

2018 RUSHTON NATURE KEEPERS EVENTS

Sheep Shearing

Wednesday, April 18 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm | Plumsock Farm
920 Plumsock Road, Newtown Square

Join us in a pastoral setting for a sheep shearing demonstration. Children will get to witness and take part in a sheep shearing and learn about the history of domesticated sheep as farm animals.

Songbird Banding Open House

Saturday, April 28 from 6:00 - 10:30 am | Rushton Woods Preserve

Stop by the region’s premier bird banding station at Rushton Woods Preserve anytime between the operating hours of 6-10:30 am (arrive by 9 am) to observe the incredible science of bird banding. You’ll see handsome spring warblers and also get to tour the stream where our watersheds expert will have live aquatic invertebrates on display.

Warbler Walk at Ridley Creek State Park

Sunday, April 29 from 7:30 - 9:30 am | Ridley Creek State Park
The Bridle Trail on Gradyville Road, Newtown Square

Join birders from Delaware Valley Ornithological Club at Ridley Creek State Park at the height of spring warbler migration to see and hear these living gems in the habitat along the stream. We’ll practice spring identification as well as birding by ear.

Nature Poetry Workshop

Thursday, May 3 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm | Rushton Farm

In the merry month of May after the earth has fully awakened, we will look for birds, wildflowers and other wonders. Guided by Villanova Poetry Professor, Cathy Staples, we will create poetry from our observations.

Potato Planting

Wednesday, May 9 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm | Rushton Farm

Get your hands dirty and help the farmers plant potatoes in the fields. Since this farm is sustainable, it provides habitat for myriad living things besides just crops! We’ll come across many interesting insects and learn how farm is habitat.

“Belle’s Journey” Book Signing and Art Workshop

Sunday, May 20 from 2:00 - 4:30 pm
Willistown Conservation Trust Office

Participants will each get a pre-ordered copy of “Belle’s Journey” (\$15 for book), a new chapter book (for ages 7-10) about an osprey born in Martha’s Vineyard who makes her first flight to Brazil and back with a satellite transmitter. Ornithologist and author Rob Bierregaard will be there with artist Kate Garchinsky. **Must pre-register with Blake Goll (bhg@wctrust.org) by April 27th to be included on the book order.**

Stream Walk

Thursday, June 7 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm | Ashbridge Preserve

Explore different stretches of the stream at Ashbridge with WCT watershed experts while learning about the basics of stream ecology and food webs. We will also wander the enchanting Hawthorn Forest and get up close and personal with macroinvertebrates that call the stream bed home. Wear water shoes!

Field Trip to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia

Thursday, June 14 from 12:30 - 2:30 pm

Meet at the 19th Street entrance of the Academy, Philadelphia

We have a special invite to visit behind the scenes of the Academy of Natural Sciences, home to one of the world’s largest collections of bird specimens. We will get to observe ornithologists and see the amazing bird collection!

Family Moth Party

Friday, June 15 from 7:30 - 10:00 pm

Rushton Woods Preserve and Farm

Enjoy a summer night with the moths! We will survey what species are here by using special lights against white sheets. Adam Mitchell, Associate Wildlife Biologist of University of DE, and local moth enthusiast Sheryl Johnson will help with moth ID. Fermented refreshments will be provided for the moths, but humans must BYOB. Snacks will be provided.

Glen Mills School Purple Martin Banding

Date and Time: TBA | Glen Mills School

185 Glen Mills Road, Glen Mills

Watch the banding of hundreds of Purple Martin chicks at the official Purple Martin colony of PA. Banding these birds is important for their conservation because they are declining. Timing of this event depends on timing of the hatch.

Meet the Bees and Honey Tasting

Wednesday, July 11 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm | Rushton Farm

Join Rushton’s beekeeper, Noah Gress, as he harvests honey from Rushton’s busy honeybee colony. Children will have the opportunity to extract yummy honey straight off the honeycomb and learn about the importance of other native bees as pollinators.

Leaf Pack Walk

Sunday, July 15 from 12:00 - 5:00 pm | Ashbridge Preserve

Dive deeper into stream ecology with our Field Study Site Coordinator as we focus on understanding food webs and trophic levels. We’ll play games, explore the stream looking for bugs and make “leaf packs”, connecting aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

Wildflowers and Watercolor Workshop

Thursday, August 2 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Willistown Conservation Trust Office

Explore the Trust’s spectacular wildflower meadow and paint with watercolors in the fresh air! We’ll also learn about the importance of native plants for pollinators and what you can do in your own yard to support these insects.

Discover Rushton Mini Camp

Wednesday, August 22 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm | Rushton Farm

Spend a half day at Rushton exploring the woods and fields, monitoring bird boxes, and making bouquets and gnome homes. We’ll also work on the farm harvesting the potatoes you helped plant in May! Snacks will be provided.

Nighthawk Watch at Haverford College Observatory

Thursday, August 30 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Haverford College, Walton Lane, Ardmore

Watch the skies with expert bird watchers from Birding Club of Delaware County during the Common Nighthawk migration for the official count! These aerial insectivores can be seen in large flocks during migration, but are in steep decline.

Songbird Banding Open House

Saturday, September 15 from 6:00 - 10:30 am

Rushton Woods Preserve and Farm

Bring a friend to the banding station anytime between the operating hours from 6 -10:30 am (arrive by 9 am) to observe the inspiring science of bird banding, meet field biologists, see migrant birds up close and “practice banding skills.”

Harvest Hoopla

Friday, October 5 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm | Rushton Farm

It’s time for Rushton Nature Keepers to celebrate the harvest at Rushton Farm! Join us for a fun evening of pumpkin carving and a hayride with Farmer Fred.

Hawk Watch at Rose Tree Park

Sunday, October 14 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm | Rose Tree Park

1671 North Providence Road, Media

Join expert hawk watchers and e-Birders at the Rose Tree Hawk Watch during the height of the fall migration. You’ll learn all about raptor identification and see migrating raptors like Broad-winged Hawks overhead!

Monster Night

Tuesday, October 30 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm | Rushton Farm (TBD)

Observe spooky little stream creatures projected from a microscope onto a screen to MONSTER size! Learn all about which fish are native and which are invasive (the real monsters!). Then get creative designing your own stream bug or fish and making your own “monster” costume!

Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding

Friday, November 9 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm | Rushton Farm

Observe Northern Saw-whet Owl banding at Rushton Farm and experience nature at night. These tiny owls (no bigger than a soda can) travel through Pennsylvania in the fall in search of ideal overwintering habitat. Learn all about their ecology and conservation from our field scientists and hopefully see an owl up-close!

Visit to Chester County Food Bank

Wednesday, November 14 from 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Chester County Food Bank | 650 Pennsylvania Drive, Exton

Join us for a tour of the Chester County Food Bank facility, which serves the hungry and food insecure of our county. We’ll learn all about the problem of food insecurity and the process of food donation. Rushton Farm itself donates about 3,000 pounds of fresh produce annually.

Rushton Junior Naturalist Celebration

Friday, November 30 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm





Rushton Woods Preserve and Farm

All Rushton Nature Keepers are invited to this special celebration. Those who have attended 2 bird events, 2 farm events, 2 water events and 1 habitat event as designated by the icons on the schedule (for a total of 7) will be awarded the Rushton Junior Naturalist title.

Winter Bird Count

Saturday, December 8 from 9:30 - 11:00 am | Rushton Farm

Enjoy a morning of birding at Rushton Woods. We will count birds in the tradition of the National Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC), which is the longest running wildlife survey in the world. We’ll also learn how to enter our sightings into eBird.

Addresses	Program Key
Willistown Conservation Trust Office 925 Providence Road, Newtown Square	 Birds and Wildlife
Rushton Woods Preserve and Farm 911 Delchester Road, Newtown Square	 Sustainable Farming
Ashbridge Preserve E. Strasburg Road, West Chester	 Watersheds
	 Healthy Habitat