

A Service of the Union County  
Board of Chosen Freeholders



**UNION COUNTY**  
*We're Connected to You!*



# TRAILSIDE

*Nature & Science Center*

## Experience Nature

### Spring 2018



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 may 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 will be closed on Easter: Sunday, April 1.  
Trailside is open on Memorial Day: Monday, May 28.*

## Register online at [www.ucnj.org/trailside](http://www.ucnj.org/trailside).

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

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, Fridays or Saturdays, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

**DRESS:** Appropriately for the weather; if possible, we *will* go outside.

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

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**Apr. 5, 6 or 7** **There's No Place Like Home** - Learn what materials our animal neighbors use to construct their homes. Search for apartment houses, underground burrows and treetop suites.

**Apr. 12, 13 or 14** **Desert Delight** - Believe it or not, desert habitats are filled with many different kinds of plants and animals. Use your imagination on a hike through the desert and find out how living things have adapted to survive this hot, dry place.

**Apr. 19, 20 or 21** **What a Wonderful World** - Say "Thank You" to the Earth for good food, fresh air and clean water. Take a nature appreciation hike and make a craft of recycled materials to take home.

**Apr. 26, or 27** **Caterpillar Cafeteria** - A caterpillar's job is to eat. Learn what caterpillars eat and how they hide. Make a caterpillar craft and take a walk to search for these cool creatures.

**May 3, 4 or 5** **Nests Are Like Cribs** - Spring has sprung and birds are hard at work. Read stories, play games and become a nest detective to learn how birds make their nests. Take a walk to gather twigs, grass & moss to make a nest of your own!

**May 10, 11 or 12** **Busy Bees** - Learn about the secret life of bees including, where they live and what they eat. Find out why these insects are so important to our daily lives and discover what we can do to help them survive.

*Toddler Time continued...*

**May 17,  
18 or 19**

**Outrageous Outback** - Australia is home to many strange and wonderful animals. Take an imaginary journey to the land down under find out how animals have adapted to living on this continent. Have fun hopping like a kangaroo, soaring like a sugar glider and laughing like a kookaburra.

**May 24,  
25 or 26**

**Antics** - Learn all about ants; those super-strong, hardworking creatures that have the amazing ability to locate your picnic lunch. Search for their homes, find out how they make a living and watch their activity.

**May 31  
or June 1**

**Just Keep Swimming** - There is a whole other world under the ocean. Learn about the different animals that call this place home.

**June 7,  
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.



## 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.

**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

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**Apr. 3 or 4**     **Home Sweet Home** - Take an up-close look at some animal homes and find out what materials are used to build them. Search outside for animal homes, hideouts and "apartment houses."

**Apr. 10 or 11**     **Hot, Hot, Hot!** - Take an imaginary journey to one of the hottest places on the planet; the desert. Find out which plants and animals are able to survive the heat of the day and extremely cold nights.

**Apr. 17 or 18**     **Earth Care** - Celebrate Earth Day. Discover what we can do to keep our planet clean and green. Create a special craft using recycled materials.

**Apr. 24 or 25**     **Caterpillar Craze** - Through stories and poems, find out how caterpillars change from egg to adult. Search outside for wooly, spotted and tufted caterpillars.

**May 1 or 2**     **Nesting Time** - PEEP, PEEP, PEEP - baby birds are on their way! Find out how bird parents make their nests and care for their young. Then try building a nest of your own!

**May 8 or 9**     **The Secret Life of Bees** - Investigate the importance of our bee neighbors and discover their role in nature. Learn about their lifecycle and where they live.

**May 15 or 16**     **Kangaroos & Koalas** - The animals of Australia are some of the strangest ones in the world. Find out fascinating facts about koala bears, kangaroos and dingoes. Learn how these animals have adapted to life in the dry plains of the Outback.

**May 22 or 23**     **Amazing Ants** - Ants are very strong, hard working insects that live in colonies. Through games, stories and crafts find out how these f-ant-astic animals have adapted to live in many places around the world.



*Two of Us continued...*

**May 29 or 30**     **Under the Sea** - Use your imagination on a journey through the mysterious ocean world. Have fun learning about clams, clownfish, whales and other ocean inhabitants.

**June 5 or 6**     **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 & activities. Dress for outdoors.

**WHO:** 4-6 year olds.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, 10:00 - 11:15 AM

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

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**Apr. 3**     **Everybody Needs a Home** - Wild animals take care of themselves by finding special places to live, hide and raise their young. Walk through the reservation to get a close-up look at some animal homes.

**Apr. 10**     **Desert Dwellers** - Camels, cacti and tarantulas...oh my! Enjoy learning about these and other desert dwelling plants & animals on an imaginary trek through the desert.

**Apr. 17**     **Earth Day Is Every Day** - Celebrate Earth Day together as we learn what Mother Earth provides for us and what we can do to keep our planet green. Create a special craft using recycled materials.

**Apr. 24**     **Cool Caterpillars** - Some are wooly, some are brightly colored and some make tents. Through games, stories and crafts investigate the process of metamorphosis. Make your own caterpillar to take home.

**May 1**     **Nifty Nests** - Gather twigs, grass and moss to build a nest of your own. Learn how different birds make their nests. Become a nest detective & see how many nests you can find.

Small Fry Days continued....

- May 8 Bee Basics** - Honeybees are hard at work pollinating flowers, collecting nectar and making honey. Investigate the life cycle of the bee and find out why they are so important to plants, animals and people.
- May 15 Down Under** - G'Day Mate! Welcome to Australia and the wonderful and strange world of animal life. Learn about kangaroos, kookaburras, fairy penguins and more. Make a kangaroo craft to take home.
- May 22 F-ant-astic** - Ants can carry things that weigh 50 times more than they do! An ant queen can live to be 20 years old. Learn ant riddles to share with your friends.
- May 29 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. Create an ocean wonder to take home.
- June 5 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

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- Apr. 5    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. 12    Leaf Out** - Project BudBurst needs your help! It is the perfect time of year to watch new leaves unfurl and flower buds burst into bloom. Become a citizen scientist by observing and recording what happens in your own backyard.
- Apr. 19    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. 26    Sounds of Spring** - Become an animal detective and use your ears to listen for common spring sounds. Can you identify a robin singing, a chipmunk chipping or cricket chirping? Find out how and why animals communicate. Let your ears lead you on a walk in search of spring sounds.
- May 3    Outdoor Creativity** - Many famous poets, writers, artists, and musicians have been inspired by nature to create their works. Learn about some famous pieces that were inspired by the outdoors, and then try your hand at using nature to inspire the artist in you!
- May 10    Migratory Birds** - Warblers, hawks and wrens are migrating north. Discover why birds migrate and learn simple techniques to help you identify them. Use binoculars to get an up close look at some backyard birds.

*Afterschool Explorations continued....*

- May 17 Fun With Fungi** - The kingdom of mushrooms is comprised of some pretty fun-guys; some that even glow in the dark! Find out interesting facts about these important decomposers, and dissect a mushroom to learn about its parts. Take a walk in search of turkey tails, fairy rings and puffballs.
- May 24 A Naturalist's Notebook** - A great way to learn about the natural world is to keep a journal with sketches and notes. Construct your very own naturalist notebook using upcycled materials. Complete your first journal entry on a walk through the reservation.
- May 31 Storm Chasers** - Discover what causes tornadoes, hurricanes, thunderstorms and floods. Find out how to prepare for severe weather and learn what to do if you are ever caught in a storm. Create a mini tornado in a bottle to take home!
- June 7 Stream Search** - Discover the diversity of life that is found in a stream. Collect, identify and release crayfish, salamanders and aquatic insects. Find out how these animals are indicators of a stream's health. **Wear shoes that can get wet.**



## SATURDAY OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

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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. 14 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.**

**April 21 Celebrate Earth Day** - Earth Day happens every year on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Learn how you can give back to the earth by making your backyard a healthy habitat. Stop by Trailside's backyard habitats and to see which animal neighbors are visiting. **2:00 PM.**

**May 5 Astronomy Day** - Presentations on astronomy suitable for the entire family. Children's activities. **1:00 - 4:00 PM.**

**May 12 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.**



# TRAILSIDE TALKS

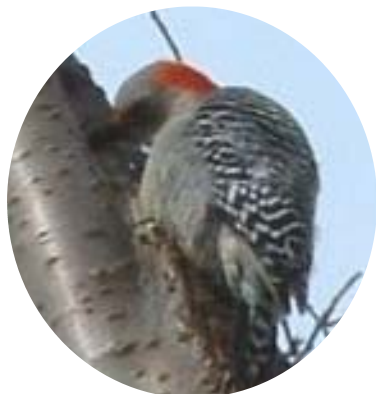
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*Programs for adults and High School Students.  
Preregistration preferred. Walk-ins welcomed. Fee: Free.*

**Thursday, April 19**

**7:00 - 8:00 PM**

## **Our Fascination with Woodpeckers**



Birders and non-birders alike are fascinated by the sight of a woodpecker. New Jersey Audubon volunteer Associate Naturalist and Star Ledger weekly columnist Peter Bacinski will introduce us to the 22 species of woodpeckers, focusing on the species found here in New Jersey. The lecture will highlight behavior, identification and distribution. Mr. Bacinski will share personal stories and little known facts that will make us appreciate these engaging birds even more. **Free.**

**Saturday, May 12**

**2:00 - 3:00 PM**

## **Living on the International Space Station**

You won't want to miss this lecture with NASA Solar System Ambassador Paul Cirillo. Share the adventure of how astronauts live and work in space. Discover how the absence of gravity affects the human body. This thrilling talk is accompanied by breathtaking pictures of the Earth from this orbiting laboratory. **Free.**

**Thursday, May 17**

**7:00 - 8:00 PM**

## **Wild New Jersey: Nature Adventures in the Garden State**

In contrast to the state's reputation, New Jersey offers unmatched wildlife and an array of outdoor nature adventures, all within a short drive of anywhere in the state. Nature author and Conserve Wildlife Foundation Director David Wheeler spent a year exploring the state's unparalleled diversity of wildlife species and its ample opportunities for thrilling nature activities like dogsledding, mountain climbing and wildlife boat tours. From bald eagles to bobcats to horseshoe crabs and tiger salamanders, Wild New Jersey brings nature to life. **Free.**

*Trailside Talks continued...*

**Saturday June 9**

**2:00 - 3:00 PM**

## **Butterflies and Their Host Plants**



Most of our beautiful butterflies sip nectar from flowers for their food, but what they eat when they are in the not-so-pretty caterpillar stage is just as important to their survival. Sharon Wander, President of the New Jersey Butterfly Club, introduces you to many of our state's 125 fascinating species of butterflies, from the Giant Swallowtail to the tiny Eastern Tailed-Blue, and the plants they and their caterpillars depend on. Learn of the many plants which you can grow in your home garden. **Free.**

## **TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP**

Register at [www.ucnj.org/trailside](http://www.ucnj.org/trailside).

**Project WILD**

**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Wednesday, May 9**



Whether you are a formal or a non-formal educator, Project WILD can assist you in teaching math, science, social studies, literacy and art to any grade level. You will acquire new teaching skills and practices that translate into more effective teaching. Prepare to get *WILD* in the classroom through a multitude of interdisciplinary, hands-

on and educational activities, teacher tested and classroom ready for K-12 students. Project WILD lessons are correlated to NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards. Curriculum guide included. Morning refreshments provided.

**Fee: \$20 / person IC or OC.**

# WILD EARTH FEST

at Trailside Nature & Science Center

APRIL 29, 2018

11 AM - 5 PM  
RAIN or SHINE



## *Get Outdoors with Family & Friends*

Live Animal Demonstrations, Outdoor Skills,  
Educational Displays, Recycling Olympics, Live Music,  
Face Painting, Crafts, Giveaways, Petting Zoo,  
Bounce House, Vendors, Food & More!

*Winners of the Environmental Hero Award Announced*

***Please, No Pets Permitted.***

***“Get Your Green On...”***

**ADMISSION:** \$5 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](http://www.ucnj.org/trailside)





# Touch A Truck

at Watchung Reservation Lower Loop Parking Lot

**APRIL 29, 2018**

**11 AM - 5 PM**

**Quiet Time is 11:00 AM - Noon**

**Admission: \$5/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 a variety of public safety vehicles.

For more information visit [www.ucnj.org](http://www.ucnj.org).

## Spring Garden Fair & Plant Sale

at Trailside Nature & Science Center

**SUNDAY, May 20, 2018**

**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](http://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  
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