "tools" for experimenting with water play.

Toddler Time
Saturday is Daddy Day!
All Dads Welcome
10:00-11:00 AM

- May 13 Animal Mothers** - Learn how mammal mothers care for their young and teach them how to survive. Learn about our local wildlife mothers and make a special gift to give your mom.



- June 10 Go Wild With Water** - Wear your bathing suit and bring your towel because it's time to play in the water! Rotate through a series of stations designed to tap into your child's natural curiosity. Use household items like sponges, paintbrushes, egg cartons and spray bottles as "tools" for experimenting with water play.

TWO OF US

An interactive program encouraging nature discovery through hikes and other indoor/outdoor activities.

WHO: 3 or 4-year-old child with an adult. **Younger and older children will not be permitted to attend this program. Please see Saturday Outdoor Adventures.**

WHEN: Tuesday, 1:30-2:30 PM or Wednesday, 10:00-11:00 AM

FEE: Per class: IC - \$10/child & adult OC - \$12/child & adult

**Apr. 4
or 5** **Colors Abound** - Explore the rainbow of spring colors. Collect natural objects in shades of red, orange, yellow, blue and green to make a colorful craft.

**Apr. 11
or 12** **Oh, Opossum** - The opossum is a nocturnal animal that lives right here in our own backyard. Find out where they sleep, what they eat and how they are similar to kangaroos.

**Apr. 18
or 19** **The 3 R's** - Get ready for Earth Day by learning about the three R's: **Reduce, Reuse & Recycle.** Make a craft using recycled materials and search for nature's recyclers.

**Apr. 25
or 26** **Masters of Music** - Learn why birds chirp and coyotes howl. Listen to insects sing and find out why a goose honks. Use your ears to identify sounds of familiar animals.

**May 2
or 3** **Numbers in Nature** - Enjoy counting leaves on a plant, clouds in the sky and flowers on the trail. Make a book of numbers in nature to bring home.

**May 9
or 10** **Mother, May I?** - Mother may I ...hunt for fish? Ride on your back? Hide in your pouch? Explore the special relationship between animal mothers and their young. Make a present to take home for your Mom.

**May 16
or 17** **Seed Scatter** - Discover a new way to plant flowers. Make seed balls to plant in our meadow. Butterflies, bees and hummingbirds will love these summer bouquets.

**May 23
or 24** **Camping is Cool** - Camping is a fun way to spend time in nature. Find out what to bring on a camping trip and go inside a real tent. Listen to a story around a campfire.

Two of Us continued...

May 30 or 31 **Lucky Ladybugs** - Find out about ladybugs and learn why farmers and gardeners consider them lucky. Search gardens & meadows for ladybug eggs, larvae & adult beetles.

June 6 or 7 **Wet-n-Wild** - Learn why water is important for people and animals. Travel through Trailside's water stations and have fun as we get wet-n-wild! **Wear clothes that can get wet!**

SMALL FRY DAYS

A drop-off program to foster awareness and appreciation of the natural world through nature hikes, exploration and activities. Dress for outdoors.

WHO: 4-6 year olds.

Younger and older children will not be permitted to attend this program. Please see Saturday Outdoor Adventures.

WHEN: Tuesday, 9:45 - 11:00 AM

FEE: Per class: IC - \$10/child

OC - \$12/child

Apr. 4 **Nature's Rainbow** - The forest is waking up and showing off it's beautiful bright colors. Use your observation skills to collect natural objects in the colors of the rainbow and make a colorful craft.

Apr. 11 **Opossum Patrol** – The opossum is a marsupial, closely related to the kangaroo! Discover what they eat, where they live and how they survive in the wild. Make an opossum baby to carry in a pouch and practice playing 'possum.

Apr. 18 **Earth Day Is Every Day** - Earth Day happens every year on April 22nd. Celebrate Earth Day by learning about the three R's; Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! Make a craft out of recycled material to take home.

Apr. 25 **Nature's Musicians** - *Hoot* like an owl, *croak* like a toad and *tweet* like a bird. Have fun learning to identify animals by the sounds they make & find out why they sing.

Small Fry Days continued....

- May 2** **The 1, 2, 3's of Trailside** - Get ready to count every thing in nature from paw prints and flower petals to rocks and trees. Make a counting book to take home.
- May 9** **Nature's Mothers** - We all know that *our* moms are great, but what about wildlife mothers? Find out how animal moms take care of their babies and make a mother's day craft to take home.
- May 16** **Seed Sling** - Learn the importance of seeds and work together to add seeds to Trailside's wildflower meadow. Help hummingbirds, bees and butterflies by making seed balls to toss into this important habitat.
- May 23** **A Camping We Will Go!** - Learn what you need to bring on a camping trip. Visit a camp site and enjoy a story around a campfire!
- May 30** **Ladybug Lore** - Investigate the lifecycle of a ladybug and find out why they are considered helpful insects. Take a walk to look for ladybugs, their food and hideouts.
- June 6** **Water Wonders** - Learn about the water cycle and travel through our water stations to explore the different ways we can have fun with water! **Wear clothes that can get wet!**

AFTERSCHOOL EXPLORATIONS GRADE SCHOOL PROGRAM

A drop off program designed to acquaint your child with nature explorations, hikes and outdoor activities.

WHO: 1st - 3rd graders.

WHEN: Thursdays, 3:30-4:45 PM

FEE: **Per class:** **IC** - \$10/child

OC - \$12/child

- Apr. 6** **Early Spring Hike** - Take advantage of the beauty of spring by hiking one of our nature trails. Along the way look for wildflowers, young leaves, bird nests and baby animals.
- Apr. 13** **Animal Neighbors** - Learn about the different mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects that live in the reservation. Search for animal signs and play a food web game.

Afterschool Explorations continued....

- Apr. 20 Conservation Counts** - Get ready for Earth Day and learn ways to “Go Green” around your house and yard. Make a craft using recyclables and discover how *you can make a difference*.
- Apr. 27 Backyard Birds** - Use binoculars to get a close up look at wild birds and learn how to identify them. Visit the Backyard Wildlife Habitat to put out nesting materials and fill the feeders.
- May 4 Paint by Nature** - Gather plant materials, rocks and other natural items to make colorful dyes. Construct a painting palette and create a picture to take home.
- May 11 Star Struck** - Learn stories behind the legendary constellations of Orion the Hunter, Draco the Dragon and the Big Dipper. Design your own constellation and create a 3-D star to take home.
- May 18 Trees are Terrific** - Discover why trees are important to people and wildlife. Hike around Trailside to identify common trees and look for wildlife living in them. Play a game to test your tree ID skills.
- May 25 The Great Blue Sea** - Learn about whales, turtles & other sea life. Play a game to discover how dolphins find their food and learn how jellyfish move around. Learn how we can protect our oceans and the animals that inhabit it.
- June 1 Beautiful Butterflies** - Discover the many different butterflies that live around Trailside, and find out what types of plants and shrubs are inviting to them. Investigate the butterfly garden to see how many species you can find!
- June 8 Water Games** – Be a water athlete in the H2O Olympics! Participate in the “Water Pole Vault,” “Balance Beam,” “Backstroke” and “Slalom” to learn all about the amazing properties of water.



TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP

Register
Online!

Project Learning Tree

Wednesday, May 10

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

PLT is a nationally recognized activity guide that provides educators with tools for increasing student environmental awareness. Whether you are a formal or informal educator, PLT activities will engage your students in interdisciplinary, hands-on experiences that develop skills in problem solving, evaluation and research. Participants receive six (6) NJDOE professional development credits. Morning refreshments provided. **Bring:** a lunch. **Fee:** \$20 which includes activity guide with over 100 lessons.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Solar Watches

Saturdays - 1:00 PM

By popular demand the Amateur Astronomers, Inc. will return for weekly (weather permitting) solar watches beginning on Astronomy Day, Saturday, April 1. Solar observing sessions are conducted 1:00-2:00 PM and involve a discussion on safety issues about looking at the sun. Solar Watches will be offered into the fall.

June 3

National Trails Day

8:15 AM - 12:30 PM

Trail users across the country will be celebrating **National Trails Day** on Saturday, June 3 and so can you! Take a guided nature walk along a hiking trail and/or work on a trail maintenance or repair project. A continental breakfast and beverage will be provided. **Pre-registration required.** To register, please email bkelly@ucnj.org. **FREE.**

June 16-17

13th Annual Union County Bio-Blitz

Friday, June 16 from 5:00 PM - 12:30 AM & Saturday, June 17 from

6:00 AM - 5:00 PM, naturalists, nature enthusiasts and scientists are invited to take part in

this survey for plants and animals living in Warinanco Park in Roselle and Elizabeth.

Enjoy **FREE** interactive activities, live animal and plant displays and nature related programs. For more information visit: ucnj.org/bio-blitz.



TRAILSIDE TALKS

*FREE programs for adults and High School Students.
Donations welcomed. Preregistration preferred. Walk-ins welcome.*

New Jersey's Magnificent Raptors

Saturday, May 6

2 :00 - 3 :00 PM

Join David Wheeler, Executive Director of Conserve Wildlife Foundation, to learn about NJ's awesome raptors; including, bald eagles, peregrine falcons and ospreys. Find out how these birds have made an inspiring recovery over the past few decades thanks largely to the work of devoted biologists and faithful volunteers from Conserve Wildlife Foundation and the State Endangered & Nongame Species Program. Learn about the innovative work being done to protect raptors in NJ. Mr. Wheeler has worked on conservation issues for more than a decade and is the author of the book *Wild New Jersey: Nature Adventures in the Garden State*.

The Great American Solar Eclipse of 2017

Saturday, May 13

2:00 - 3:00 PM

In August, a total eclipse of the Sun will be visible in the United States along a 70 mile wide path from Oregon to South Carolina. This will be the first total solar eclipse visible from the contiguous United States since 1979. A truly rare and once in a lifetime event! NASA Solar System Ambassador Paul Cirillo will keep you enthralled as he explains the history of eclipses, how and why they happen and how to best prepare to view this year's best astronomical event!

Pollinators

Saturday, June 3

2:00 - 3:00 PM

This program is sponsored by the Trailside Museum Association.



Pollinators like butterflies, bumblebees and moths help pollinate over 75% of our flowering plants and crops; contributing to over \$29 billion in crops each year. Currently many species of pollinators are struggling to survive. Join a naturalist from Conserve Wildlife Foundation to explore why pollinators are crucial to our environment, health, food systems and economy. Learn how to help the declining species of New Jersey pollinators with simple steps in your own backyard.

SATURDAY OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



Families with children of all ages are invited to take part in theme hikes/nature related talks.

Programs last about 45 minutes. For scout programs, see our group brochure.

Donations appreciated.

Apr. 1 Astronomy Day - Presentations on astronomy suitable for the entire family. Children's activities. **1:00 - 4:00 PM.**

Apr. 8 Vernal Ponds - These special wetlands fill with water in the spring and dry out for the rest of the year. Explore one of these unique habitats for spotted salamanders, wood frogs and their eggs. **2:00 PM.**

Apr. 15 Orange Trail Hike - April is a great time for blooming spring wildflowers. Explore the Orange Trail for wildflowers and other signs of spring. Learn why forest wildflowers bloom at this time. **2:00 PM.**

May 13 Backyard Habitats - Discover the components of a successful backyard wildlife habitat. Take a walk to look for animals using nearby wildlife management areas. Learn simple steps to make your home more wildlife friendly. **2:00 PM.**

May 20 Blue Trail Hike - Hike this scenic trail as it meanders through the hills and along the Blue Brook. See what signs of spring can be found. **2:00 PM.**

May 27 Salamander Search - Hike the trails in search of these elusive amphibians under rocks and logs. Learn how to catch, identify and release northern two-lined, redback and slimy salamanders. **2:00 PM.**

2017 Summer Camps & Family Programs Spaces Still Available....

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is pleased to announce that registration for Trailside's popular Summer Camp and Family Programs is available online. As of January 1, 2017 a NEW online registration system, designed to make access to our Parks & Recreation services easy and convenient is now available.

Register at www.ucnj.org/trailside

Please make sure all of your family members are included in your new account with correct ages. The Summer Camp brochure with detailed program information is available on the Trailside website listed above.



Pre-first grade programs

Half & full-day camps for
grades 1- 9

Friday Family programs

Tuesday Evening programs

Family Evening Campfire

Over-night Family Campout
for Beginners

In-person registration is welcome at the Trailside Visitor Center daily from 12:00-4:45 PM. Please read all general & cancellation policies before registering. Call Trailside at 908-789-3670 for more information.

WILD EARTH FEST

at Trailside Nature & Science Center



APRIL 30, 2017

11 AM - 5 PM

RAIN or SHINE

An entertaining family event to celebrate the Earth. Learn ways to become eco-friendly & increase your awareness of wildlife conservation.

- Live Animal Demonstrations & Educational Displays
- Fun Family Activities For All Ages
- Music, Face Painting, Recycling Olympics, Eco-Art, Giveaways and Vendors
- Wildlife Photography Contest and Environmental Hero Award Winners Announced

Please, No Pets Permitted.



“Get Your Green On...”

ADMISSION: \$4 per person,
Ages 6 & under FREE

Includes admission to Touch A Truck Event in loop

Trailside Nature & Science Center
452 New Providence Road
Mountainside, NJ 07092
(908)789-3670
www.ucnj.org/trailside



Touch A Truck

at Watchung Reservation Lower Loop Parking Lot

APRIL 30, 2017

11 AM - 5 PM

Quiet Time is 11:00 AM - Noon

(Rain Date is May 7)

Admission: \$4/person, ages 6 & under FREE.

Includes admission to Wild Earth Fest Event at Trailside's lower field

Please, No Pets Permitted.



Youngsters are invited to climb aboard dump trucks, bulldozers, police cars, HAZMAT response units and "The Bear" used by the Union County SWAT team in emergencies.

For more information visit www.ucnj.org.

Spring Garden Fair & Plant Sale

at Trailside Nature & Science Center

SUNDAY, May 21, 2017

Noon - 4 PM Rain or Shine

No Credit Cards Accepted * No Pets Please

***FREE ADMISSION * CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
GARDEN TOURS * LARGE VARIETY OF PLANTS FOR SALE***

For general information and a list of plants offered, visit the Union County Master Gardeners' website

<http://mastergardeners-uc.org/>

Or call 908-654-9852

RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station



Trailside Nature & Science Center



www.ucnj.org/trailside

(908) 789-3670

452 NEW PROVIDENCE ROAD
MOUNTAINSIDE, NEW JERSEY 07092

A facility of the Union County Department of Parks & Recreation

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