A Service of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders

line!



UNION COUNTY

We're Connected to You!



October - December 2015

TRAILSIDE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER 452 NEW PROVIDENCE ROAD MOUNTAINSIDE, NEW JERSEY 07092 (908) 789-3670

www.ucnj.org/trailside

A facility of the Union County Department of Parks & Recreation

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.

Read on for information about programs that children can take part in with an adult, drop-off workshops for children ages 4 to 6, afterschool workshops for grade school children, family programs, adult workshops, teacher training opportunities and special events.

Classes fill quickly, so please register soon, before the programs you want are filled!



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

Operating Hours 12 - 5 p.m. on the following holidays:

Labor Day, September 7 Columbus Day - October 12 Election Day, November 3 Veteran's Day, November 11

Trailside will be CLOSED on the following days:

Thanksgiving Recess - November 26 & 27 Christmas Eve & Christmas Day - December 24 & 25 New Year's Eve & New Year's Day - Dec. 31 & Jan. 1

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

- Three ways to register for workshops:
 - Register online at www.ucnj.org/trailside and click the **Online Registration** tab.
 - Register in-person 12:00 4:45 PM daily at Trailside.
 - Register by mail.
- To register, specify classes on the registration form in the center of this brochure and mail it with your check or deliver it to Trailside. Please use a separate registration sheet for each child. Call Trailside for space availability *prior* to sending payment.
- Checks made payable to "County of Union."
- Trailside can accept Visa, MasterCard, AMEX & Discover in person. Credit card payments cannot be accepted over the phone or by mail.
- In the event of inclement weather, call Trailside for cancellations.
- 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. Re-scheduling for a rain date is not considered a cancellation.
- Trailside credit will be issued ONLY if the program is cancelled by the registrant at least three (3) days in advance OR if we can find a substitute from the waiting list. 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.
- For programs that meet off-site, see the enclosed map or call Trailside for directions.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

TODDLER TIME

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

- 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. Pre-register.
- WHEN: Thursday 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
- Oct. 8 Blowin' in the Wind ...floating on the water, stuck on or 9 an animal's fur. Seeds have different ways of traveling to new places to grow. Hike through field and forest to find cones, nuts, berries, fruits and pods.
- Oct. 15 Monarchs to Mexico Find out about these incredible insects that travel to Mexico for a long winter *siesta*. Take a look at their life cycle, visit Trailside's butterfly garden and search outdoors for these beautiful butterflies.
- Oct. 22 Fall Fun Hike around the reservation to see the changes or 23 that occur during fall. Look for animals preparing for winter, find out where some birds go and search for fall colors along the way.
- Oct. 29 or 30 The Bare Bones - Capture the spirit of Halloween as we look at some not-so-spooky animal skulls and skeletons. Examine their teeth and try to find out if they ate plants or if they were meat eaters.
- **Nov. 5** The Counting Craze One, two, three, four, come along and count some more! Count petals on a flower, seeds in a



pod, points on a snowflake, legs on a bug and much more.

Nov. 12 or 13 Shapes in Nature - Circles, squares, triangles, hearts and stars. Can you find all these shapes in nature? Enjoy looking for spots on a turtle, triangles on a fish and hearts on a tree. You'll be amazed at all the shapes you can find!

Toddler Time continued...

Nov. 19 or 20 Woodpecker Wonders - Look and listen for these birds as we take a short hike in the woods. Search for dead trees and discover how woodpeckers use them as fast food restaurants and apartment houses.



Dec. 3 Snakes & Turtles - Discover what snakes and turtles have in common and find out where they sleep for the winter. Practice slithering like a snake and crawling like a turtle. Meet live snakes and turtles from Trailside's collection.

Dec. 10 or 11 Short or Tall - Take a look around, what do you see? Who is that, taller than me? Find out how you measure up to the tallest tree and the shortest animal. Have fun comparing heights of plants, animals and people!

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. Pre-register. 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
- Oct. 6 or 7 Join us on a walk to the meadow as we search for seeds with "wings," seeds that hitch a ride on animals and seeds that are eaten by birds, mammals and insects.
- Oct. 13 or 14 Monarch Migration - Monarch butterflies are off to Mexico for the winter. Learn about their lifecycle, from egg to butterfly, and look for them sipping nectar in gardens and meadows around Trailside.

Two of Us continued...

- Oct. 20 or 21 The Colors of Fall - Hike through the Watchung Reservation in search of red, yellow, orange and purple fall colors. Learn why the leaves change color in autumn. Collect leaves to make a colorful fall craft to take home.
- Oct. 27 or 28 Skeleton in the Closet - Capture the spirit of Halloween at Trailside. Examine the not-so-spooky skulls of deer, raccoon, coyote and bear to discover if they eat plants or meat.
- Nov. 3 or 4 The 1, 2, 3's of Trailside - Get ready to count every thing in nature from snowflakes and paw prints to seeds and rocks. Make a counting book of your own to take home.



Nov. 10 or 11 What's the Shape? - Hunt for hexagons, search for circles and seek out squares as we investigate shapes in nature. Work cooperatively on a scavenger hunt to find a mitten shaped leaf, a heart shaped petal, a rectangular tree trunk and a triangular rock.

Nov. 17 or 18 Wild About Woodpeckers - Trailside is home to downy, hairy, red-bellied and pileated woodpeckers. Stop by Trailside's Bird Attraction Area to see if any woodpeckers are visiting and take a short walk outside to search for signs of these amazing birds.

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

- WHEN:
 Tuesdays, 9:45 11:00 AM
 or Wednesdays, 1:15-2:30 PM

 FEE:
 Per class:
 IC \$10/child
 OC \$12/child
- Oct. 6 Getting Around Plants spread seeds in unusual ways. or 7 They travel by air, water and by animal! Hike to find an assortment of seeds and try to guess how they get around.
- Oct. 13 or 14 Milkweed & Monarchs - Monarch butterflies depend on the milkweed plant for their survival. Investigate the lifecycle of the monarch butterfly from egg to adult and find out what monarchs do for the winter. Visit butterfly gardens and meadows in search of these beautiful insects.
- Oct. 20 or 21 Fall Frolic - Learn how animals like chipmunks, grass hoppers and deer are preparing for winter. Find out where some birds go for the cold winter months, discover why squirrels are collecting so many nuts and have fun investigating the exciting season of fall!
- Oct. 27 or 28 What's on the Inside? - Halloween is a great time to study "dem bones." Have a *bone-chillin*' good time as we study the skulls and teeth of different animals to try and discover what they eat.
- Nov. 3 or 4 Numbers in Nature - How many points on a snowflake? How many seeds do dandelions produce? Which plant has leaves of three? Look at leaves, open seeds, investigate insects and count the numerous gifts nature has to offer.



Small Fry Days Continued...

- Nov. 10 or 11 Searching for Shapes - Can you find a leaf that is shaped like a heart? A tree with a circular hole? A rectangular rock? Have fun looking for all different shapes in nature. See if you can find circles, squares, stars, rectangles, triangles and diamonds on a hike through the reservation.
- Nov. 17 or 18 Watchung Woodpeckers - Learn to identify local woodpeckers by sight and sound. Find out how they use trees for homes and fast food. Visit the Bird Attraction Area to see if any woodpeckers are visiting and take a walk to search for homes, hideouts and snack bars.
- Dec. 1 or 2 Reptilemania - Feel real turtle shells and a shed snake skin as you learn what all reptiles have in common. Practice smelling like a snake and hiding like a turtle. Meet some live reptiles from Trailside's collection.
- **Dec. 8** or 9 Inch By Inch - Compare and contrast the many different sizes of animals and plant life found in the wild. Learn how the size of an animal or plant helps it survive.



GRADE SCHOOL PROGRAM AFTERSCHOOL EXPLORATIONS

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

- WHO: 1st 3rd graders. Pre-register.
- WHEN: Thursdays, 3:30-4:45 PM
- FEE: Per class: IC \$10/child OC \$12/child
- Oct. 8 Minibeasts Who lives in the soil? Discover which creatures are the gardeners, hunters and garbage collectors. Look for them under rocks and logs and find out why they are important.
- Oct. 15 Migrating Monarchs All butterflies have an interesting life cycle, but monarchs are special. Inspect the butterfly garden and meadow for some of the late departures and take part in the Butterfly Migration Game to discover the perils these amazing insects face on their long journeys.
- Oct. 22 The Colors of Fall Hike through the Watchung Reservation in search of red, yellow, orange and purple fall colors. Collect leaves, rocks and seeds to make a colorful fall craft to take home.
- Oct. 29 Cavernous Caves Just in time for Halloween, find out how caves are formed and learn which animals live in these hidden habitats. Have fun playing games to learn how cave dwelling animals use their senses of hearing and smelling to survive in the dark.
- **Nov. 5 Rock Collecting** Get ready for the Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show this weekend as we learn the geologic history of the Watchung Reservation. Take part in a rock collecting expedition and collect lava rocks, glacier rocks and rocks made from sand and clay to take home with you.



Afterschool Explorations continued...

- Nov. 12 Rainforest Romp Discover the wonderful diversity of wildlife that inhabits the rainforests of South America. Have fun learning interesting facts about three-toed sloths, giant anteaters, jaguars and more.
- Nov. 19 Native American Sky Lore Native Americans kept their history alive by passing on their stories from generation to generation. Often stars or groups of stars were used to tell stories about a person, animal or event. Learn how the Big Dipper told the story of the changing seasons and the Harvest Moon signaled when to gather crops. Make a dream catcher craft to take home.
- **Dec. 3 Shark Attack** Dive into the wonderful world of sharks! Learn about the various species of sharks throughout the world and discover which types are found off the New Jersey coast. Separate fact from fiction as we determine if sharks are really ferocious beasts or practical predators.
- **Dec. 10 Gimme Shelter** What is most important for wilderness survival? Shelter! Learn to construct a simple survival shelter without tools that will keep you warm and cozy on the coldest winter night.



FAMILY PROGRAMS 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**.

- Oct. 10 Hawk Watch At this time of year, thousands of hawks migrate along the ridges of the Watchung Mountains. Learn about the lifestyles of these fascinating birds and how to identify them. Bring binoculars if you have them. 2 PM.
- Oct. 17 White-tailed Deer Learn about Watchung Reservation's largest year-round residents, the white-tailed deer. Look at fur and antlers up-close and search the trails for signs of deer. 2 PM.
- Nov. 14 Lenape Lifestyles Discover the Lenape Native American lifestyle and where they lived. Visit Trailside's Lenape exhibit to learn about their lifestyles and take a walk to look for plants and trees the Lenape used to help cure colds, construct wigwams and build canoes. 2 PM.
- Nov. 21 Turkey Tales Did you know: Benjamin Franklin wanted to make the turkey our national bird? A turkey can reach a speed of 55 mph in flight? A group of turkeys is called a flock? Gobble up some more fun facts and take a walk to look for signs of this often secretive bird. 2 PM.



ADULT WORKSHOPS

Basic Digital Photography Workshop Saturday, October 10

10 AM - 1 PM

This workshop is ideal for any student who hopes to familiarize themselves with their single lens reflex digital camera or sophisticated "point and shoot" camera with fully manual settings. Professional photographer Joan Pamboukes will bring clarity to such topics as focal length, aperture, shutter speeds, and white balance. Composition and basic lighting strategies will also be



addressed. Please bring your camera system (with a fully charged battery), the manual and a tripod, if possible. Weather permitting, we will walk around the grounds and create beautiful images together. Otherwise we will work indoors. By the end of the class, basic camera functions will no longer be a mystery. Fee: \$45/IC, \$55/OC.

Healthy Eating for a Healthy Life Tuesday, October 13

Join Sharon Goldner, nutritionist, health care coach and author of "Recipe for a Healthy Life," as she shares tips for taking better control of your productivity and happiness with simple changes in behavior and diet. Learn the connection between the quality of your life and your diet. Find out how to choose meals and snacks that will keep you focused, avoiding energy dips throughout the day. Useful handouts and recipes will be provided.

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

Exploring our Solar System Friday, October 16

NASA Solar Ambassador Paul Cirillo takes his audience on a breathtaking photographic tour of planets, asteroids and comets. The lecture will highlight the current and future space missions that NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory planned to explore these celestial wonders. The speaker will show how internet resources can be accessed for additional information. There will be ample time for questions and answers. Fee: Free. Donations are welcomed.

7 - 8 PM

7 - 8 PM

Flower Arranging Monday, November 9

Dress your holiday table with beauty. Watch as Kurt Christoffers, floral designer and owner of the innovative Christoffers Flowers of Mountainside, demonstrates how to arrange a centerpiece using nature's best harvest. Relax as vou watch Kurt masterfully design an artistic piece. Floral material and a container will be provided. Bring: Your own shears or clippers if you have them. Then create your own unique arrangement to take home. Fee: \$25/IC. \$30/OC.

Bee Colony Crisis Friday, November 13

7 - 8 PM

Bee Colony Crisis has had a deleterious impact on many agricultural crops world-wide. The decline of the bee population in our country has significantly increased the cost to farmers. Tim Schuler, New Jersey State Apiarist, will lecture on three causes of trauma to the European Honey Bee. Enhanced by a power point presentation, the lecture will define the ecological problems we face, the impact on the bee-keeping industry and how professional bee keepers and hobbyists have responded to this crisis. Fee: Free. Donations welcomed

Teacher Training: WILD Aquatic Thursday, December 10

This workshop is for teachers K-12 to learn new ideas and activities to bring back to the classroom. Developed by the Council for Environmental Education, in compliance with the NJ Core Curriculum standards, Project WILD Aquatic, which is part of the Project WILD curriculum, emphasizes aquatic wildlife and ecosystems. Based on the premise that young people and educators alike have an interest in learning about our natural world, this program underscores wildlife's intrinsic value and addresses the need for us all to be responsible stewards of our planet. Hands-on activities are designed for integration into existing courses of study for formal and non-formal educators. Participants receive six (6) NJDOE professional education credits. Guidebook included. Morning refreshments served. Bring: Lunch. Fee: \$15/IC or OC.

Pre-registration is required for all classes. Workshops are for adults, ages 18 & older. Doors open 15 minutes before program.

7 - 8 PM

9 AM - 3 PM



Star Party

Saturday, November 14 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM



Join Members of Amateur Astronomers, Inc. (AAI) from Sperry Observatory in Cranford for an evening of star-gazing and presentations on the night sky. Enjoy information on astronomy topics and constellations in easy-to-understand language in Trailside's auditorium. Information on the New Horizons Mission to the Pluto System will be featured. Afterwards go outside (weather permitting) to view the Moon, which will be near first quarter phase, and other celestial objects and nebulas. Pre-registration is preferred. Call Trailside 908-789-3670. **Fee:** Free. Donations welcomed. Dress appropriately for the weather.





Meet: Trailside Visitor Center. Lower Level. Donations appreciated.

SPECIAL EVENTS

34th ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 27th , 11 AM - 5 PM Admission: \$4/person, children ages 7 & under free Fees are charged for some activities

Celebrate America's heritage at the County's annual Harvest Festival. Visitors will see demonstrations of how early Americans lived and performed daily tasks. Activities planned for the entire family include:

• Live Music • Colonial & Native American Crafts • Farmer's Market •Revolutionary War Encampment • Children's Crafts • Pumpkin Patch

•Sales & Demonstrations • Petting Zoo • Pony Rides •Build a Scarecrow • Entertainment & Exhibits





FOUR CENTURIES IN A WEEKEND AT THE DESERTED VILLAGE

Admission: Free

Saturday, October 17, 10 AM - 5 PM Sunday, October 18, Noon - 5 PM

Guided tours: 2 PM each day with "The Ghost of David Felt"



Take a self guided walking tour of the historic Deserted Village of Feltville at any time during the two day period. Learn the history of this local treasure, take a hayride, see a demonstration of apple cider pressing, play oldfashioned games, talk to an archaeologist, see a display of various artifacts recovered during excavations around the site and wan-

der through the renovated Masker's Barn carriage house. Meet the ghost of David Felt in his general store and hear from him how he built and ran his quasi-Utopian mill town of Feltville in the mid-1800's.



ROCK, GEM & JEWELRY SHOW

Saturday & Sunday November 7 & 8, Noon - 5p.m.

- Over 20 vendors selling minerals, rocks, gems, jewelry and fossils from around the world!
- Demonstrations of gemstone cutting & polishing.
- Bring your collectibles from home to have a geologist identify your minerals, rocks and fossils.
- Educational rock and mineral displays.



SUNDAY'S children's activities fossil rubbings, puzzles, touch table.

HOLIDAY NATURE CRAFT SHOW



Featuring Charity Drive, Menorah & Tree Lighting & Tree Decorating Contest

Sunday, December 6 11 AM - 5 PM

Admission: An item of dry or canned food or a new, unwrapped toy for local charities.

Usher in this festive season at **Union County's Tree & Menorah Light***ing Ceremony.* Enjoy a visit from Santa, caroling and more. The Trailside Visitor Center will be packed with wonderful, unique, handmade crafts and gift items for sale. All crafts are made of natural materials or have a nature theme.



TICKET SALES IN THREE LOCATIONS!



HAYRIDES & CAMPFIRES HAUNTED HAYRIDES GREAT PUMPKIN SAIL

Visit one of our three Union County Parks & Recreation locations:

- 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth (908) 527-4900
 M F: 8:30 AM 4:00 PM
- 300 North Avenue East in Westfield, (908) 654-9805
 M F: 8:30 AM 4:00 PM
 Th: 8:30 AM 6:30 PM

or

 Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside, (908) 789-3670 Daily (including weekends), Noon - 4:45 PM.

Tickets generally sell out very quickly, are non-refundable and non-exchangeable. No group sales please.

HAYRIDES & CAMPFIRES

Fridays, Beginning at 6:30 PM September 18 at Warinanco Park in Elizabeth October 2, 9, & 16 at Watchung Reservation in Mountainside (participants must check in by 8 pm)

Special Day & Time: Sunday, October 4; 3:30 - 6:30 pm (participants must check in by 5 pm)

Fee: IC - \$6/person OC - \$12/person

Enjoy a hayride, roast marshmallows and sip hot chocolate around a campfire to the sound of a folk singer.

Tickets go on sale September 1st.

No tickets will be sold at the rides. See Ticket Sale information about ticket sale locations/times.

Limit of 15 tickets per person. For information on booking a private hayride for scouts or groups exceeding 15 people, please call 908-527-4900.



Special Events continued...

HAUNTED HAYRIDES OF THE DESERTED VILLAGE October 23, 24 & 25

Rides are scheduled every half hour Friday, Saturday & Sunday beginning at 6:30 pm.

Fee: \$8 per person for Union County residents per person** \$16 per person for non-county residents

Limit 8 tickets per person

Tickets go on sale September 16th.



See ticket sale information on previous page for sale locations.

For ages 6 & up with adult. Strollers cannot be accommodated.

Experience an entire village of haunted houses filled with ghosts who actually lived and died there. Fifty visitors at a time will take a 25-minute hayride around the 130acre grounds of this National-Register listed historic site. The ghost of David Felt, who built this former mill town in 1845, will

briefly explain the history of the site. As Mr. Felt tells stories of mystery and tragedy from the Deserted Village's past, the stories come to life.

Visitors will then take a short walk on a footpath in the darkened forest to the village's Revolutionary War era cemetery and learn of those buried there. The total program length is about one hour.



- Tickets are sold for rides at specific times as noted on your ticket.
- Ticket holders arriving late may not be accommodated. Late arrivals may be placed on later rides if space allows.
- Please bring a flashlight and dress accordingly.

Special Events continued...

THE GREAT PUMPKIN SAIL

Sunday, November 1 (Rain Date: Monday, November 2)



At Echo Lake Park in Mountainside/Westfield

- lower lake off Springfield Avenue. Tickets must be purchased in advance. See ticket sale information on previous page for sale locations.

Tickets go on sale October 1st.

Tickets will be sold for 3 time sessions:

Session I: 5:15-6:30 PM Session II: 6:45-8:00 PM Session III: 8:15-9:30 PM

Admission: IC - \$12 per family up to six (6) people OC - \$16 per family up to six (6) people

Limit 2 tickets/person

On the night after Halloween, join us as we illuminate Echo Lake Park with a sea of jack-o-lanterns. We will provide candles, pumpkin floats, hot chocolate, marshmallows and entertainment around a campfire.

Please note: Each family is limited to one jack-o-lantern with a lid. Weight after carving may not exceed 8 pounds.*





Call Trailside at **908-789-3670** for additional information on these exciting programs and upcoming events or visit us online **www.ucnj.org/trailside**.





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