



Churchville Nature Center

A Facility of the Bucks County Department of Parks & Recreation
48 Years of Education & Preservation

Program & Activity Guide Spring 2012

Special Events

Annual Wildflower Sale

April 28 & 29 ~ May 5 & 6

Come purchase a wide variety of plants for your garden, including native perennials, plants for attracting hummingbirds and butterflies, aquatic plants and much more. The sale will be held from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Members-Only Wildflower Sale

April 27

On April 27, from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, will be the members-only preview and sale of our wide variety of plants. Come on over and get a jump on the weekend crowds!

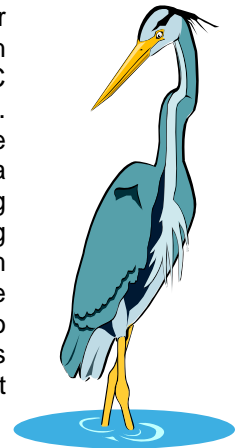
Members will receive a special discount coupon in the mail prior to the members' day.



Migratory Bird Marathon

May 12

Help the center by supporting our Migratory Bird Marathon team. Each year during the month of May, our CNC team heads out to count bird species. The goal of the bird count is to tally the total number of species seen in a single 24-hour period during spring migration. In addition to providing valuable research data, our team raises funds to support the Churchville Nature Center. Our team is hoping to count 80 to 100 species. Pledge forms and more information are available at the center by calling (215) 357-4005.



Spring Clean-Up Day

March 31

Calling all volunteers! The Churchville Nature Center will be having a Spring Clean-Up Day on Saturday, March 31, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We will be taking this opportunity before the grounds begin to "green-up" to clean up trash along the center's trails and around the reservoir. We'll also be doing some sprucing up around the outside of the center. All participants are asked to dress for dirty work and bring garden/work gloves with them. Scouts and other organized groups are welcome. If you would like more information, or would like to add your name to the list of volunteers for the day, please contact CNC Coordinator of Volunteers, Diane V. Sears at (215) 357-4005 ext. 16, or dvsears@co.bucks.pa.us.

Naturalist Programs

Saturday Morning Bird Walks

Each Saturday, March - September

Join an experienced bird watcher every Saturday morning from 7:00 to 9:00 AM for our early morning bird walks. These walks are a great way to meet new people and enjoy casual conversation with other bird enthusiasts. Your guide will pick out the best spot to visit within the area. Bring along binoculars and a bird identification book, if you have them.



The Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its programs, activities and facilities. The official registration information of the Friends of Churchville Nature Center, Inc. may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999.

Bucks County Commissioners: Robert G. Loughery, Chair, Charles H. Martin & Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW



Naturalist Programs

March

Star Party Campfire

March 2

Come and explore the nighttime sky during our late winter campfire program. Weather permitting, we will view constellations and other celestial wonders with both our naked eye and a telescope. We will view any planets that are visible, as well as some well known winter, deep sky objects. Star finder charts will be available for use. A campfire and marshmallows will finish off the night. This program is dependent on good weather and clear skies.

Reservations are required

Time: 7:30 PM Fee: Adults \$5.00 & Children \$3.00

Ramblings Afield

March 11

Winter is waning and spring is still on the horizon. While this may appear to be a drab time of year to many, if one looks closely, there are many fascinating aspects of nature to investigate. Join a naturalist for a ramble through our preserve while he points out and explains many natural treasures that may go unnoticed by the untrained eye.

Time: 2:00 pm Fee: \$3.00



Spring Night Hike & Campfire

March 16

Join us for a nocturnal night hike as we search for the early spring risers that live at the nature center. The evening's activities will conclude with marshmallows, hot chocolate and conversation around the campfire.

Reservations are required

Time: 7:00pm
Fee: Adults \$5.00
Children \$3.00

Wake Up; It's Spring

March 18

We will be heading out onto the nature center's trails for a walk. Along the way we will try to discover the first signs of spring. Will they be plant or animal? Let's go on the trails and find out.

Time: 2:00 pm Fee: \$3.00 per person



April Fool's Day

April 1

Come join us as we learn about the tricks counterparts in nature use to fool each other. We'll explore the trails to see if we can see through their tomfoolery.

Time: 2:00 PM
\$3.00 per person

April

Early Wild Edible Plants

April 15

Wild edibles plants can be found in our own backyard and are very nutritious. This hands-on program will cover how to identify our more common local wild edible plants of early spring, such as wild mustards, day-lily tubers, wild peppercorn and other assorted field greens that will help you cut your food budget. This program will include an edibles walk along our trails and some wild edible sampling for those that wish.

Time: 2:00 PM \$3.00 per person



May

Spring Wildflower Walk

May 6

Come along with us as we explore the fields and forest in search of spring wildflowers. The natural history of these woodland wonders will be discussed, as well as some interesting folklore about, and uses of, our local wild plants.

Time: 2:00 PM
\$3.00 per person



Our Migrating Birds

May 13

Our woods are alive with the sounds of migrating songbirds on their journey to their nesting grounds further north. Come join us on this walk while we listen for, and observe, some of our wonderful migrating songbirds. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Time: 2:00 PM
\$3.00 per person

Aquatic Study

May 26

The watery world is teeming with life, from tiny, one-celled forms to larger ones of all kinds. Explore with us the life of our pond and the creatures that live there. All life forms collected during our program will be returned to the pond.

Time: 2:00 PM
\$3.00 per person



Naturalist Programs



June

Poisonous Plants

June 3

Most plant species are harmless; in fact, many are edible or beneficial in other ways. There are certain species, however, that are potentially dangerous. On this walk, we will seek out and discuss the poisonous species that grow on the Churchville Preserve.

Time: 2:00 PM
\$3 per person

Star Party Campfire Programs

June 8

Come and explore the nighttime sky during our summer campfire programs. Weather permitting we will view constellations and other celestial wonders with both our naked eye and a telescope. We will view any planets that are visible, as well as some well known summer deep sky objects. Star finder charts will be available for use. A campfire and marshmallows will finish off the night. This program is dependent on good weather and clear skies.

Reservations are required

Time: 9:30pm - Adults \$5 & Children \$3

Insect Discovery

June 10

Early summer is here, and the fields and woodlands are alive with the buzzing and activity of many different species of insects. This is a good time to familiarize ourselves with the early stages of some of our insects that will eventually mature and will be found during our late summer insect safari program. Insect nets and collecting jars will be used to observe insects up closer. All insects will be returned to the wild.

Time: 2:00 PM
\$3 per person

Terrific Trees

June 17

Churchville Nature Center is home to a variety of native deciduous trees that fill our woodland. Some seem to reach to the sky. Many of these trees are valuable food sources for wildlife, as well as companions during our strolls through the trails. Join us as we explore and identify the tree species that call the nature center home.

Time: 2:00 PM
\$3 per person



Firefly Campfire

June 22

Have you ever wondered how or why a firefly glows? Find out the answers to these questions and more as you and your family join us for an evening firefly hike. Join us as we enjoy the spectacle of these amazing glowing insects. We will search in the meadows and forest edges; perhaps we can even find glowworms. We will end at the campfire for some roasting of marshmallows and stories.

Reservations are required

Time: 8:00pm - Adults \$5 & Children \$3

Lenape Village Programs



Lenape Village Tours

Every Sunday from April 1 To October 28

Take a tour of the Lenape Village with one of our educators and experience a 1500's era working village. Each week there will be a new topic to explore.

Spring Tour Special Features

April 1 - Village Opens	April 8 - Closed for Easter
April 15 - Lenape who stayed behind	April 22 - Lenape moved west
April 29 - Native Medicines	May 6 - Fire Making
May 13 - Bowl making	May 20 - Plant garden
May 27 - Wild edibles	June 3 - Storytelling
June 10 - Fire Making	June 17 - Cooking
	June 24 Give-Away

Reservations are requested

Time: 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Adults & Children age 4 and up \$5/under age 4 are free

Basket Making Workshop

March 17

Adults are invited to join CNC educator Honey Shasha'ah to learn how to weave simple pine needle baskets. The fee includes instruction and supplies. **Space is limited to 10 participants and pre-registration is required.**

Time: 1:00 pm
\$25.00 per person

Pre-registration is required for all children's programs, natural history trips, courses and workshops. Space is limited. Please be sure to read the Registration/Cancellation Policies. For trips, travel is by private car pool, departing from the Churchville Nature Center (unless otherwise noted). An information letter with further details for each outing will be sent upon registration. Gear and food are not provided, unless stated otherwise. Canoe trip prices include canoes, paddles and adult-size preservers. **All outing itineraries are subject to change due to unforeseen conditions**.

REGISTRATION/CANCELLATION POLICIES

REGISTRATION: To register for any paid program, field trip, or workshop, participants must pre-pay. Once payment is received, the participant will be put on the program register. The nature center accepts cash, personal checks, money orders, or VISA/Master Card. The fee can be dropped off in person at the center, or sent by mail to the Churchville Nature Center, 501 Churchville PA, 18966. Payment should be accompanied by a note with participant's name, address, day and evening phone numbers, and the name of the event(s) they are signing up for.

CANCELLATION: A non-refundable cancellation fee of 10% of the program cost (with a minimum of \$1.00) will be deducted for any paid program/outing canceled up to one week prior to the activity. If cancellation is received less than one week before the program starts, no refunds or credits will be given.

NOTICE: There is a \$10.00 service fee for any "bounced" checks.



Courses

Beginning Astronomy Course

April 25 - May 30

This beginning astronomy course will be a great introduction for those looking to get involved in the hobby of astronomy, or a refresher for those that have already started. The course includes 6 evening lectures on Wednesdays at 7:30pm, and two separate evening observation sessions (date and times to be scheduled with the group) at a local observing site. Topics will include learning the sky, identifying constellations and star patterns, star hopping, planetary observation, telescopes and optics for astronomy, stellar evolution and star types, and observing DSO's (deep sky objects). Outside stargazing will be included in the evening lectures as skies and weather permit. During the observing sessions, a number of different scopes will be available, including an 18 inch Dobsonian telescope. The course includes all lectures and materials, Edmund Star Finder and MAG 5 Star Atlas, stargazing and observing nights, and use of telescopes under supervision.

Cost: CNC Members \$80/Non-Members \$90

Register early, as space is limited.

Instructor: Chris Stieber

Basic Tandem Canoe Training

May 19

Learn how to handle a canoe so you can have fun on the water. You will have approximately 8 hours of instruction. The day will begin with some safety information and demonstration of paddle strokes, then you will start to practice what you have been shown paddling on the Harrisville Pond in the Pine Barrens of NJ. In most cases you will be paddling with an experienced paddler/coach. We then move onto a short section of the Wading River, where you will really use the skills introduced on the lake, paddling the twists and turns the river. You will get to paddle from both the bow and stern of a canoe. You will develop solid, fundamental skills that will allow you to go onto much more difficult water with practice. Even experienced paddlers will benefit from this class. This is a joint CNC and Appalachian Mountain Club course.

Pre-registration is required, and space is limited.

Meeting Time: 7:00 AM in front of the canoe shed

**Course & Canoe Use Fee: CNC & AMC Members \$45 & Non-Members \$55

Instructors: John Chalikian & Walt Underhill

Moving Water Tandem Canoe Training

June 9

This is a continuation of the first class and will develop sound paddling strokes and techniques. We will introduce new river skills that include eddy turns and peel-outs, ferrying and some surfing. River reading skills and safety will also be emphasized. At the end of the day you will be comfortable paddling moving water on class 1, and with time, class 2 rivers such as the Delaware, Schuylkill, Lehigh and all of the Pine Barrens. You will have a new perspective of nature from your canoe. New experiences like canoe camping will be possible with your new skills. To sign up for this class you should have taken the first class or review your paddle experience with one of the instructors. The second class will be on the Delaware around Lambertville, NJ. This is a joint CNC and Appalachian Mountain Club course.

Space is limited, and pre-registration is required.

Meeting Time: 7:45 AM

**Course & Canoe Use Fee: CNC & AMC Members \$45 & Non-Members \$55

****Special Combination Fee: Take both canoe classes for Members \$75 & Non-Members \$95**



Trips

Neshaminy Canoe Trip

March 24

Join us for this classic Bucks County paddle. We will canoe from Rushland to Tyler State Park, almost 7 miles of rolling hills scenery. Cold weather clothing may be needed [no cotton will be allowed]. Some experience is helpful. This is a joint trip with Appalachian Mountain Club. Fee includes canoes, paddles, preservers & experienced leadership.

Departure Time: 8:45 AM Leader: John Chalikian

Canoe Use Fee: Members \$25/Non-Members \$30

Spring Waterfowl Trip

March 25

We return to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge for a day of spectacular waterfowl viewing. Not only will we see a myriad of colorful ducks, geese and shorebirds migrating down the coast, but we will also likely see a nice variety of raptors, including northern harriers, bald eagles, peregrine falcons and, if we are lucky, short-eared owls.

Departure Time: 8:00 AM Leader: Marlin Corn

Fee: Member \$17/Non-Members \$20 *Includes entrance into refuge.

Delaware River Canoe: Kingwood to Bulls Island

April 28

We will be paddling along the section of the Delaware in Upper Bucks from Kingwood to Bulls Island. This trip is a good one for beginners. This is a joint trip with Appalachian Mountain Club. Fee includes canoes, paddles, preservers & experienced leadership.

Departure Time: 8:00 AM Leader: John Chalikian

Canoe Use Fee: Members \$25/Non-Members \$30

Delaware Water Gap Spring Nature Hike

May 20

Investigate natural potholes and stone ledges in a beautiful glen. Cool your feet in a large pool at the base of a waterfall. Observe interesting wildflowers and animal denizens of field, forest and stream along the way before our hike ends at a working historical village. These are some of the pleasures found along the way on this ever-popular hike in the Water Gap region.

Departure: 6:30 AM

Leader: Marlin Corn

Fee: Member \$10/Non-members \$15

Frog Safari

June 2

If you are a frog fanatic, you will want to join us for this popular nocturnal natural history trip to the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Our primary mission is to locate and observe the endangered Pine Barrens Tree Frog, but also expect to see other species such as Carpenter Frog, Southern Leopard Frog and Fowler's Toad. The trip will begin at a cedar bog, where we will investigate interesting plants and animals while waiting for the sun to go down and the frogs to start calling. At dusk, we will then drive to another nearby location, known for its large population of tree frogs. There is very little hiking involved with this trip, only a couple of short, leisurely walks

Departure: 5:30 PM

Leader: Marlin Corn

Fee: Member \$10/Non-members \$15