



Burlington County Parks System Spring 2023 Nature Programs

Woodcock Walk

During this walk coinciding with sunset and a full moon, learn about the American Woodcock while observing their unusual courtship display performed at dusk.

There is a strict limit of participants. Registration is required.

Boundary Creek Natural Resource Area

Monday, March 6, 5:30pm [Register here](#)

Moonlit Walks

Offered on or around a full moon, this reoccurring series will be led by Naturalist Gina. Leave your flashlights at home and allow your eyes to adjust. We'll listen and watch for nocturnal animals while admiring constellations, planets, and satellites. **There is a strict limit of participants. Registration is required.**

Kinkora Trail

Wednesday, March 8, 6:30pm (Worm Moon)

[Register here](#)

Boundary Creek

Wednesday, April 5, 8:00pm (Pink Moon)

[Register here](#)

Arney's Mount

Thursday, May 4, 8:30pm (Flower Moon)

[Register here](#)

Winter Ecology Walk

Join Park Naturalists Jen Bulava and Gina DiMaio on a walk to learn about the unique adaptations which enable our native plants and animals to survive through the coldest months.

Smith's Woods

Friday, March 10, 2:00pm [Register here](#)

Becoming a Better Birder Series

This five-session course will help you develop or improve your bird identification skills. Four indoor sessions will be held Thursdays at the Lyceum of History and Natural Sciences; the fifth session will be held outdoors at Boundary Creek. Topics will include: useful tips to identify birds, songs and calls of common birds, behaviors of bird families, using your phone and computer to identify and learn more about birds, tips for using binoculars, and much more. The course is cumulative and designed for participation in all of the dates. The guest course presenter is local expert birder Claire Campbell. **There is a strict limit of participants. Registration is required.**

Lyceum of History and Natural Sciences

Thursdays: March 9, 16, 23, and 30, 10:30am-12:00pm

Boundary Creek

Thursday: April 6, 10:30am-12:00pm

[Register here for the whole series](#)

Tuesday Talks & Friday Forums

A series of nature walks led by Naturalist Jen Bulava on select Tuesdays and Fridays.

Winter Pinelands Birding Adventure

Birding in the Pinelands can be a challenging experience, since finding the birds is often a matter of being in the right place at the right time, especially for those migratory species that overwinter in Southern New Jersey. On this Adventure we will meet at Pinelands Preservation Alliance's Bishop Farmstead at 8:45 AM, then travel over to the beautiful Franklin Parker Preserve for a leisurely birding hike through forests and wetlands. We will look for interesting birds that are resident or just passing through the area. Led by Jennifer Bulava, Burlington County Parks Senior Naturalist. Registration will be on the Pinelands Adventures website. Space is limited so register early! Cost: \$25/person
Meeting at PPA headquarters, transportation provided to Franklin Parker Preserve.

Tuesday, March 14, 9:00am

Friday, March 17, 9:00am

Registration through Pinelands Adventures

Signs of Spring

Frogs, flowers, and birds, oh my! Signs of spring are emerging all around us. Take a walk around Smithville Park to experience all the budding flowers, new migratory birds just arriving, and listen for the spring frogs calling.

Smith's Woods

Tuesday, March 28, 9:30am [Register here](#)

Friday, March 31, 9:30am [Register here](#)

Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring

Walk along the edge of the Rancocas Creek on our new Rancocas Creek Greenway Trail to glimpse the end of winter waterfowl migration and the beginnings of spring migration. Species we hope to see include blue-winged teal, common merganser, and wood duck, as well as great blue herons and kingfishers. The walk is 1-mile one way on a flat paved path with a round trip total of 2 miles starting and ending at Amico Island.

Rancocas Creek Greenway Trail, Riverside

Tuesday, April 11, 1:00pm [Register here](#)

Friday, April 14, 2:30pm [Register here](#)

Spring Hike

Get out your hiking boots and join Jen to observe a fantastic array of life in the woods. From early spring butterflies to migratory warblers and interesting plants, this unique sandy pine barrens-like habitat has tremendous species diversity. This hike will be about 2.5 miles on natural terrain including some hills. Hiking shoes/boots and a walking stick are highly recommended. There are no restrooms at this location.

Rancocas State Park Hainesport

Tuesday, April 25, 9:00am [Register here](#)

Friday, April 28, 9:00am [Register here](#)

Birding

The Kinkora Trail is a great place to see a wide variety of birds in the fields, forests, and wetlands all from one easy paved path. The walk will be 1 mile down and 1 mile return for a round trip total of 2 miles.

Kinkora Trail, Columbus

Tuesday, May 16, 9:00am [Register here](#)

Friday, May 19, 9:00am [Register here](#)

Busy Birds

Join us for a short half-mile walk around Boundary Creek to observe bird species as they either finish building their nests, are sitting on eggs, or start feeding chicks. Baltimore and orchard oriole nests are gorgeously woven and gnatcatcher nests are expertly hidden! There are lots of other species to see at this time as well including butterflies and dragonflies. Binoculars are a must.

Boundary Creek Natural Resource Area

Tuesday, May 30, 9:00am [Register here](#)

Friday, June 2, 9:00am [Register here](#)

Spring Equinox Hike

Celebrate the first official day of spring with a nature hike! Led by Naturalist Gina, we'll walk up to 2 miles to look for signs of spring. Binoculars and cameras are encouraged.

Historic Smithville Park

Monday, March 20, 5:00pm [Register here](#)

Star Watches

Join the West Jersey Astronomical Society for an evening of stargazing! Look through a variety of telescopes at planets, stars, and galaxies. Learn about constellations and ask questions about our solar system with knowledgeable club members. Guests are also encouraged to bring binoculars for viewing the night sky. Meets in the big field event area of Smithville Park. **Registration is required.**

Smithville Park

Wednesday, April 12, 7:30-10:30pm [Register here](#)

Thursday, May 11, 8:00-11:00pm [Register here](#)

Spring Frog Walk Series

With 32 species of toads, frogs, salamanders, and newts, NJ is a unique amphibian hotspot in the region. Come learn about your croaking neighbors during the Spring Frog Walk Series with Dr. Carlos Martínez Rivera, Curator of Living Collections at the DaVinci Science Center. We will walk into the nearby woods and wetlands in our parks to look and listen for amphibian species. Bring a flashlight with batteries and wear rubber boots or shoes you don't mind getting muddy. **Registration required.**

Long Bridge Park

Thursday, April 13, 6:30pm [Register here](#)

Smithville Park

Monday, April 18, 6:30pm [Register here](#)

Spring Ephemeral Wildflower Walk

Take a stroll on the Ravine Nature Trail with Senior Naturalist Jen Bulava to discover fascinating spring wildflowers and their adaptations for survival. Known as spring ephemerals, these special wildflowers are only present above ground for a very short period of time. Once the trees leaf-out above them, the plants will completely disappear, existing only as roots and rhizomes below the ground. Please note the ravine trail is root-laden, steep in one portion, and not accessible to wheelchairs or strollers.

Smithville Park

Saturday, April 15, 1:00pm [Register here](#)

Birding 101

Birding is a fun and popular form of recreation, but it can be challenging and overwhelming as a beginner to know where to start. This program is for those interested in beginning birding, suitable for children and adults. Learn the essential basics for bird identification, tips for choosing binoculars, how to use binoculars, and birding do's and don'ts. Join Senior Naturalist Jen Bulava in the field to see for yourself how enjoyable birding can be! **Registration is required.**

Smithville Park

Saturday, April 15 at 9:00am [Register here](#)

Sunday, April 30 at 9:00am [Register here](#)

Crepuscular Creatures

Explore our parks while enjoying the sunset! This is a great opportunity to watch for crepuscular wildlife which are most active around dawn and dusk. Led by Naturalist Gina we'll look for and learn about the behaviors of our native wildlife. Binoculars and cameras are encouraged!

Crystal Lake Park

Wednesday, April 19, 6:00pm [Register here](#)

Burlington County Fairgrounds

Wednesday, May 17, 6:30pm [Register here](#)

Botany Basics Series

Join naturalist Gina to learn botany basics and discover a variety of plant species. We will discuss botanical terminology and walk the park trails to practice what we learn. Series will continue in the summer months.

Crystal Lake Park

This location includes some steep slopes. Please wear proper footwear with treads for hiking on uneven, slippery, and root-laden terrain.

Saturday, April 22, 1:00pm [Register here](#)

Thursday, April 27, 1:00pm [Register here](#)

Willingboro Lakes

Saturday, May 20, 1:00pm [Register here](#)

Wednesday, May 24, 1:00pm [Register here](#)

Hogwarts is Here: The Science of Harry Potter

Get your wands ready! If you ever wished you could be a Hogwarts student, this is your chance. Participants will rotate between 4 stations: Herbology, Transfiguration, Creatures, and identifying wand woods for Mr. Ollivander. This program is a fantastic and fun way to learn about the real animals and plants in Smithville Park with a Harry Potter theme! For ages 8 and up. Costumes are welcome and encouraged but not

required! Maximum of six people per party. Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge will have live animals, so pets are strictly forbidden. **Registration is required. NO WALK-INS allowed.**

Smithville Park

Sunday, April 30, 1:00pm [Register here](#)

Burlington Birding Bonanza

Discover and appreciate the diversity of avian life in your own backyard! There's no better time to observe birds than during spring migration. Participants will try to find as many species of birds as possible while traveling between Boundary Creek, Rainbow Meadow, and Willingboro Lakes. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. Bring lunch and prepare to spend most of the day. **Registration is required.**

Boundary Creek, Rainbow Meadow, and Willingboro Lakes

Saturday, May 13, 8:00am [Register here](#)

Wonderful Wetlands

What a perfect way to celebrate National Wetlands Month! Naturalist Gina will be leading walks at two different park locations in May to explain what wetlands are, why they are such important habitats, and the species that occupy them.

Pennington Park

Monday, May 15, 2:30pm [Register here](#)

Boundary Creek Natural Resource Area

Thursday, May 25, 2:30pm [Register here](#)

Mountain Laurel Walks

Every year, beginning in late May, our native mountain laurel puts on a beautiful floral display. Join Naturalist Gina for a nature hike to admire these clusters of creamy white, pink-tinged flowers. Participants will learn about the natural history of mountain laurel and are sure to leave with a deeper appreciation for this native shrub species.

Smith's Woods

Wednesday, May 31, 1:00pm [Register here](#)

Crystal Lake

This location includes some steep slopes. Please wear proper footwear with treads for hiking on uneven, slippery, and root-laden terrain.

Saturday, June 3, 1:00pm [Register here](#)

SERVICE PROJECTS

Spotted Lanternfly Egg-Scraping

We need your help! Join us in partnering with the USDA to scrape away spotted lanternfly egg masses in our parks. A special demonstration will be given by a USDA plant health safety specialist. Volunteers will learn how to easily identify and destroy the eggs of this pesky invasive species and learn why they threaten native biodiversity in our parks. You'll use your newly learned "skills" to seek out hidden egg masses and help us "beat the bug". Scraping tools will be provided.

Pennington Park

Saturday, March 18, 10:00am [Register here](#)

Park Cleanups

Help keep our environment clean and green! Participate in cleaning up litter that has made its way into the park. Bags, gloves, and grabbers will be provided. Please bring your own water and snacks, if needed. If you need community service hours, please register by 4PM the day before the event. **To register, email**

[**cleancomm@co.burlington.nj.us**](mailto:cleancomm@co.burlington.nj.us)

Willingboro Lakes

Saturday, March 25, 9:00am

Pennington Park

Saturday, April 22, 9:00am

Amico Island

Saturday, May 6, 9:00am