



Hunterdon County
Division of Parks & Recreation



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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APRIL PROGRAMS WITH HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

SPRING NATURE CLUBS FOR KIDS AGES 3 – 3RD GRADE

Our popular spring nature clubs will introduce your child to many exciting nature topics. A professional Park Naturalist will guide the children during hikes as they discover the diverse field, forest, and pond habitats at Echo Hill. Other hands-on activities include science experiments, field games, and take-home craft projects. The children will be able to observe the subtle changes from week to week as we progress through the season. Through our explorations, children will also hone their attention to detail as we observe the colors, shapes, textures, and sounds of the natural world.

This year we are offering Sessions A and B for ages 3 to 5 and Session C for kindergarten through third graders. This is a drop-off program and children must be self-sufficient in the bathroom.

Please be sure to dress your child for the outdoors so that the whole group will be able to enjoy our lessons fully. We strongly recommend old clothes and sneakers/boots that can get dirty. Nature Clubs meet rain or shine. In inclement weather, we shorten our outdoor adventures in order to spend more time inside.

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

For each child, a registration form must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian. Included on the form are the date of last tetanus shot, known allergies, and special care notes; please have this information ready. Each session is limited to ten children to ensure a quality experience for the participants. The Division of Parks and Recreation reserves the right to cancel any session due to low enrollment, and give a full refund.

Dates: Eight Tuesdays, April 3 to May 22

Location: Echo Hill

Cost: \$90 for all 8 lessons

Session A

Time: 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Ages: 3 to 5 years

Session B

Time: 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Ages: 3 to 5 years

Session C

Time: 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Ages: kindergarten through 3rd graders

SPRING BREAK CAMP

Date: Wednesday, April 4 or Thursday, April 5

Time: 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Location: Echo Hill playground

Cost: \$25 per child

Session A: Grades 3-5, April 4

Session B: Grades K-2, April 4

Session C: Grades K-2, April 5

Session D: Grades K-2, April 5

Do you miss camp? Never been but want to try it out for a day? Join the naturalist staff for a day of summer nature camp fun over spring break! We will revisit traditional camp favorites such as catching insects, shelter building, and s'mores. Please bring a lunch and a refillable water bottle. Please wear sturdy close-toed shoes and dress for the weather, as we will have camp rain or shine (or cold!). Please note: this year, we are offering two days during the same week. Curriculum will be the same both days, so **we ask that campers sign up for one day only**. There are two groups for grades K-2 on April 5, and we will split up campers by the order in which they sign up.

THURSDAY MORNING / TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIRD WALKS

Take an early morning stroll or an afternoon walk with the interpretive staff of the County Parks Division as we look for the spring migrants and local breeding birds of the county. We will use both eyes and ears to determine which birds are in abundance, as well as to observe other signs of the spring season. This is a great chance to brush up on your song identification skills. Binoculars are available to borrow.

Ages: Adults

Cost: FREE, **pre-registration is required.**

THURSDAY MORNING WALKS

Time: 6:30 AM to 8:00 AM

Dates & Locations:

April 5: Assiscong Marsh

April 12: Deer Path Park Soccer Lot

April 19: County Arboretum

April 26: Bernadette Morales/Uplands

May 3: Echo Hill Park

May 10: Sunnyside Picnic Area

May 17: Deer Path Park Main Lot
May 24: Hoffman Park

TUESDAY AFTERNOON WALKS

Time: 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Dates & Locations:

May 1: Deer Path Park Main Lot
May 8: Echo Hill Park
May 16: County Arboretum
May 22: Hoffman Park

ADULT ART WITH INSTRUCTOR LENA SHIFFMAN

www.lenashiffman.com/bio.html

THURSDAY MORNING ART STUDIO

Time: 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

THURSDAY AFTERNOON ART STUDIO

Time: 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM

THURSDAY EVENING ART STUDIO

Time: 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Session B: Five Thursdays, April 5 to May 3 (snow date Sunday 5/6)

Session C: Five Thursdays, May 10 to June 7 (snow date Sunday 6/10)

Session D (EVENING ONLY): Five Thursdays, August 2 to August 30

Time: 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Location: Arboretum

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$100 (materials not included)

Don't think you can draw or paint, but would like to give it a try? "Everyone has talent, they just don't know it!" says art instructor and illustrator Lena Shiffman. Using a variety of subject matter, including still life subjects and photographs, Ms. Shiffman will work with students to improve their drawing and painting skills. Students may work in charcoal, pastels, oil, acrylic, or watercolor paints. *Students supply their own materials.* Beginners, please bring charcoal sticks and charcoal pencils, an eraser, and a medium sketch pad (14 x 18") to the first class. Material list will be supplied at the first class. Join us for a day or evening class of fun in a relaxed atmosphere; you will be amazed at what you can accomplish! *All ability levels welcome!*

LOCAL WILDLIFE THROUGH A PHOTOGRAPHER'S EYE

Date: Monday, April 9

Time: 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Echo Hill Lodge

Ages: 8 through adult

Cost: \$3 per person

Guest Presenter: Bruce Michael

Be prepared to be entertained for the evening with stunning photographs of our native wildlife. Bruce Michael is a local hiker and wildlife enthusiast who has volunteered to share his photographs with us as he tells us some interesting facts about each species. He

has many pictures of birds, bugs, and snakes. He will also share some basic information about photographing wildlife, and can answer more technical questions as requested.

FREE RECREATION WALKS

Dates: Wednesdays

Time: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Ages: all

Cost: Free

April 11: Crystal Springs, meet at Teetertown Group parking lot, 20 Pleasant Grove Road, Port Murray 07865

April 25: Columbia Trail, meet at Califon Island Park, 30 Bank Street, Califon 07830

May 9: Laport Reserve, 216 Mountain Road, Ringoes 08551

May 23: Round Mountain Section of Deer Path, 100 Foothill Road, Flemington 08822

Meet Patrick Eckard at each location and he will introduce you to the beauty of the parks as he inspects the trail systems. He will tell you the history of each park as you get some fresh air and exercise. Then come back on your own to hike the trails at your leisure.

These trails are easy to moderate hikes. Pre-registration required.

BASKET VASE

Date: Wednesday, April 11

Time: 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Location: Arboretum

Ages: adults

Cost: \$20 (includes materials)

Weave a basket over top of a flower vase. SKILL LEVEL: Moderate to difficult.

BEGINNER AND INTERMEDIATE DRAWING AND PAINTING

Session B: Six Wednesdays, April 11 to May 23 (no class 5/2)

Time: 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Location: Arboretum

Ages: adults

Cost: \$140 (materials not included)

This is a great place to start to learn the basics of painting and drawing in an educational, supportive, and fun environment. Students begin each semester with instruction in the basic rules of drawing, which includes information on contour, value, and composition, and then move on to the study and use of color. Working from a variety of subject matter, the instructor will offer information on the proper use of materials, composition, and color theory via frequent group and individual critiques. Students should only bring black and white drawing materials to the first class. The instructor will discuss the color materials (pastels, oil, acrylic, and watercolor paints) that you may utilize during the class. Instructor Charles David Viera: www.charlesdavidviera.com.

INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED DRAWING AND PAINTING

Session B: Six Fridays, April 13 to May 25 (no class 5/4)

Time: 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Location: Arboretum

Ages: adults

Cost: \$140 (materials not included. Some sessions may require an additional \$5 model fee, collected during the first class)

The curriculum of this class is devised to offer students with some previous instruction a structured, but open and supportive environment in which to create. Working from a variety of studio assignments, or independent projects of their own design, each student will be encouraged to explore academic as well as more expressionistic and abstract options via group and individual critiques and illustrated lectures referencing the history of painting. Open to pastel, oil, watercolor, and acrylic painters with some experience. *Some six-week sessions may require an approximate \$5 model fee that will be collected the first class.* Instructor Charles David Viera: www.charlesdavidviera.com.

TOT WALKS

Location: Echo Hill

Ages: 2 to 3 with adult

Cost: Each walk \$3 per child; accompanying adult attends for free

Join Senior Park Naturalist Laura Bush on these early adventures to discover nature at your local park! Leave the strollers behind as we take a walk outside to see plants and animals around us. We will use our senses to focus on each theme. Each one-hour program will include a walk and an indoor time of a story and craft. This spring we are offering three walks of the same theme in a row; please select Session A, B, or C.

TURTLES

Session A: Thursday, April 12, 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Session B: Friday, April 13, 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Session C: Friday, April 13, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

SALAMANDERS

Session A: Thursday, May 24, 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Session B: Friday, May 25, 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Session C: Friday, May 25, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

BELLEPLAIN & HEISLERVILLE BIRDING VAN TRIP

Date: Saturday, April 14

Time: 5:30 AM to 7:00 PM

Location: meet at Hunterdon County Arboretum

Ages: adults

Cost: \$30

Join us on a whirlwind tour as we hit two of the highlights of Cape May County, Belleplain State Park and Heislerville Wildlife Management Area. This all-day excursion will focus on looking for NJ southern specialties such as the Summer Tanager and Prothonotary Warbler. Transport is by Hunterdon County Van.

POND PADDLES: A GOOD FIRST TRIP!

Session A: Saturday, April 14, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Clinton Pond

Session B: Saturday, April 14, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM, Clinton Pond

Session C: Sunday, April 15, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Teetertown

Session D: Sunday, April 15, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM, Teetertown

Ages: 8 through adult

Cost: \$20

Saturday paddles meet at the Clinton Town parking lot off Halstead Street & Water Street. Paddle around the scenic “Clinton Pond,” past the lily pads, under the road bridge, past the historic Red Mill, up to the spillway of the Spruce Run Reservoir, and back.

Sunday paddles meet at the stone house at Teetertown Preserve, 30 Pleasant Grove Road, Port Murray (the middle entrance). We will drive together to the big pond at Teetertown. Both are great for children ages 8 and up (with an adult), senior citizens, beginners, folks with special needs (please inform us in advance), or those with a hankering to take a leisurely paddle and commune with nature.

MAKE A BIRD’S NEST BASKET

Date: Sunday, April 15

Time: 12:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Location: Arboretum

Ages: 7 through adult

Cost: \$18 (includes materials)

Enjoy free form art work! Create a small bird’s nest-like basket using rattan reed, vines, ribbons, strings, beads, and more. *Children 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult & work on one project as an adult/child team. Children 11 through adults may attend solo. Please check ages below for specific projects. Cost is per project.*

Instructor: *Liz Braidwood Fulmer.*

BLOOMING YOUNG ARTISTS

Session B: Six Saturdays, April 21 to June 2 (no class 5/26)

Time: 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Location: Arboretum

Ages: 6 to 10

Cost: \$84 (includes materials)

Learning the principles of creating art with illustrator Lena Schiffman is lots of fun! Explore drawing, painting, sculpture, and more. Ms. Lena’s gentle approach encourages and guides students. Visit different media such as pencil, acrylics, watercolor paint, clay, and paper. Students use still lifes... stuffed toys, taxidermied animals, photos, and something brought from home. We might also go outdoors to draw nature! The fundamental principles will be the focus: understanding color, composition, and the proper use of materials. Don’t miss this chance to have your blooming young artist put his or her heart and soul into creating keepsakes! Ms. Lena works well with beginners to very advanced students. Remember to dress in old clothing. Instructor Lena Schiffman: www.lenashiffman.com/bio.html.

STUDIO TIME for ARTISTS-IN-TRAINING

Session B: Six Saturdays, April 21 to June 2 (no class 5/26)

Time: 10:15 AM to 11:45 AM

Location: Arboretum

Ages: 11 to 17

Cost: \$94 (includes materials)

Explore, learn more advanced techniques, and improve your abilities with color, shading, composition, and perspective. Instructor Lena Schiffman's gentle approach and ability to work with beginners to very advanced students encourages and guides them to expand their creativity. Students work during this studio time to complete their art at their own pace and style. We will work from a variety of still life: taxidermied animals, photos, nature (outdoors if weather permits), and maybe something brought from home. Artists may visit many different media including pencil, charcoal, pastel and paints. Remember to dress in old clothing. Instructor Lena Schiffman: www.lenashiffman.com/bio.html.

DSLR CAMERA BEGINNER CLASS

Date: Sunday, April 22

Time: 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Location: Arboretum

Age: adults

Cost: \$40

Guest presenter: Thomas Romeo

Do you have a digital DSLR or mirror-less camera and want to take your photos to the next level but are afraid to leave the auto mode? This hands-on-class is for beginners and amateur photographers looking to gain a better understanding of the automated modes and features, as well as the manual controls and capabilities, of your digital SLR or mirror-less camera. You will be able to use your creativity and vision and get your camera to do what you want instead of what it thinks you want. Please bring your camera and any accessories, manual, and questions. *This class is not for point-and-shoot cameras.*

CANOEING: RIVER TRIPS

Time: 8:15 AM to about 3:30 PM

Location: Arboretum

Ages: 8 through adult

Cost: \$35 per person

Your leaders will fit you with a lifejacket and paddle, and then drive to the river, where they will discuss maneuvering techniques and canoe safety. Our leaders will guide you down the river. We paddle for about two hours, stop for lunch, and paddle for about two more hours. We are flexible with our time, which depends in part on natural forces, such as the river's water level and whether or not there is a breeze. Our aim is to return to the Arboretum by 3:30 PM, give or take an hour.

Saturday, April 28

South Branch

Sunday, May 6

Delaware: Kingwood to Bull's Island

Saturday, May 26

Delaware: Phillipsburg to Riegelsville

Sunday, June 10,

Delaware: Martins Creek to Phillipsburg

Saturday, June 23

Delaware: Phillipsburg to Riegelsville

Saturday, July 7

South Branch

Saturday, July 21

Delaware: Martins Creek to Phillipsburg

Saturday, August 4

Delaware: Phillipsburg to Riegelsville

Sunday, August 19

Delaware: Kingwood to Bull's Island

Saturday, September 8

South Branch

Sunday, September 23
Saturday, October 13
Saturday, October 27

Delaware: Phillipsburg to Riegelsville
Delaware: Kingwood to Bull's Island
Leaders' Choice

All programs require pre-registration. To download a registration form, please visit <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/parks/parks.htm>. For more information on Hunterdon County Division of Parks & Recreation, please call us at (908) 782-1158.