

# EXPERIENCE NATURE AT TRAILSIDE



## WINTER 2019

A Service of the Union County  
Board of Chosen Freeholders



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

# FEBRUARY FESTIVITIES

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders presents special programs for families and adults during the Presidents' Day holiday.

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

## Friday, February 15

George Washington Remembers New Jersey

7:00 - 8:00PM

See TRAILSIDE TALKS for Adults - Free

## Saturday, February 16

For families ages 5 & up. Preregistration Required.

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

### Hoo - Hoo Eats Who?

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Wild Birds Unlimited of Scotch Plains will introduce you to some of the owls in the neighborhood. Listen to their calls and discover the mystery of what owls are eating. Owls often swallow their prey whole, but parts like teeth, skulls, claws and feathers are too dangerous to pass through the owl's digestive tract. These items are expelled by the owl in the form of a pellet. Work together to dissect sterilized owl pellets and identify the skeletal remains of the owl's prey species.



### The Journey of Sap to Syrup

11:30 AM - 12:30 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. Dress for the weather. There will be a short walk to the tapped tree.

### Matinee: Meet Live Birds of Prey

1:30 - 2:15 PM

Join a guest speaker from Tenafly Nature Center to learn about the behavior, adaptations and importance of birds of prey; such as, eagles, owls, falcons and hawks. Demonstrations, hands-on artifacts and **LIVE** birds of prey are sure to capture the imagination of young and old. Tickets go on sale at 1 PM Saturday, Feb. 16 at the Visitor Service Desk. No strollers please. **Fee:** \$5/person; \$4/Senior Citizen.

### 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.

# PRESIDENTS' DAY

Monday, February 18

For families ages 5 & up. Preregistration Required.  
Fee: \$5/person IC, \$6/person OC

## Hoo - Hoo Eats Who?

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Wild Birds Unlimited of Scotch Plains will introduce you to some of the owls in the neighborhood. Listen to their calls and discover the mystery of what owls are eating. Owls often swallow their prey whole, but parts like teeth, skulls, claws and feathers are too dangerous to pass through the owl's digestive tract. These items are expelled by the owl in the form of a pellet. Work together to dissect sterilized owl pellets and identify the skeletal remains of the owl's prey species.



## Journey of Sap to Syrup

11:30 AM - 12:30 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. Dress for the weather. There will be a short walk to the tapped tree.

## Matinee: Magic with Joe Fischer

1:30 - 2:15 PM

Join Joe Fischer for an afternoon filled with a perfect blend of magic, audience participation, comedy and excitement. Recommended for children ages 5 and up. Space is limited. Tickets go on sale at 1 PM Monday, Feb. 18 at the Visitor Service Desk. No strollers please.

**Fee:** \$5/person; \$4/Senior Citizen.

## 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.





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.**



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 is Open:  
Martin Luther King Day - January 21  
Presidents' Day - February 18**



## 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~~

**Feb. 7, 8 or 9**    **To Den or Not to Den** - Winter is a tough time for wildlife. Animals adapt to the cold in different ways. Learn which of our animal neighbors sleep all winter while others "vacation" in warmer places.

**Feb. 14, 15 or 16**    **Animals Do The Craziest Things** - Heart shaped candies and Valentine's cards are nothing compared to the show that nature puts on in the name of love! Explore some of the flashiest and strangest ways that animals compete for a mate. Make a craft to bring home for some one you love.

**Feb. 21, 22 or 23**    **Patterns in Nature** - Learn about the honeycombs in a beehive, spots on a bird and stripes on a snake. Search the reservation for these lovely and important signs of repetition. Create your own pattern craft to take home.

**Feb. 28, Mar. 1, or 2**    **Maple Sugaring** - Sugar maple sap is collected in February and March and is used to make delicious maple syrup. Hug a maple tree to see if it is big enough to give sap and find out what equipment is needed to collect it. Take part in a taste test and find out if you like the real thing.

**Mar. 7, 8 or 9**    **Run, Fly or Swim Away** - Discover some of the amazing tricks animals use to avoid being eaten. Have fun trying out ways agility, speed and quick-thinking allow animals to stay safe and survive in the wild.

*Toddler Time continued...*

**Mar. 14, 15 or 16**    **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. 21 22 or 23**    **Give a Hoot** - Learn the secrets of New Jersey's owls: what they look like, how they hunt, what they eat and what they sound like. Practice owl calls and make your own owl to take home.

**Mar. 28, 29 or 30**    **Spring's A-Coming** - Spring has finally arrived, and it means more sunshine, warmer temperatures, longer days and animals waking up from long winter naps. Explore the outdoors looking for signs of spring.



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

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

---

**Feb. 5** **Winter Survival** - Join us for a winter wonderland hike and **or 6** find out where animals go in the winter. Discover who is sleeping, who migrates and who stays around for the cold winter months.

**Feb. 12** **Crazy for You** - Did you know some birds decorate with flowers and other brightly colored objects to impress a mate? Explore some of the weirdest and wackiest courtship behaviors in the animal kingdom. **or 13**

**Feb. 19** **Nature's Patterns** - Nature is filled with beautiful patterns of color and shapes. Hike to look for some of these fascinating designs, learn why they exist and create your very own pattern craft to take home. **or 20**

**Feb. 26** **Magnificent Maples** - Count the points on a maple leaf and feel the bark of a sugar maple tree. Discover how sap is turned into syrup and taste 100% real maple syrup. **or 27**

**Mar. 5** **Escape Artists** - Many animals stay still when a predator is near. If the predator comes too close, the animal will run, fly or swim away as fast as it can to avoid getting eaten. Practice sneaking, chasing, freezing and fleeing as you learn about the remarkable ways animals keep themselves safe from danger. **or 6**

**Mar. 12** **Tropical Treasures** - Heat up the winter months by discovering interesting facts about the mystical rainforests a round the world. Learn why these forests are important and what you can do to protect them. **or 13**



*Two of Us continued...*

**Mar. 19 or 20** **Whoooo Goes There?** - Learn about New Jersey's native screech, barred and great horned owls. See owl feathers and talons and discover how these birds are adapted for night life.

**Mar. 26 or 27** **Rriiinnggg...** - Time to wake up! Sunshine, longer days and warmer temperatures means...**SPRING!** Hike to look for signs of spring and count the birds, mammals, insects and flowers you find.

## 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:** Wednesday, 10:00 - 11:15 AM

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

---

**Feb. 6** **Winter Wildlife** - Cold weather can be hard on the plants and animals of the Watchung Reservation. Discover the ways they have adapted to cope with these cold, winter months and search outside for animal homes and hideouts.

**Feb. 13** **Animal Antics** - Discover some dazzling displays performed by animals seeking to attract a mate or warn off rivals. From dances and songs to feats of strength, understand the elaborate ways animals communicate.

**Feb. 20** **Pretty Patterns** - Nature is filled with interesting designs and patterns; from petals on a flower to spots on a fawn. Walk outside and find out how these patterns are beneficial to plants and animals.

**Feb. 27** **From Sap to Syrup** - 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 and try to identify the real thing.

Small Fry Days continued....

- Mar. 6**     **The One That Got Away** - Have fun hopping, running, “flying” and “swimming” as we explore the incredible ways animals handle the challenge of keeping safe from hungry predators.
- Mar. 13**    **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. 20**    **Prowling for Owls** - Whooo knows about these nocturnal hunters? Learn about New Jersey’s owls and listen to their calls. Hike to a pine grove in search of owl pellets.
- Mar. 27**    **Spring Tyke Hike** - Scrunch up that nose, wiggle your toes and get ready for a hike to find red cardinals, orange rocks, yellow dandelions and green clovers. Search high and low for all the colors of spring, and learn about the exciting things happening during this time of year.



# NEW WORKSHOP SERIES! KIDS EXPLORATIONS GRADE SCHOOL PROGRAM ON SATURDAYS



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

**WHO:** Ages 7 to 10 year olds

**WHEN:** Saturdays 10:00 - 11:00 AM

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

## **Feb 23 Sap to Syrup/Tree ID - Sensory Trail (0.5 mi)**

Ever wondered where maple syrup comes from? During this hike kids will learn how to identify the legendary Sugar Maple, along with other native trees of the area, and discover the process of properly tapping a tree for that sugary sap.

## **Mar 2 Building with Snow - Boy Scout Field (0.5 mi)**

A short hike down the hill to the Boy Scout Field will be followed by some snow-building to explore the science of snow.

## **Mar 9 Life Under Ice - Hike to lake and streams (2 mi.)**

Although it seems impossible for life to exist in our water ways in the dead of winter, our lakes and streams are actually full of life. Life under the ice is a slow one. Kids will explore around Lake Surprise and the Blue Brook.



*Klds Explorations continued....*

**Mar 16 - Tracking Animals – Green-Yellow Trail (1.5 mi.)**

Winter is a great time of year to look for tracks, scat, and other signs that animals have left behind. Kids can try their hands at identifying these critters with the help of guidebooks and instructors.

**Mar 23 - Winter Survival Methods - Orange-Blue Trail (2 mi.)**

Hibernation, brumation, coat color, diet are just a few of the amazing adaptations animals have that help them survive in our temperate climate. As we think about how wildlife has adapted to survive, we will brainstorm how humans too have figured out how to survive the winter months.

**Mar 30 - Winter Birding - Orange-Blue Connection-Pink Trail (3 mi.)**

Migratory birds from the north join our year-round resident bird populations in the winter. This week, we will go in search of all things birds!

# Trailside 2019 Summer Camp Program

## Registration Begins March 2 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.

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

If you have not already done so, we highly recommend you create an account and password on the Union County Online Registration site prior to Saturday, March 2, 2019. Please make sure you include all family members participating in Trailside's summer programs and their ages.

**The summer brochure will be available online with program descriptions and more information at [ucnj.org/trailside](http://ucnj.org/trailside).**

*Please read all general & cancellation policies before registering.*



Pre-first grade programs

Half & full-day camps for  
grades 1 - 9th

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 on March 2 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Cash and credit cards accepted. Out-of-county residents, may register online or in-person beginning Monday, March 4 at 9:00 AM.



# TRAILSIDE TALKS

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

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

## George Washington Remembers New Jersey

Friday February 15

7:00 - 8:00PM



Get in the spirit of President's week and spend an hour with our first President. George Washington was no stranger to New Jersey. From Trenton to Princeton to Morristown to Monmouth to Middlebrook and more, the General spent more time here than in any other state. Join General Washington (historical interpreter David Emerson of History on the Hoof) as he reminisces about his brightest and darkest moments during the battles and encampments of the "Cockpit of

the Revolution." This engaging presentation is made possible by support from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. **Free.**

## Saturday February 23

### The Joy of Backyard Bird Feeding

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Attracting birds is a great way to bring nature up close in your backyard. With a little bit of knowledge, it is easy to welcome up to 32 different species of native birds. Bird feeding will offer hours of entertainment as you observe their unique behaviors and enjoy their distinctive songs. Pete Axelrod, Education and Outreach Coordinator for Wild Birds Unlimited offers professional instruction on how to use bird foods, feeders, water and shelter to attract the widest variety of birds, and make your backyard bird friendly. **Free.**



# TEACHER TRAINING AT TRAILSIDE

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

---



## **Eagle Cam Teacher Training Workshop** **Thursday, March 7**

**9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

The bald eagle population in New Jersey continues to soar largely due to the work of biologists from the NJ Endangered & Nongame Species Program and Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ.

Grade school teachers can learn more about the habits & habitats of bald eagles and how to bring these charismatic raptors into their classroom through the use of CWF's live cams. CWF and NJ State Biologist for eagles, Larissa Smith will help teachers understand the science behind NJ's bald eagle population and the adaptations that make them unique. CWF Education Director Stephanie DAlessio will help teachers to discover the many ways eagle ecology can be used across their curriculum for STEM lessons.

Live birds of prey will make an appearance. Earn five (5) professional education credits. A light morning snack and lunch will be served. Class is limited so enroll early. This program is made possible by funding support from Conserve Wildlife Foundation and the Trailside Museum Association. **Free.**

# 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

## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

**Bette Jane Kowalski**, *Chair*

**Alexander Mirabella**, *Vice Chairman*

Angel G. Estrada

Sergio Granados

Kimberly Palmieri-Moudey

Rebecca Williams

Angela R. Garretson

Christopher Hudak

Andrea Staten

**Edward T. Oatman**,  
*County Manager*

**James E. Pellettiere, R.M.C.**  
*Clerk of the Board*



**Amy C. Wagner**,  
*Deputy County Manager*

**Ron Zuber**, *Director*  
*Department of Parks*  
*& Recreation*

UNION COUNTY *We're Connected to You!*



**THIS LOCATION HAS  
WIRELESS ACCESS**

THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS



[www.ucnj.org](http://www.ucnj.org)



**You Tube**