

Essex County Environmental Center ~ Public Programs

WINTER 2021/2022



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.

Essex County Environmental Center continues to offer a variety of seasonal environmental education programming for groups and families. All in-person programming occurring indoors requires mask wearing and social distancing. Outdoor masking is optional.

Thank you for your continued support, cooperation and participation!

FIELD TRIP OFFERINGS FOR ORGANIZED GROUPS **(Schools, Scouts, Church/Community Organizations, Home Schools, Etc.)**



VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

\$75 per program, 45 minutes

Choose from the Following Virtual Field Trip Topics

Seasonal Discovery Nature Tour / Backyard Birding / Animal Tracking / Lenape Learning Area Tour & Lenape Skills/ Camping 101
Swamp Tromp-Wetland Biodiversity/ Wild about Wildlife
Recycling (*grant funded and free for Essex County institutions while funds last*) / Green Building Tour...and more!

IN-PERSON FIELD TRIPS

Organized Group Bookings

(Institutions, Scouts, Municipal Recreation Programs, Homeschoolers, Etc.)

All ages. Program length is 1.5 hours. Choose from a variety of seasonal topics offered by the Essex County Environmental Center. Social distancing and mask wearing (while indoors) is required. Inquire by calling the Center at 973.228.8776. Minimum of 10 person booking requirement (if less booked, minimum booking fee applied). **Fee: \$8 per participant (including leaders/chaperones)**

Small Groups/Pods and Families

All ages. Winter topic selections include: Seasonal Nature Adventure, Lenape Village Tours, Backyard Birding, Animal Tracking, Owls the Night Hunter, Swamp Tromp/Wetland Biodiversity, *Fire Making and Hot Chocolate, *Camping 101, and *Dinosaur Park Visits. Social distancing and mask wearing (while indoors) is required. One group at a time with a limit of 10 people. Schedule your 45-minute time slot by calling the center at 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 child, \$12 adult or \$30 per family (2 adults, 2 children).** *Where noted, additional fees apply.

CLUBS FOR CHILDREN

FOREST FRIENDS CLUB

January 13, February 10, March 10; 4pm to 5pm



For children ages 5 to 10 years old. Each month, we'll explore the forest using nets, binoculars, magnifiers, and microscopes to investigate nature in our wooded wetland habitat. Together we hope to foster an ethic of stewardship and offer an opportunity to take part in hands-on conservation projects. Come ready to explore! Advance registration, payment and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 per child per session**



ESSEX COUNTY 4-H—Essex County 4-H invites Essex County youth to participate in programming for all ages. For more information, visit <http://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h>.

The Essex County 4-H Healthy Small Animals club is recruiting new members. Youth in grades 4-8 meet to share their passion about animals, learn about small pet care and participate in State and County small animal events. Meetings occur on the first and third Fridays of each month from 4pm to 5pm. For more information or to register, contact Essex4h@njaes.rutgers.edu.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

HORTICULTURE FOR SENIORS

Monthly on Select Mondays

1pm to 3pm

For senior citizens. Join the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County for this horticulture class especially designed for senior citizens. Monthly topics vary. For more information, please contact Amy Trimarco at 973.731.2449 or aatrimarco@comcast.net or the Master Gardner Helpline at 973.228.2210 or mastergardenerec@gmail.com. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. Advanced registration is required one week prior to program. **This program has been temporarily suspended due to the current pandemic. Free**



NEW JERSEY WOODTURNERS

Monthly on the 4th Monday

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. For details, please email Bob Amarant at bobamarant@gmail.com and, to learn more about the organization, visit <https://www.njwoodturners.com>. Meet in Garibaldi Hall on the fourth Monday of every month. **Fee: \$10 per child, \$12 per adult; free for NJWA members**

ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS SOCIETY

Monthly on the 2nd Tuesday

7pm to 9 pm

For adults and children ages 12 and up. The Essex County Beekeepers Society (ECBS), a chapter of the NJ Beekeepers Association, is dedicated to teaching new beekeepers how to manage their bees and helping experienced beekeepers to do it better. If you think you might be interested in keeping honeybees and would like to explore what's involved, you're welcome to join. ECBS meets at Garibaldi Hall from 7pm to 9pm on the second Tuesday of every month, unless otherwise noted. Details on monthly programs are posted on www.njbeekeepers.org and www.ecbs.squarespace.com. **Fee: \$10 per child, \$12 per adult, free for ECBS and NJBA members**



December 2021 SEASONAL PROGRAMS



Forest Friends Feeder Contest

Registration Deadline: Friday, December 10th

Project Drop-off: Friday, December 17th by 5pm

For all ages. Create an edible, festive and unique wetland wildlife feeder for our outdoor exhibit. The purpose of this contest is to provide participants with a fun and educational experience, engaging creativity to make natural edible treats for the Center's backyard forest friends. Add to a winter's bounty by

registering for this contest and submitting a forest feeder for them to enjoy! All contest entries will be displayed for one week (or as long as wildlife will allow) during the winter holiday and will be voted on by a panel of eco-experts! For contest rules and to register, please contact the Essex County Environmental Center at 973.228.8776. **FREE (prizes will be awarded)**



HOT CHOCOLATE HIKE

Saturday, December 4

11am to 12:30pm

For families. Join us for a hike around the Environmental Center forest, build a winter campfire, sip hot cocoa and make s'mores. Dress warmly. Advanced registration is required; call 973.228.8776. Minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



HOLIDAY PAPERMAKING & GREEN GIFT TAG CREATION

Saturday, December 11

11am to 1pm

All ages. Visit before the holidays to make recycled paper and gift tags from colored construction paper scraps, scented herbs and old holiday cards. The whole family can join in on making these colorful additions to your holiday gifts. Also, make a gift from nature of your choice—beeswax candle, multi-purpose body scrub, herb sachet, picture frame or recycled bird feeder. Participants may make more than one "green gift;" additional fee(s) apply. By reducing waste and recycling materials, we extend the value of resources and promote environmental stewardship. For more information, please call, 973.228.8776. Pre-registration and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$15 per adult; \$12 per child (\$4 per additional gift)**



FAMILY WALK & CAMPFIRE

Tuesday, December 14

6pm to 7:30pm

All ages. Join a naturalist for a short walk on the trails and experience forest life in wintertime. After the walk, enjoy a campfire with organic fire-popped popcorn and mint tea. Advance registration and minimum number of participants required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



OWL PELLET DISSECTION

Tuesday, December 21

6pm to 7:30 pm

For ages 7-12. Learn about our beautiful and mysterious silent hunters of the night. Discover what they're eating as we discuss predators and prey and food chain dynamics. Carefully reconstruct the bones found inside owl pellets! Minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$10 per child**



December 2021 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

WINTER WILDLIFE EXPLORERS CAMP

Monday, Dec. 27; Tuesday, Dec. 28; Wednesday, Dec. 29

9:30am to 3:30pm



For children in kindergarten to 3rd grade. Campers enjoy stories, crafts, campfires and forest adventures exploring our wooded wetland forests in wintertime. For more information, call 973.228.8776. Pre-registration, payment and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$180 per child for all three days OR \$70 per child per day**

January 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS



HOT CHOCOLATE HIKE

Saturday, January 8

11am to 12:30pm

For families. Join us for a hike around the Environmental Center forest, build a winter campfire, sip hot cocoa and make s'mores. Dress warmly. Advanced registration is required; call 973.228.8776. Minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**

ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS SOCIETY: BASIC BEEKEEPING: 3-DAY SHORT COURSE

Saturdays, January 8 & 15; April Field Day TBA

8:30am to 4pm

For adults and children ages 12 and older. This short course is appropriate for new beekeepers, as well as those who need a refresher. It is offered by the Essex County Beekeepers Society, <http://ecbs.njbeekeepers.org/index.htm>, a branch of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association, and overseen by EAS Certified Master Beekeeper Landi Simone. Successful completion of this class fulfills the education requirement necessary to legally keep bees in New Jersey. Classroom topics covered include: Honey Bee Biology, Beekeeping Equipment, Getting Started with Bees, Keeping Bees in Populated Areas, Bee Plants, Seasonal Management, Honey Bee Pests and Diseases, Harvesting Your Honey Crop, Queens, Queen Problems and Re-Queening. Day 3, Field Day, takes place in apiaries in Montville Township and provides students with an introduction to working with the bees. Students will have the experience of opening and inspecting a beehive themselves and obtain hands-on lessons in recognizing the various components of a hive and colony as well as inspection basics such as smoker lighting, protective gear, and correct use of the hive tool.



For more information, contact registrar Justin Luna at Justin@GalacticGold.org. Online registration is available at <https://njbeekeepers.org/Education.htm>. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **Fee: \$130, which includes all class materials, continental breakfast, and afternoon snack.**

THE ECO-FRIENDLY HOME

Saturday, January 15

11am to 12:30pm



For families. Make and take a hand-made food storage wrap with eco-friendly materials. Learn how to customize your own stationary and recycle paper at the same time. Let's talk about how to reduce waste at home, be kind to our environment and make special customized usable and fun crafts. Bring your family, friends or come alone. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child; \$12 per adult**

January 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

MLK DAY: FOREST ANIMALS WINTER SURVIVAL – ONE DAY CAMP

Monday, January 17

9:30am to 3:30pm

For ages 5-10. Look at winter habitats and how New Jersey nature survives the cold season! Children will explore the winter wetlands and do indoor activities that are both fun and educational. Provide your child with good footwear and outer wear so we can fully enjoy the seasonal discoveries. **Fee: \$75 per child**



OWL PELLET DISSECTION

Monday, January 24

6pm to 7:30 pm

For ages 7-12. Learn about our beautiful and mysterious silent hunters of the night. Discover what they're eating as we discuss predators and prey and food chain dynamics. Carefully reconstruct the bones found inside owl pellets! Minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$10 per child**



February 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

WINTER JOURNALING

Saturday, February 5

11am to 12:30pm

All ages (children under 5 require caregiver supervision). Discover the joy of phenology, the cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate and plant and animal life. Let us find a special place to write down and draw our winter discoveries and appreciate the cold and brisk change of the season. Maybe partake in some winter birding! We will also hike the grounds to note seasonal changes and beautiful discoveries. We will make our journals here on site. Friends and family are encouraged to join. Dress warmly. Advanced registration is required; call 973.228.8776. Minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



FAMILY WALK & CAMPFIRE

Tuesday, February 15

6pm to 7:30pm

All ages. Join a naturalist for a short walk on the trails and experience forest life at night. After the walk, enjoy a campfire with organic fire-popped popcorn and mint tea. Advance registration and minimum number of participants required; call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



BUILD A BIRD HOUSE

Saturday, February 19

11am to 12:30pm

For adults and children ages 8 and older who are accompanied by an adult. Join us to build a home that encourages breeding birds and other wildlife to take residence. Putting out your bird house now creates a good chance of having a nesting pair of songbirds in your garden by spring. Advanced registration is required; call 973.228.8776. Minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$10 per child; \$12 per adult**



WINTER CAMPFIRE AND CHARCOAL ART

Wednesday, February 23

5:30pm to 7pm

All ages (under 5 requires caregiver supervision). Friends and family welcome. Come alone or bring a group. Join us for a winter campfire and make your own charcoal art stick. We can collect our perfect charcoal pencil and watch it turn into a tool of art magic! Charcoal art paper will be provided and expect to get your hands dirty with this fun project! Dress warmly. Advanced registration is required; call 973.228.8776. Minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



LOOKING AHEAD

SPRING CAMP

Tuesday, April 12; Wednesday, April 13; Thursday, April 14 12:30pm to 4:30pm OR



Tuesday, April 19; Wednesday, April 20; Thursday, April 21

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. Advanced registration and payment are required. **Fees: \$180 per child for all 3 days OR \$70 per child/per day**

EARTH DAY 2022

Saturday, April 23

11am to 4pm

All ages. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors for our annual outdoor Earth festival. On this special day, the Essex County Environmental Center will make extra efforts to share its wonder and appreciation of the natural world with its patrons, partners and friends. Enjoy a day filled 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. **FREE EVENT (items may be for sale)**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION—Meetings are held virtually the first Monday of each month at 6pm. Some dates may change. For an up to date listing of meeting dates or for more information, please contact Essex County Environmental Affairs Coordinator Tara M. Casella at 973.228.8776 or visit <https://www.essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center/partners>.

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 mastergardenec@gmail.com.

OTHER OFFERINGS

EXTRA! EXTRA! Calling all Nature Enthusiasts....

Grades Pre-K through 7. Youth Eco-Activity Boxes Available for Purchase! Looking for enrichment ideas? The Environmental Center educational staff has custom made boxes designed to excite and engage youth in nature exploration and active learning. The boxes are intended to keep children in pre-K through seventh grades excited and engaged in environmental science related outdoor activities.



Box themes include: Autumn Discovery, Winter Discovery, Butterfly Safari, Buzz Box (Bees), Flying Friends (Birds), Hop, Walk & Slither, Junior Naturalist, Wilderness Skills and more!

Fee: \$40/Box

**The boxes include crafts, projects, activities and outdoor fun opportunities!
Boxes available for pick-up only at the Essex County Environmental Center
Limited Availability! For more information, please call 973.228.8776.**

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER PARTNER AGENCIES

New Jersey Audubon (NJA) – Scott Barnes 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

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 tcasella@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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