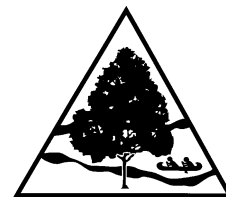




Hunterdon County
Division of Parks & Recreation
News Release



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

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.**

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

THURSDAY MORNING WALKS

Time: 6:30 AM to 8:00 AM

Dates & Locations:

May 3: Echo Hill Park

May 10: Sunnyside Picnic Area

May 17: Deer Path Park Main Lot

May 24: Hoffman Park

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.

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	Delaware: Phillipsburg to Riegelsville
Saturday, October 13	Delaware: Kingwood to Bull's Island
Saturday, October 27	Leaders' Choice

FREE RECREATION WALKS

Dates: Wednesdays

Time: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Ages: all

Cost: Free

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.

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 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!*

FISHING CLINIC (also Boy Scout Merit Badge)

Date: Friday, May 11

Time: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Location: Echo Hill pond

Ages: 6 through adults (children must be accompanied by an adult)

Cost: \$8 (includes bait and supplies)

Let us show you the basics of fishing, including safety, etiquette, equipment, and casting. Meet Patrick Eckard, Recreation Leader, at Echo Hill pond. Fishing rods are available to borrow. Bait, hooks, bobbers, and weights are provided. If you have your own fishing equipment, you may bring it with you. Organized groups can also request this program on another date. Call us to set up this program for a group. Boy Scouts may obtain their merit badge by setting up an additional meeting with Patrick.

JUPITER AT OPPOSITION & METEORS

Date: Friday, May 11

Time: 10:00 PM to 11:30 PM

Location: Hoffman Park

Ages: 12 through adult

Cost: \$3

Guest presenters: Wayne Petko and John Andrews

In May, this giant planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than at any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view Jupiter and its moons. A medium-sized telescope should be able to show you some of the details in Jupiter's cloud bands and see Jupiter's four largest moons, appearing as bright dots on either side of the planet. Plus, the Eta Aquarids, an above average meteor shower, will be occurring and the dark sky will offer a great chance to view the meteors and the constellations.

BASKETRY: UFO...UNFINISHED OBJECTS

Date: Monday, May 14

Time: 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Location: Arboretum

Ages: adults

Cost: \$5 per session

Do you have a basket that you have not finished and would like to work on? Or a basket kit you always wanted to try? Join us for this UFO class.

CPR AND FIRST AID FOR THE COMMUNITY COURSE (also Boy Scout Merit Badge)

Dates: Saturday, May 19

Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (CPR: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and First Aid: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM)

Location: Echo Hill

Ages: 12 through adult (children must be accompanied by an adult)

Cost: CPR \$25; First Aid \$25; or both for \$45

If you have ever wanted to learn CPR and First Aid, this is the time. These courses are taught by an American Heart Association (AHA) instructor. You will learn Adult, Child, and Infant CPR, Choking, and First Aid, allowing you to help anyone of any age. *This is not a course for health care personnel.* Sign up for CPR and/or First Aid, and bring a lunch if you are doing both classes. Boy Scouts may obtain their merit badge by setting up an additional meeting with Patrick.

**The American Heart Association strongly promotes knowledge and proficiency in CPR and instructional material for this purpose. Use of these materials in an education course does not represent course sponsorship by the American Heart Association. Any fees charged for such a course, except for a portion of fees needed for AHA course material, do not represent income to the Association.*

TREE PLANTING

Date: Saturday, May 19

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Location: Sunnyside Picnic Area (47 Kiceniuk Rd. Annandale, NJ 08801)

Ages: All ages! (Volunteers under age 14 must be accompanied by an adult.)

Cost: free!

Join your local Watershed Ambassador to plant over 100 native saplings in the Sunnyside Awossagame Grove! Running right alongside the beautiful South Branch of the Raritan River, this park is a crucial area for stream restoration. By planting trees, we will reduce water and air pollution, help stabilize the river banks, provide wildlife habitat, and protect the watershed. Volunteers will help plant the trees and install protective tree tubes. You may bring your own shovels and gloves, but tools will also be available. Light refreshments will be provided! Please contact Erica Rossetti at americorps@raritanheadwaters.org or (908) 234-1852 ext. 323 for registration and more information.

TOT WALK: SALAMANDERS

Location: Echo Hill

Ages: 2 to 3 with adult

Cost: \$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. Please select Session A, B, or C.

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

Session B: Friday, May 25, 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM **SOLD OUT; call for wait list**

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

BIRD STUDY SCOUTING MERIT BADGE

Date: Friday, May 25

Time: 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Location: Echo Hill playground

Ages: Boy Scouts or Venture Scouts ages 11 through 17

Cost: \$10 per scout

Earn your Bird Study Merit Badge with Counselor Laura Bush! The majority of the two hours will be spent on preparing our field notebooks, and identifying birds by sight and sound (requirements 5 and 6). We will also go over how to use binoculars and field guides (requirements 3 and 4, but scouts will have to be tested on this at a later date). Please bring a notebook and pencil, and binoculars if you have them (also available to borrow). Scouts will need to schedule an additional meeting time with Laura after they have completed the additional requirements for the badge on their own. Cost is per scout; adults may accompany their scout for free, or drop them off.

FULL MOON HIKE

Date: Tuesday, May 29

Time: 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Location: Hoffman Park

Ages: 8 through adult (children must be accompanied by an adult)

Cost: \$3 per person

Come explore the park during the night and see the moonlight reflecting off our pond! Under the light of a full moon, we will listen to spring insects and learn about the adaptations of nocturnal animals. We will also learn about the phases of the moon. Meet Senior Park Naturalist Laura Bush at the main parking area, 26 Baptist Church Road, Hampton 08827, and dress to be outside for the hour.

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.