A Service of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders

UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!

Spring At Trailside

Online Registration

Celebrating 75 Years of Environmental Education

TRAILSIDE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER
452 NEW PROVIDENCE ROAD
MOUNTAINSIDE, NEW JERSEY 07092
(908) 789-3670
www.ucnj.org/trailside

Trailside Nature & Science Center
TNSC
1941 - 2016
75 YEARS

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 in Mountainside, New Jersey 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.

Children can take part in programs with an adult, drop-off workshops for ages 4 to 6, drop-off 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

Monday, May 30 - Memorial Day - 12 - 5 p.m.

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.

.

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: Wednesdays 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

May 4 or 6 **Cool Clouds -** Clouds are made up of very tiny water drops and they help bring water to all parts of the world. Have fun making different kinds of clouds and take an imaginary hike through the clouds.

May 11 or 13 **POP Goes the Plant -** Gardens filled with flowers, fruits, and vegetables do not just happen on their own. They need somebody to get them started! Learn about the different parts of a plant and what it takes to make them grow. Make a flower pot, plant seeds and watch them grow.

May 18 or 20 **Baby Bunnies Come in Bunches -** Baby cottontail rabbits are very small and are born in a litter. They have no hair and their eyes are not open yet. We will feel real rabbit fur, read a little bunny book and make a bunny craft to take home.

May 25 or 27 **Our Surprising Senses -** Spring is a wonderful time to listen, see, smell and touch. Take a walk to look and listen for chirping birds, colorful flowers and prickly and tickly pine needles. Collect some natural items from our nature investigation to make a craft to take home.

Toddler Time continued...

June 1 or 3 **Bubble-Mania** - Big Bubbles! Tiny Bubbles! Bubble Towers! Bubbles within Bubbles! Participants can bubble to their hearts' content. **Wear clothes that can get wet.**

June 8 or 10 **Tiny Tadpoles and Slippery Frogs** Investigate the lifecycle of frogs, from egg to adult. Take a walk to our outdoor backyard wildlife habitat to look for tiny tadpoles and adult frogs.

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 Thursday, 10:00-11:00 AM
FEE: **Per class: IC** - $10/child & adult **OC** - $12/child & adult

May 3 or 5 **Classic Clouds -** Take an imaginary journey through the clouds to find out what they are made of and how they help the environment. Have fun making clouds that look like marshmallows and others that look like feathers.

May 10 or 12 **Flower Power** - Examine the parts of a flower and find out their importance to animals. Meander through the spring woods and meadow as we go on a flower scavenger hunt. Search for blossoms of all colors, sizes and shapes.

May 17 or 19 **What's Up Doc? -** Check out our storybook rabbits to see how many you know. Then get the scoop on Trailside's real deal, the Eastern cottontail. Find out where they live, what they eat and how they keep from being eaten. Hike to look for rabbit signs.

Two of Us continued…

May 24 My Five Senses - Test your senses on the wonder of spring. **or 26** Feel the sun, smell the flowers, hear the birds, see the sights. (Save your sense of taste for your snack or lunch!)

May 31 or June 2 Bubble Bonanza - It's time for bubble mania! Learn how to make big bubbles, little bubbles and bubble bunches. Have fun making all sorts of bubbles! **Wear clothes that can get wet.**

June 7 or 9 Calling all Kermits - What makes a frog a frog? If you have bulgy eyes, flat ears and a long, sticky tongue for catching bugs you could be a frog *or a toad*. Learn how frogs and toads are similar and different. Take a short walk to our pond habitat and find out if any amphibian neighbors are home.

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 Thursdays, 1:15-2:30 PM
FEE: **Per class: IC** - $10/child **OC** - $12/child

May 3 or 5 **What's In The Sky?** - Clouds come in many shapes and sizes. Use your imagination to search the sky for clouds that look like elephants, dinosaurs and rabbits. Discover what clouds tell us about the weather and make your own cloud to take home.

Small Fry Days continued….

May 10 or 12 **Root to Fruit -** Become a botanist, or plant scientist, and investigate the life cycle of a plant. Start a plant "from scratch" and take it home to see how it grows. Search outside for sprouting plants, colorful flowers and baby trees.

May 17 or 19 **Cottontail Tales** - Find out about some famous storybook bunnies, then get the facts on Trailside's resident rabbits, Eastern cottontails. Hike to search for rabbit signs and identify prime cottontail habitat.

May 24 or 26 **Sensory Scavenger Hunt -** Have fun investigating the natural world using four of our five senses. Touch pine trees that are prickly, see birds that are red, hear insects buzzing and find trees that smell like root beer.

May 31 or June 2 **Bubble Basics -** It's time to go crazy with bubbles! Have fun making GIANT bubbles and tons of tiny bubbles. Make them, chase them pop them! Bubble to your hearts content. **Wear clothes that can get wet.**

June 7 or 9 **Leap Frog** - Investigate the lifecycle of a frog from egg to adult. Learn what they eat, how they grow and where they hide. Practice jumping like a frog from lily pad to lily pad.

GRADE SCHOOL PROGRAMS
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

May 5 **Rad Raptors** - Discover how birds of prey have adapted to rule the skies. Study feathers, talons and beaks of these flying hunters. Hike in search of red-tailed, sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks.

May 12 **Rock Collecting** - 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.

May 19 **Call of the Coyote -** Discover what coyotes eat and how they live. Hear a variety of calls and take a walk to look for coyote signs. Try out your own coyote calls.

May 26 **Bluebird Basics -** The Eastern bluebird was once common along the east coast. Find out what has happened to them and participate in a project that helps our local bluebird population. Learn more about these fascinating birds and make a bluebird craft to take home.

June 2 **Incredible Insects -** Many insects, like ants and bees, have adapted to live in colonies. Find out how living in colonies help these animals survive. Meet live insects from Trailside's collection to discover what all insects have in common and search outside for some incredible insect neighbors.

June 9 **Stream Search -** Discover the diversity of life that is found in a stream. Collect, identify and release crayfish, salamanders and aquatic insects. **Wear shoes that can get wet.**

Special Programs

May 13 Night Owls 7:00-8:00 PM

Find out *whooo* is waking up as you are getting ready for sleep. Learn about the owls that inhabit New Jersey, what they eat and where they live. Practice the calls of the barred, great horned and eastern screech owls. Recommended for families with children ages 5 and older.
***Pre-Registration required. Fee*: IC - $6/person, OC - $7/person**

June 4 National Trails Day

Trail users across the country will be celebrating **National Trails Day** on Saturday, June 4 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 or for more information, please email bkelly@ucnj.org.
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM. FREE.

June 10-11 12th Annual Union County Bio-Blitz

Beginning **5:00 PM on Friday, June 10 through 5:00 PM on Saturday, June 11,** naturalists, nature enthusiasts and scientists are invited to take part in this 24-hour survey for plants and animals living in Black Brook Park and Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth and Kawameeh Park in Union Township. Enjoy FREE interactive activities, live animal and plant displays and nature-related programs. For more information visit **ucnj.org/bio-blitz**.

****

Solar Watches
Saturdays - 1 PM

By popular demand, AAI will return for weekly (weather permitting) Solar Watches beginning on Astronomy Day, Saturday, April 16 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. and continuing into the fall. The solar observing sessions involve a discussion on safety issues about looking at the sun.

Trailside Talks

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

****

Yoga Classes at the Watchung Reservation
Saturdays May 7, 14, 21, 28 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Join Yoga teacher Noelle Strid for outdoor* Yoga in the Watchung Reservation on Saturdays in May to connect with the beauty of spring. Ms. Strid has a background in ecological studies and she incorporates her passion for the natural world into her classes, creating a safe and nurturing space. This class will help create a deeper connection with nature by embracing the outdoor elements, learning breathing techniques and practicing Hatha style yoga. All levels are welcome. Please bring a mat. * Weather permitting (an indoor location will be provided in case of inclement weather.)

Fee for the series: $40/IC, $45/OC

Primitive Skills: Fire Making Workshop
Saturday May 7 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Have you ever experienced being lost in the woods? This workshop will sharpen some of the survival skills you may need in this situation. Discover what to do if you don't have a match or even flint and steel to spark a fire. Join Dr. Peter Sananman, emergency room doctor at the Penn Presbyterian Medical Center in Philadelphia and Director of the Wilderness Survival and Disaster Relief Medicine elective at the University of Pennsylvania, as he teaches you how to build a fire using flint and steel. Find out how to build a bow drill and try your hand at using it to make fire.

Fee: $30/IC, $35/OC

Flower Arranging Workshop
Monday, May 23 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Flower arranging is fun and does not need to be an extravagance. Join master florist Kurt Christoffers of Christoffers Flowers in Mountainside for this unique workshop. Discover how to make flower arrangements easily and economically. Learn how to choose the best vases, the right flowers and how to find and pick beautiful materials in your own backyard. Each participant will take home a simple arrangement of their own creation. Materials included. **Fee: $25/IC, $30/OC**

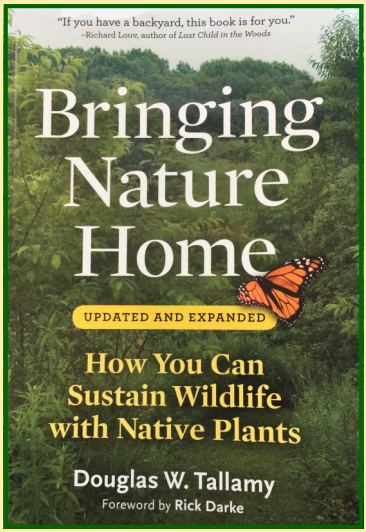
In Honor of Trailside's 75th Anniversary
Sponsored By Trailside Museum Association

Featured Speaker

Bringing Nature Home

With Professor Douglas Tallamy

Saturday, May 14
2:00 - 3:00 PM
Free



"*The wild creatures we enjoy and would like to have in our lives will not be here in the future if we take away their food and the places they live," writes Professor Douglas W. Tallamy.*

Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. He is the highly acclaimed author of ***Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants,*** and the recipient of The Garden Writers Association of America Silver Medal in 2008.

This lecture will offer critically important insights into the changes we are making to the environment and how we can make positive transformative changes on the small scale of our own backyards.

Why is it important to welcome insects to our yards? What are native plants? How can we garden for insect diversity and, in so doing, help to support a native ecosystem?

Learn what we can do to make our landscapes living ecosystems once again, restoring life to our residential properties.

Touch A Truck

at Watchung Reservation Lower Loop Parking Lot

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2016

11 AM - 5 PM
RAIN or SHINE

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

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.

Please, No Pets Permitted.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Bruce H. Bergen, *Chairman*
Sergio Granados, *Vice Chairman*
Linda Carter — Angel G. Estrada
Christopher Hudak — Mohamed S. Jalloh
Bette Jane Kowalski — Alexander Mirabella
Vernell Wright

Alfred J. Faella
County Manager

James E. Pellettiere
Clerk of the Board
Ron Zuber, *Director*
Department of Parks & Recreation

www.ucnj.org

THIS LOCATION HAS WIRELESS ACCESS
THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS