

Essex County Environmental Center ~ Public Programs

SPRING 2018



The Essex County Environmental Center is located at 621-B Eagle Rock Avenue in Roseland in Essex County West Essex Park and is a facility of the Essex County Parks System. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm and Saturday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Essex County West Essex Park is open to the public every day from dawn until dusk. Pre-registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. **All programs require a minimum number of participants to run.** For more information, please call 973-228-8776.

CLUBS FOR CHILDREN

LITTLE EXPLORERS SPRING NATURE PROGRAM

For 2 year olds (Toddlers)

Fridays—March 2, 9, 16; April 6, 20; May 4, 18

10am to 11am

For 3 year olds (Tots)

Thursdays—March 1, 15, 29; April 5, 19; May 3, 17

1pm to 2pm

For 4 and 5 year olds (Pre-K)

Thursdays—March 1, 15, 29; April 5, 19; May 3, 17

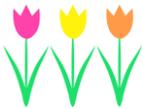
9:45am to 10:45pm

OR Fridays—March 2, 9, 16; April 6, 20; May 4, 18

1pm to 2pm

This child-caregiver class uses stories, walks and crafts to develop an awareness and appreciation for science and nature for the child as well as the caregiver. Each week, a different nature or science topic is covered. **In-person registration will take place on a first-come, first-serve basis at the Center on Wednesday, February 21st at 9am.** Advance registration and payment are required; call 973.228.8776.

Fee: \$12 per child/session



BIRD CLUB

Thursdays—March 15, April 19, May 17

4pm to 5pm

For children ages 5 through 10. Come explore our wooded wetland and see what birds live here. Use binoculars, field guides, and a keen sense of observation to discover and identify all sorts of birds. Advance registration, payment and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776.

Fee: \$10 per child per session



BUG CLUB

Tuesdays—March 13, April 10, May 8

4pm to 5pm

For children ages 6 to 10. The Bug Club is devoted to children who want to explore the wonders of insects through field walks, games, stories and crafts. Advance registration, payment and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 per child per session**



PUTTING ESSEX COUNTY FIRST

CLUBS FOR CHILDREN

4-H YOUNG GARDENERS CLUB

Tuesday—May 22

4pm to 5pm

For children in grades 1 through 10. Have you ever wondered how vegetables and flowers grow? From where spaghetti sauce comes? How you can find a rainbow in a garden? The 4-H Young Gardener's Club can provide the answers to these questions and more. Learning and fun happen all the time here. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. Advance registration is required; call 973.353.1337 or visit essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/.



4-H ENVIRONMENTAL KIDS CLUB

Tuesdays—March 13, April 10, May 8

4pm to 5pm

For children in grades 2 through 9. The environment is filled with things, big and small, that are surprising and helpful. Come once a month to see how much fun it is to learn about the world. The club is ongoing and fosters a long-term relationship with caring adults and club member peers. Members are encouraged to get involved with 4-H county events including fairs and public speaking. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. Advance registration is required; call 973.353.1337 or visit essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/.



MONTHLY PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

HORTICULTURE FOR SENIORS

Mondays—March 19, April 16, May 21

1pm to 3pm

For senior citizens. Join the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County for this horticulture class especially designed for senior citizens. The monthly topics are *It Might As Well Be Spring*, *Younger Thank Springtime*, and *Merry Month of May*. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **Advance registration is required one week prior to program;** call Helen at 973.731.0717 or the Master Gardener Helpline at 973-228-2210. **Free**



NEW JERSEY WOODTURNERS

Mondays—March 26, April 23, May 21

7pm to 9:30pm

For adults and children ages 3 and up. Learn to turn with the NJ Woodturners Association. Discover the wonders of creating art from found pieces of wood. Topics vary by the month. Call Gualberto Malave at 908.310.3557 for details. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **Fee: \$10 per adult, free for NJWA members**



NJA ~ ESSEX COUNTY BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

Led by Dave Hall, Associate Naturalist

We will look for resident and over-wintering birds as well as scenic vistas. Many of these trips are to Essex County parks, the first county parks system created in the United States. Dave will set an easy pace, and most of the trails are on level and wide paths. Hikes take place unless trails are impassable due to snow or ice; heavy rain or snow cancels. Registrants will receive a confirmation call/e-mail in the event of a cancellation. **Trips are designed for adults and children 12 and older.** Advance payment may be made via credit card. Onsite payment by exact cash or check only. Please contact the Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary at 908.396.6386 to register.



NEW JERSEY
AUDUBON
www.njaudubon.org

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NJA ~ ESSEX COUNTY BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

HILLTOP RESERVATION

Thursday, February 1

8:30am to 11am

Take a leisurely winter hike while looking for winter wildlife, especially field and forest birds. Meet at Mountain Avenue and Courter Lane, North Caldwell. **Free**

TROY MEADOWS

Thursday, February 22

8:30am to 11am

Search the edges of the frozen swamp for wintering birds and early migrants. Be prepared for muddy or icy conditions. Meet at Essex County Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, and carpool to the trail head. **Cost: \$6 members, \$8 non-members.**

HATFIELD SWAMP

Saturday, February 24

8:30am to 11am

Take a journey into the frozen swamp to search for winter visitors and early spring migrants that call the heart of western Essex County home. Footing could be icy or muddy depending on the weather. Meet at the Stop & Shop, 875 Bloomfield Avenue, West Caldwell, and carpool to the trail head. **Cost: \$6 members \$8 non-members**

March 2018 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

CAMPFIRE HIKE

Thursday—March 8

6pm to 7:30pm

For families. Join us for a hike around the Environmental Center forest, build a winter campfire, sip hot cocoa and make organic popcorn. Dress warmly. Advance registration is required; call 973.228.8776. Minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$12 per adult, \$10 per child**



MAKE AND TAKE A RELAXATION SQUISHIE

Saturday, March 17

11am to 12:30pm

For children ages K and up. Support wellness, concentration and stress management for school-age children. We will practice some breathing techniques and enjoy a brisk and alert short hike outdoors being mindful of our surroundings and inner voice. Back in the laboratory, we will make our own stress balls from various materials including cornstarch and dried beans. Consider letting your grade school aged child join us to take a break from the potential stresses of a typical school day. Advance registration is required; call 973.228.8776. Minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$10 per child**



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March 2018 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

SPRING FOREST EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 24

11am-12:30pm

For families with children ages 1 to 6. Celebrate the beginning of spring with a story of the Little White Rabbit, a visit from a live Rabbit, and an egg hunt within the forest grounds of the Environmental Center. Kids bring your favorite basket to collect eggs and earn surprises! We encourage participants to go green by exchanging eggs for small prizes. When the eggs are turned in, the Center is able to reuse them for future events and programs. Find a golden egg for an “eggstra” special surprise (valued over \$100). Light refreshments and photo-op with bunny included. Bring your own camera. Bad weather cancels. Advance registration is required and limited spaces available; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$15 per child**



April 2018 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

SPRING CAMP

Tuesday, April 3; Wednesday, April 4; Thursday, April 5

12:30pm to 4:30pm

For children in grades 1 through 5. Restore the bond between children and nature. Children will have the opportunity to explore nature right here at the Essex County Environmental Center. For details, call the Center at 973.228.8776. Advance registration and payment are required. **Fees: \$125 per child for all 3 days OR \$50 per child/per day**



CORDAGE & CANDLE MAKING WITH NATURAL PLANT FIBERS

Thursday—April 12

6pm to 7:30pm

For adults. Try this primitive skill. You'll learn to identify plants that can be spun into cordage and practice the form and technique of reverse wrap. You'll leave with a length of cordage, shell candle and some extra materials for practice. Advance registration and a minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$12 per adult, \$10 per child**



BIKE RIGHT – LEARN TO RIDE

Saturday—April 21

10:30am to 12:30pm

For children ages 5 and older. Make learning to ride a bike easier for your child with TransOptions' Bike Right Learn to Ride class. Bike Right Learn to Ride will teach your child the safe, easy and effective way to learn to ride. Using this "balance first" method, parents help get their children rolling while the child does most of the work. Participants learn the basics of balancing, starting, stopping, and steering a bike, as well as proper helmet fit and adjustment. Please bring a helmet and a bike (without training wheels). In the event of rain, this program will be rescheduled. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. Advance registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 per child**



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April 2018 SEASONAL PROGRAMS



EARTH DAY

Saturday, April 28

11am to 4pm

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors for our annual outdoor Earth festival. On this special day, celebrate nature with crafts, games, and recreational opportunities, such as canoeing and hiking. Enjoy demonstrations, information, a local eco-vendors' sale, with Environmental Center staff and partner groups on hand to guide you throughout the day. Admission is **FREE** but eco-vendors will be available!

May 2018 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

MAKING CHARCOAL ART AT THE CAMPFIRE

Thursday—May 3

6pm to 7:30pm

For adults and children 10 years and older. We will gather sticks of different wood varieties and turn them into charcoal pencils in a container placed on the fire. The sticks char without completely combusting due to the lack of oxygen and make an excellent artist charcoal. Each participant will get to make some free choice art and take some charcoal pencils home. Advance registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$12 per adult, \$10 per child**



MOTHER'S DAY ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 12

9am to 4pm

For all ages. Stop by the Rutgers Master Gardener's annual plant sale for a wide variety of annuals, perennials, ornamentals, shrubs, small trees, tomatoes and herbs. For more details, call the Rutgers Master Gardeners' Helpline at 973-228-2210 from Monday to Thursday between 10am and 2pm. Master Gardeners' Annual Plant Sale will also be hosted at the Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens on Friday May 5 from 10am to 4pm and Saturday May 6 from 9am to 3pm, 474 Upper Mountain Ave, Montclair. **Admission is FREE but plants will be for sale**

LOOKING AHEAD

WILDERNESS SKILLS SUMMER CAMP

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday—June 26 to June 28

9:30am to 2:30pm

AND/OR

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday—July 3, 5 & 6 (no camp on July 4th)

9:30am to 2:30pm

For grades 5 to 8. Join *Traditional Earth Skills* Instructor Mike Dennis for up to two sessions of outdoor skills building. During session one, students will take a traditional approach and, during session two, a modern approach will be followed. Participants will identify plants, learn to track animals, create fire, go canoeing, make natural rope, build shelters and more! Call the Center at 973.228.8776 for details. Advance registration is required. **Fee: \$185 per child/per week**



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LOOKING AHEAD

NATURE EXPLORERS SUMMER CAMP

July 9 to July 20, Grades Pre-K and Kindergarten

12:30pm to 3:30pm

July 23 to August 3, Grades 1 and 2

12:30pm to 4:30pm

August 6 to August 17, Grades 3 and 4

12:30pm to 4:30pm

Enjoy exploring and discovering woodland and river habitats for insects, birds, amphibians, Lenape life and much more. Sign up for one or two weeks per grade level. Call the Center at 973.228.8776 for details. Advance registration is required. **Fee: \$160 per child/per week for Pre-K and K, \$180 per child/per week for Grades 1 and 2; \$200 per child/per week for Grades 3 and 4**



BUTTERFLY TENT SAFARI

Monday, July 16 through Friday, July 27

12pm to 3pm

Saturdays—July 14, July 21 & July 28

Special Programs TBA

For all ages. Flutter on over and visit our live butterfly tent. All are welcome to make-and-take a butterfly craft and participate in table activities. More information on registration and fees will follow in our summer brochure.



2018 ESSEX COUNTY PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Submissions are due by Wednesday, September 12, so grab a camera and visit an Essex County Park!

Anyone with a camera is invited and encouraged to submit photos that capture a part of your visit to the County Park System. For rules and regulations, please contact the Essex County Environmental Center at 973.228.8776



PHOTO EXHIBIT

MARCH & APRIL

FOR THE LOVE OF ANIMALS...PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN WITH LOVE

By Jane Murphy

MAY & JUNE

FLOWERS, FLUTTERS & FUN

By Maria "Mané" Robinson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOODTURNING — The NJ Woodturners Association would like to diversify its membership and gain more participation from women and children. The Association has half a dozen very talented female members, but is encouraging women and children to come to the meetings and learn about the wonderful world of woodturning. The Woodturners meet on the fourth Monday of every month from 7pm to 9:30pm in Garibaldi Hall. Contact Gualberto Malave at 908-310-3557 for more information.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GARDENING — Do you have garden-related questions? Contact Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Essex County and a Master Gardener will gladly assist you on their FREE helpline service. Helpline hours are Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm. Call 973.228.2210 or e-mail mastergardenerec@gmail.com.

ESSEX COUNTY 4-H — Join us at the county fair! Essex County 4-H invites all K-12 youth to participate in the county 4-H Spring Fair. The fair will be held in partnership with the Earth Day Celebration at the Essex County Environment Center on April 28th. A detailed fair submission book can be found at <http://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h>. All projects will be showcased and awarded based on the Danish judging system. Each submission will receive a participation ribbon and judges' notes. Youth can submit projects in any of the spring divisions including Indoor Gardening, Arts and Crafts, Small Animals, Writing Technology, Photography and Environmental Education. Scouts, schools groups and homeschool groups are encouraged to submit projects!

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER PARTNER AGENCIES

New Jersey Audubon (NJA) – Kelly Wenzel 908.396.6506

Essex County Beekeepers Society (ECBS) – Joe Lelinho 973.403.8662

West Essex Park Conservancy (WEPC) – Ron Pate 973.669.8030

Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County (MGEC) – Jan Zientek 973.228.3179

New Jersey Woodturners Association (NJWA) – Bob Amarant 908.442.4729

Essex County 4-H Youth Development Program (4-H) – Marissa Blodnik 973.353.1337

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ATTENTION:

If you are not already on our e-mail list, and you would like to receive an electronic file of our brochure as well as other e-notices and alerts, please call the Center (973.228.8776) at your earliest convenience or e-mail gmongiello@parks.essexcountynj.org with an e-mail address. Thank you!



Our Environmental Center has become the premiere location for environmental education and nature appreciation. With the help of our partner groups, our dynamic schedule of events and activities will captivate all ages. Walk in our woods, discover habitats, get pointers on gardening, learn about nature photography and much more. It's all about nature and it's all at our Environmental Center.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive

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COUNTY OF ESSEX

Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

621-B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ 07068

973.228.8776 / www.essexcountyparks.org

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