

EXPERIENCE NATURE AT TRAILSIDE



WINTER 2020

A Service of the Union County
Board of Chosen Freeholders



UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!

www.ucnj.org



FEBRUARY FESTIVITIES

THE JOURNEY OF SAP TO SYRUP

Saturday, February 15 or Monday, February 17
12:00 - 1:00 PM



Maple sugaring is unique to areas of North America and parts of Canada. It was discovered by the Native Americans and was shared with the colonists. Collecting maple sap occurs for a brief period of time in this area. During February and March, the trees are “waking up,” and conditions are just right for the sap to start running.



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.

Register online - ucnj.org/trailside

For families ages 5 & up. Preregistration Required.

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

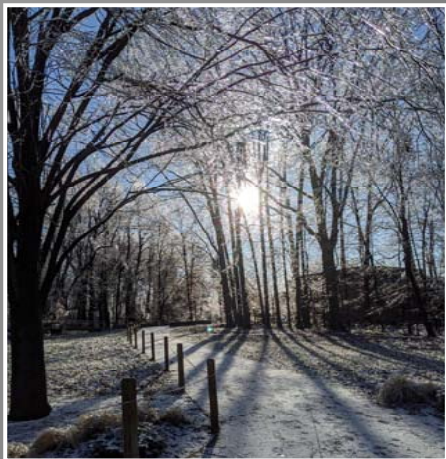
FEBRUARY FESTIVITIES

MYTHICAL CREATURES OF FIELDS AND FORESTS

Saturday, February 15 - 1:30 - 2:30 PM or

Monday, February 17 - 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Bring your imagination as we investigate the mythical world of elves, fairies, gnomes and their forest friends. Take a walk through the winter woods in search of the homes and hide outs of these magical creatures. Find out how they help to protect the environment. Have fun creating a woodland village for our new found friends.



WINTER WALK

Saturday, February 15 or Monday, February 17

3:00 - 4:00 PM

What is more magical than falling snow? Discover some fun facts about snow and take a walk into the frozen forest to see what we can find. Search for animal tracks, listen for birds and find out which animals visit our feeding station during the winter months. Warm up around a cozy campfire for s'more winter fun. S'mores & hot cocoa provided.



Register online - ucnj.org/trailside

For families ages 5 & up. Preregistration Required.

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

MAGIC & A MOVIE

PRESIDENTS' DAY, FEBRUARY 17

THE SCIENCE OF MAGIC

1:30 - 2:15 PM

Prepare to have fun and be inspired as the secrets of magic are revealed using magnetism, light, air & optical illusion. Lots of audience participation.

Recommended for children ages 5 & up. Space is limited. Tickets go on sale at 1:00 PM at the Visitor Service Desk. No strollers please. Fee: \$5/person; \$4/Senior Citizen.

ABOMINABLE

3:00 - 4:45 PM

Movie & popcorn

After discovering a Yeti on the roof of her apartment building, teenage Yi and her friends embark on an quest to reunite the magical creature with his family.

Rated PG. Space is limited.



TRAILSIDE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

Hours of operation 12 - 5 p.m. daily.

Holidays Open:

Martin Luther King Day - January 20

Presidents' Day - February 17

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 natural world around us.



- 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.



In order to accommodate everyone, please let us know in advance if you or a member of your group has any special needs.

Register Now for Winter Workshops

Visit ucnj.org/trailside

Programs are designed to foster an awareness and appreciation of the natural world through hands-on activities, explorations, stories and hikes.

The winter workshop series runs from February 4 to March 28.

There is a different nature or science theme each week.

Dress for the weather.

Toddler Time

For adults with children up to age 3. Max 4/family.

Meets: Thursdays, Fridays or Saturdays - 10:00 - 11:00 AM.

Fee / class: IC - \$10/family OC - \$12/family

Two of Us

For adults with children ages 3 - 4.

Meets: Tuesdays, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Fee / class: IC - \$10/child & adult OC - \$12/child & adult

Small Fry Days

Drop off program for children 4 - 6.

Meets: Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:00 AM.

Fee / class: IC - \$10/child OC - \$12/child



Toddler Time, Two of Us & Small Fry Days

Winter Seasonal

Feb. 4-8

Find out how plants and animals depend on snow to survive. Help Trailside's friend, Ted E. Bear, find all the proper clothes & accessories he needs to stay warm and have fun.

Fun With Food Chains

Feb. 11-15

Food chains and food webs show how living things are connected through the food they eat. Play a food chain game to discover how nutrients and energy are passed from creature to creature.

Fabulous Fish

Feb. 18-22

Fish have fins and scales to cover their bodies and tails that swish to help them move. Have fun fishing for more fascinating fish facts and visit Trailside's wetland habitats to watch live fish swim about.

Snowflakes

Feb. 25-29

Observe the beauty that snow brings to the winter season! Learn interesting snow facts, go on a snowflake scavenger hunt and create your own snow craft to take home.

Tricky Tracks

March 3-7

Big tracks, little tracks, hoppers and runners - which track belongs to which animal? Learn to identify tracks of different animals that live in the Watchung Reservation.

Scavenger Hunt

March 10-14

Investigate nature indoors as we search for animal homes, buck rubs, seeds and more in Trailside's exhibits. Find out where a deer sleeps, a squirrel builds a home and a woodpecker eats lunch.

Dinosaur Discovery

March 17-21

Learn interesting facts about T-Rex, Stegosaurus and Triceratops. Become a paleontologist for the day and hunt for dinosaur bones. Discover what life was like when dinosaurs roamed the earth.

Magnet Magic

March 24-28

Discover the unique power of magnets through hands-on experiments. Use a variety of materials to see what kind of magnetic magic you can create. Make a magnet craft to take home.

KIDS EXPLORATIONS



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

WHO: Ages 7 to 10

WHEN: Saturdays 10:00 - 11:00 AM

FEE: Per class: IC - \$10/child
Register at ucnj.org/trailside

OC - \$12/child

Feb. 8 Nature's Candy - Maple Sugaring

See how real maple syrup is made from the sap of a sugar maple tree. Learn about the special equipment & process used to make this tasty treat. Take part in a taste test to see if you prefer 100% real maple syrup.

Feb. 15 Outrageous Owls

Discover which owls inhabit the Watchung Reservation. Learn to identify local owls by sight & sound. Take a walk to search for owl pellets & feathers. Dissect owl pellets & identify the skeletal remains of the owl's prey species.

Feb. 22 Behind the Scenes

Learn the responsibilities of pet care by taking a behind the scenes look at Trailside's animal enclosures. Explore the characteristics of fish, amphibians, insects and reptiles. Meet and care for live snakes, turtles, fish and stick bugs.

Kids Explorations continued...

Feb. 29 Frozen Frolic

Join us for a winter wonderland hike and find out where animals go in the winter. Discover who is sleeping, who migrates and who stays around for the cold winter months. Warm up with some hot chocolate by a campfire.

Mar. 7 Keepers of the Earth

Discover life as a Lenape Native American. Listen to stories in a life-sized wigwam, play games and see artifacts. Search outdoors for plants the Lenape used for medicines, food and shelter.

Mar. 14 Who Let the Dogs Out

Learn about fox and coyote that live in New Jersey. Find out what they eat, where they sleep and how they survive. Take a hike to look for signs of our canine neighbors.

Mar. 21 Feeder Frenzy

Learn to identify some common birds by sight and sound. Fill our feeders and find out about the different types of seed used to attract birds. Make a feeder to take home.

Mar. 28 In Search of Green

With spring almost here, our scavenger hunt theme is green. Hike the Green Trail in search of budding leaves, evergreen trees, ferns & moss. Take the challenge to find twenty different types of green!



BACK TO NATURE



The Back to Nature Series is a wonderful way for families to spend time together in the great outdoors and enjoy the magnificent scenery of the Watchung Reservation.

WHO: Families of all Ages - Max 4/family
WHEN: Saturdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM
FEE: Per class: IC - \$10/family OC - \$12/family
Register at ucnj.org/trailside

- Feb. 8** **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 look for some mammal neighbors.
- Feb. 15** **Winter Birds** - Discover the birds that visit the feeders in winter. Learn to identify these birds by sight and sound. Take a walk to see which winter birds we can find in the Watchung Reservation.
- Feb. 22** **Hibernation** - Explore some of the dark, quiet winter homes of the Watchung Reservation's hibernating animals. Learn how these animals prepared for their long winter sleep and find out when they will wake up.



- Feb. 29 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. Create your own looking glass and personal constellation to take home.
- Mar. 7 Cool Camouflage** - 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!
- Mar. 14 Maple Sugaring** - See how real maple syrup is made from the sap of a sugar maple tree. Find out what equipment is needed to collect and process sap. Take part in a taste test and try to identify the real thing.
- Mar. 21 Fox on the Run** - Investigate the differences between red and gray foxes. Discover what they eat & how they live. Search outside for fox tracks, dens and other signs.
- Mar. 28 Early Spring Hike** - As spring arrives plants, trees and animals are becoming active. Explore the Reservation for young leaves, spring peeper frogs, yellow dandelions and other signs that spring is around the corner.

TRAILSIDE TALKS

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



Rosa Parks - A Historical Representation **Thursday, February 13 7:00 - 8:00PM**

This year will mark the 65th anniversary of Rosa Parks' decision not to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Alabama. Her story will serve to remind us that we cannot always stand by and observe the status quo. Sometimes, we have to take a seat to be heard.

Join Ms. Alex Ford, a first person interpreter with the American Historical Theatre, as she brings to life the challenges faced by Rosa Parks.

This free program is made possible by support from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.



Register
at
trailside



at
ucnj.org/

SENIOR WALKS

*Free Programs for Seniors 55 & older.
Preregistration preferred. Walk-ins welcome.*

Register at ucnj.org/trailside

Wednesdays 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Light refreshments

Maple Sugaring

March 11

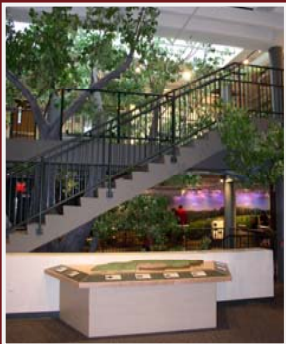
The origin of collecting maple sap to make the sweet treat of maple syrup can be traced back to the Lenape people of this area who started the process of maple sugaring centuries ago. Find out the hows and whys of the procedure, unique to this part of the world. Try our taste test!



Seven Captivating Birds

March 18

Pete Axelrod, Outreach Coordinator for Wild Birds Unlimited in Scotch Plains, will identify songs, nests and fun facts about backyard birds including; cardinals, Carolina wrens, red-winged blackbirds, American goldfinches and woodpeckers. Enjoy watching a flurry of activity at Trailside's bird feeding station. We will take a short walk to look & listen for birds.



Visitor Center Tour

March 25

As the first nature center in New Jersey, Trailside has evolved from an old equipment garage to the modern facility we have today. Join a Park Naturalist to see the Watchung Reservation interpreted through innovative displays. Explore the 35 foot beech tree exhibit filling the atrium, the Native American walk-in wigwam, Night Theater, wildlife viewing area and wetland with live animals.

TEACHER TRAINING AT TRAILSIDE

Project WILD

Thursday, March 26

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM



Whether you are a formal or non-formal educator, Project WILD can assist you in teaching math, science, social studies, literacy and art to any grade level. The goal of Project WILD is to develop awareness and knowledge resulting in informed decisions and constructive actions concerning wildlife and the environment through interdisciplinary & hands on activities.

Project WILD lessons are correlated to NJ core curriculum content standards & the curriculum guide is included in the fee.

Participants receive six (6) NJDOE professional development credits. Morning refreshments provided. Fee: \$25/person.



Register at ucnj.org/trailside

Trailside 2020 Summer Camp Program

Registration Begins March 7 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 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 7, 2020. 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.

Please read all general & cancellation policies before registering.



Pre-first grade camp

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

Friday Family

Family Evening

**Sensory Friendly Camps
for people with
special needs**

In-person registration is welcome at the Trailside Visitor Center on March 7 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 9 at 9:00 AM.

Trailside Nature & Science Center

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

Alexander Mirabella, *Chairman*

Angel G. Estrada, *Vice Chairman*

Angela R. Garretson

Christopher Hudak

Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded

Rebecca Williams

Sergio Granados

Bette Jane Kowalski

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**



**THIS LOCATION HAS
WIRELESS ACCESS**

THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

