

A SERVICE OF THE
UNION COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN
FREEHOLDERS



UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!

Register
Online



**Experience Nature
at Trailside**

February & March 2017

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 both you and your child. 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.

Classes fill quickly, so please register soon.

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

TRAILSIDE HOLIDAY HOURS



Normal Operating Hours 12 - 5 p.m. on

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - January 16

President's Day - February 20

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

NEW

Register online at www.ucnj.org/trailside and click the **Online Registration** tab. 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 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
-

- Feb. 23 or 24** **Shell Search** - Leave winter behind and take an imaginary vacation to a seaside resort. Look along the sandy beaches for shells and dive under the water to learn about the creatures who lurk below. Use the shells you collect to create a seashore scene to take home.
- Mar. 2 or 3** **What is a Mammal?** - Learn how mammals are different from birds, reptiles or insects. Identify some amazing mammals of the Watchung Reservation. Take a walk outdoors and see if we can find any mammal neighbors.
- Mar. 9 or 10** **All About Opposites** - Big and little, first and last, up and down, stop and go...yes and nooooo! Explore the world of opposites that we use every day by playing engaging and interactive games.
- Mar. 16 or 17** **Alpha BasiC** - Go on an alphabet scavenger hunt to find Animal Homes, Birds, Cottontail rabbits, Deer tracks, Ever greens and more. Afterwards, we'll sing the alphabet song as we put our finds in order.
- Mar. 23 or 24** **Tropical Rainforests** - Investigate a tropical rainforest from forest floor to the top layer, over 200 feet high! Discover the unique sites and sounds of this special place.
- Mar. 30 or 31** **April Fool** - Learn how camouflage, warning colors and mimicry help animals capture their prey or keep from being eaten. Search outside for some of nature's tricks!

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

Feb. 21 or 22 Under the Sea - Use your imagination on a journey through the mysterious ocean world. Learn which creatures make seashells, where "Dory & Nemo" live and who is the largest animal living in the sea.

Feb. 28 or Mar. 1 Marvelous Mammals - Learn the characteristics of a mammal. Feel deer, rabbit and bear fur. Examine skulls and furs up close. Search outside for mammals and their footprints.

Mar. 7 or 8 Big, Small, Short & Tall - Look for opposites in nature. Examine pine cones *big* and *small*, find seashells *black* and *white*, discover animals active in the *day* and in the *night*.

Mar. 14 or 15 ABC's of Nature - Work together on a scavenger hunt exploring Trailside's exhibits for aphids, blue jays, chipmunks and more. Take a walk outside to find more of nature's alphabet.

Mar. 21 or 22 Rainforest Romp - Discover the different kinds of plants and animals that live in a rainforest. Measure the amount of rain that falls, listen to tropical sounds and make a paper parrot to take home.

Mar. 28 or 29 Crazy Camouflage - Learn how the color, shape and texture of animals have helped them survive! Play "camouflage" to see how well you would survive in the wild.

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: Tues., 9:45 - 11:00 AM or Wed., 1:15-2:30 PM

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

- Feb. 21 or 22** **Ocean Wonders** - Investigate the diversity of life found in oceans around the world. "Fish" for fun facts on sharks, dolphins, jellyfish, crabs and sea turtles.
- Feb. 28 or Mar. 1** **Mammal Mayhem** - Mammals are found throughout the world and live in a variety of habitats. Discover the characteristics of mammals and find out which ones live around Trailside.
- Mar. 7 or 8** **Outrageous Opposites** - Learn about the *biggest* animal in the Watchung Reservation and some of our *smallest* animal neighbors. Have fun exploring nature in search of opposites.
- Mar. 14 or 15** **ABC Scavenger Hunt** – Investigate Trailside's exhibits while practicing your ABC's. Find **A**sh trees, **B**ox turtles, **C**orn snakes, **D**owny woodpeckers and more.
- Mar. 21 or 22** **Tropical Treasures** - Heat up the winter months by discovering interesting facts about the mystical rainforests around the world. Learn why these forests are important and what you can do to protect them.
- Mar. 28 or 29** **Camouflaged Critters** - Can you find animals when they play hide and seek? Participate in animal camouflage games to learn how animals use color and shape to stay safe.

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

Feb. 23 Wild Weather - Discover how sun, air and water affect the weather. Learn interesting facts about weather phenomenon including lightning, thunder and hurricanes. Find out how clouds are formed and make a cloud chart to take home.

Mar. 2 Natural Wonders - Find out about the tallest, largest and oldest living organisms to ever inhabit the Earth. Build a pyramid of plants, herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. Learn how plants and animals use each other to survive.

Mar. 9 Skywatchers - Discover planets, galaxies and stars of the night sky. Learn stories behind the legendary constellations of Orion the Hunter, Draco the Dragon and the Big Dipper. Take part in an astrology scavenger hunt and create your own constellation to take home.

Mar. 16 Pirates of the Watchungs - Navigate around the Watchung Reservation using a map and compass. Hear the story of Nobeard and go on a hunt for his treasure. Arrrgh!

Mar. 23 Escape Artists - Practice sneaking, hopping, chasing, freezing and fleeing as you learn about the remarkable ways animals keep themselves safe from danger.

Mar. 30 Sense-sory Games – Explore the outdoors with your senses. Use your “raccoon paws” to feel for food under the water. Discover how chipmunks, frogs, insects and other animals use their senses to survive.

FEBRUARY FESTIVITIES

Register
Online!



The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders presents special programs for families and adults during the Presidents' Day Holiday. Programs are recommended for families with children ages 5 & up.

Register online at:
www.ucnj.org/trailside

Select the Online Registration tab. Walk-ins will be accommodated as space permits.

Fee: \$5/person IC
\$6/person OC

SATURDAY, FEB. 18 OR MONDAY, FEB. 20

THE JOURNEY OF SAP TO SYRUP

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

See how 100% real maple syrup is made from the sap of a sugar maple tree. Find out what equipment is needed to collect sap and take part in a taste test to see if you can identify the real thing.

ANIMAL CLUE WINTER WALK

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Search for buck rubs, animal tracks, nibbled twigs and other signs that tell us our animal neighbors have visited. Warm up around a campfire with hot chocolate and toast marshmallows.

KINDLING KITS

1:30 - 2:30 PM

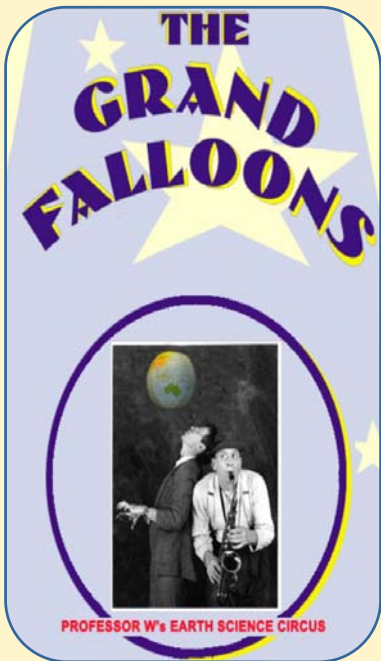
Keeping warm by an open fire has a lot of appeal, but getting the blaze going can be tough. Collect sticks, twigs, holly, evergreen sprigs & pinecones to create a kit that will start a winter fire blazing.

Feb. 18th
ONLY

FEBRUARY FESTIVITIES

PRESIDENTS' DAY, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

FEATURE MATINEE



THE GRAND FALLOONS PRESENTS
PROFESSOR W'S
EARTH SCIENCE CIRCUS

Children will enjoy magic, juggling and exciting circus fun as Professor W takes them on a unique and lively exploration of "Our Earth."

*Sponsored by Union County
Clean Communities.*

Recommended for children ages 4 and up. Space is limited. Tickets go on sale at 1 PM Monday, Feb. 20 at the Visitor Service Desk.

No strollers please.

Fee: \$5/person.

\$4/Senior Citizen

Meet "Curby" Union County's new, fun and interactive Recycling Robot. Discover how you can become more environmentally aware and help prevent litter. Curby is a fully animated robot who moves, speaks, listens and plays music.

Curby was funded in part by a NJDEP Recycling Education Grant and Union County's Clean Communities Grant which promotes litter free education.



TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP

Register
Online!

Healthy Water, Healthy People

Thursday, March 9

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The goal of this workshop is to encourage investigation of the connections between water quality, environmental and human health. This is an advanced workshop best suited for educators teaching grades 6-12, who have taken a Project WET workshop and who have basic water chemistry background. **Participants receive 6 NJDOE professional development credits.** Morning refreshments provided. **For:** Adults, ages 18 & older. **Bring:** a lunch. **Fee: \$20/IC or OC.** Curriculum guide included.

TRAILSIDE TALKS

*Programs for adults and High School Students.
Preregistration preferred. Walk-ins welcomed.*

Register
Online!

Theodore Roosevelt: American in the Arena

Tuesday, March 14

7:00 - 8:00 PM



The American Historical Theatre offers a compelling theatrical re-enactment, made possible **in part by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.** When President McKinley was assassinated in 1901, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt bounded into Washington, D.C. as the youngest President in American history. Bringing his vigorous persona to the White House, "TR" helped catapult the U.S. into a new century. His accomplishments were plentiful and diverse: War hero to Nobel peace Prize winner, naturalist to imperialist.

Fee: Free. Donations are welcomed.

Public Gardens of New Jersey

Tuesday, March 21

7:00 - 8:00 PM

Enjoy early spring through a power point tour of more than 20 public gardens in New Jersey, part of the Garden State Gardens Consortium. Michael Gross, Director of the Sister Mary Grace Burns Arboretum, offers commentary on each garden, covering their location, history, highlights of their plant collections and featured programs. The gardens in the consortium include former estates, national historic landmarks, county and municipal parks, museums and universities. **Fee: \$10/IC, \$12/OC.**

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Register
Online!



The World of Birds Around Us Saturday, March 25

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Pete Bacinski, retired *NJ Audubon Birds Program Director*, introduces you and your family to the world of backyard birds right here in New Jersey. How do you get hooked on bird watching? What are the benefits and challenges to birding? Enjoy a power point presentation illustrating the variety and beauty of our local avian population.

Recommended for:

Adults with children ages 10 & up.

Fee: \$10/IC, \$12/OC

ASTRONOMY DAY AT TRAILSIDE

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

1:00 - 4:00 PM

ADMISSION IS FREE



Presented by the Amateur Astronomers, Inc.

Presentations on astronomy suitable for the entire family. Enjoy children's activities, presentations on meteorites, solar observing and information on the great American 2017 solar eclipse.

STARGAZING AT UNION COUNTY COLLEGE

7:30 - 10:30 PM

Visit the William Miller Sperry Observatory for an evening of night sky gazing (weather permitting). 1033 Springfield Ave. Cranford,

For additional information visit the Amateur Astronomers, Inc. at www.asterism.org or email info@asterism.org.

SATURDAY OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Families with children of all ages are invited to take part in weekly theme hikes/nature related talks. Programs last about 45 minutes. Dress appropriately for the program and the weather. For scout programs, please see our group brochure. **Donations appreciated.**

Mar. 11 Winter Seasonal - Explore the Watchung Reservation in winter. Hike the nursery trails to search for deer paths, rabbit tracks and other animal signs. Learn to identify some animal neighbors by footprints left behind. **2:00 PM.**



Mar. 18 Winter Tree I.D. - Discover why trees lose their leaves for the winter. Work with your family to use buds, branches and bark to identify tulip, beech, dogwood and walnut trees. Learn which tree smells fruity, looks like an elephant's foot or has bark like an alligator's skin. **2:00 PM.**

Mar. 25 Early Spring Hike - As spring arrives, plants, trees and animals are becoming active. Explore the Reservation for young leaves, spring peeper frogs, groundhogs and other signs of spring. **2:00 PM.**

Trailside 2017 Summer Camp Program Registration Begins March 4th at 9:00 AM for Union County Residents

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is pleased to announce that registration for Trailside's popular Summer Camp and Family Programs will be available online.

Visit www.ucnj.org/trailside & select Online Registration tab.

A new online registration system, designed to make access to our services easy and convenient, has been adopted. We highly recommend you create an account and password on the Union County Online Registration site, if you have not already done so, prior to Saturday, March 4. Please make sure you include all family members participating in Trailside's summer programs. The brochure will be available online and in print before registration begins.

Please read all general & cancellation policies before registering.



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 wel-
come at the Trailside Visitor

Center on March 4 from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Cash and credit
cards accepted. We are unable to accept personal checks as
of January 1, 2017.

All residents, including non-county residents, may register online
beginning Monday, March 6 at 9:00 AM. In-person registration
will continue daily noon to 4:45 PM until classes close out.

WILD EARTH FEST

at Trailside Nature & Science Center

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



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, April 30, 2017
11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.



Live Animal Demonstrations Educational Displays * Children's Crafts
Music * Eco Art * Free Face Painting * Recycling Olympics
Family Fun For All Ages!*

**Environmental Hero Awards
and Wildlife Photography Contest Winners Announced.**

*For more information on how to participate in these contests, please
call Trailside at 908-789-3670.*

Touch A Truck

at Watchung Reservation Lower Loop Parking Lot



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 serious emergencies.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, April 30, 2017
11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

For more information about these Union County special events
visit www.ucnj.org.

JOIN THE TRAILSIDE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

The Trailside Museum Association (TMA) is Trailside Nature and Science Center's volunteer support group. The mission of this organization is to assist staff in their ongoing efforts to interest and educate people in all phases of nature, science, conservation and related recreation, through funding projects and as volunteers.

TMA was formed in 1956. Members staffed the museum store, provided funds for the construction of a classroom and donated money towards many of the old museum's displays.

More recently TMA funded the construction of the large resin American Beech tree, or "tree of life," and the taxidermy animals associated with it. Additionally funding was provided for a spotting scope for use in birding programs, a condition assessment of Trailside's taxidermy collection, computerized, interactive kiosks and construction of a "backyard" pond that can be viewed from the Visitor's Center.

TMA members will receive a Trailside Newsletter announcing special TMA events, including their annual fall hayride. Articles highlighting seasonal activity in the Watchung Reservation, environmental issues, facility improvements, volunteer achievements and staff biographies are featured in each edition. Members also receive a 20% discount at the museum shop.

Individual membership: \$15/year

Family membership: \$20/year

A gift of \$250 or more will be recognized on an engraved leaf of our Giving Tree, permanently displayed in the renovated Visitor Center.

Checks can be made out to

TRAILSIDE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

and are tax deductible. For a TMA brochure, please call Trailside at 908-789-3670.

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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**THIS LOCATION HAS
WIRELESS ACCESS**

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www.ucnj.org

