

Your guide to Programs, Events, Classes & More

# 2024 WINTER PROGRAM GUIDE & NEWSLETTER

## Ocean County



### Parks & Recreation Natural Lands Trust

REGISTRATION BEGINS  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29th

## RESTORING THE SHORELINE THE BEST DEFENSE



### Ocean County Board of Commissioners

Virginia E. Haines – Chairwoman of Parks and Recreation

Ocean County Board of Commissioners

Michael T. Mangum – Director of Parks and Recreation

Barbara Jo Crea, Virginia E. Haines, John P. Kelly,

Mary J. Bavais – Assistant Director

Gary Quinn, Joseph H. Vicari

[www.oceancountyparks.org](http://www.oceancountyparks.org)



# RESTORING THE SHORELINE – THE BEST DEFENSE

by Donna Flynn - Director of Public Information

From the water, the shoreline of Cattus Island County Park shows nature's wear and tear as trees are toppled into the brackish Barnegat Bay their root systems unable to hold them upright, erosion has eaten away at the soil wearing down the coast line bringing with it a threat to natural habitats.

And even though its resiliency has been compromised over time, the 530 acre park off Fischer Boulevard in Toms River Township, remains the most significant salt marsh and the largest breakwater in the northern portion of Barnegat Bay.

Ocean County, in partnership with numerous agencies, has taken important steps to restore the park's resilience at both the shoreline and its infrastructure by advancing the design and conceptual plans for a living shoreline project.

"When you bring experts to the table including representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Stevens Institute, the Barnegat Bay Partnership, the state Department of Environmental Protection, Ocean County Parks and Recreation, Ocean County Planning Department and add Colliers engineering firm, you know the work to restore and provide resiliency to this area will be done right and will last long into the future," said Ocean County Commissioner Virginia E. Haines, chairwoman of the Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation. "This project is moving forward. Its benefits will be long lasting."

Prepared with a lengthy 'to do' list including completing shoreline restoration work, increase recreation areas, protecting the park infrastructure, increase wildlife opportunities, better buffer for the community, become a model for bay restoration and use for educational opportunities, the conceptual design work for the project looks at six different areas and the initial efforts will be focused on Page's Point, the northeast peninsula that has suffered from severe erosion over time.

Haines noted the Cattus Island shorelines have experienced significant erosion and retreat. Some areas of the park have lost more than 300 feet over the past 85 years. This erosion is likely to increase over time, especially if the northeast peninsula known as "Page's Point" is not stabilized. Page's Point itself serves as a wetland buffer and upland forest breakwater that protects four surrounding neighborhoods from tidal flooding and erosion.

Michael Mangum, Director of the Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation said the project is now moving from the conceptual plan designed by Stevens Institute of Technology to the design, permitting and bidding process being done by Colliers.

"Cattus Island is known for its trails and wildlife," Mangum said. "But its importance goes beyond that as it acts as a buffer to the many homes and commercial properties just beyond it.

Cattus Island preserves a significant portion of the total remaining natural lands in the northern part of Barnegat Bay, encompassing 530 acres out of over 1,000 acres of preserved public property in the immediate vicinity.

The work to improve the park's shoreline and infrastructure is being funded in part by a \$3 million grant from the DEP for local water-quality improvement projects in the Barnegat Bay watershed.

While the grant project's primary goal is to restore and provide resiliency to public land, the adjacent protected areas include about 7,300 homes and 50 commercial properties with a total estimated value of \$6.4 billion. Experts say marshes are the best defense against storms like Superstorm Sandy that hit in October 2011 providing protection for the surrounding areas.

"This project will help restore the Cattus Island shoreline and the successes and lessons learned in the course of this project can be used in other areas throughout the watershed," Haines said. "We are thankful for the partnerships that have been created as a result of this work and we know the end result will provide numerous environmental benefits."

The project is expected to be completed in phases over a 4-year period.

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**Newsletter Editors:**

**Michelle Urban & Carolyn Hofmann**

**The Ocean County Parks & Recreation Newsletter**

**is sponsored by the**

**Ocean County Board of Commissioners**

**and is prepared by the**

**Ocean County Parks & Recreation Department**

**Contributors: Active Recreation, Art and Environmental Staff.**

# Your Ocean County Lands Trust Property

## Breton Woods Property



The Breton Woods property is an approximately 30-acre parcel located off of Laurel Avenue in Brick Township. A joint acquisition with the Township, the property has been subdivided with 6 acres to the Town for a future playground, while the remaining 25 acres shall be permanently preserved open space for passive recreation. An overwhelming amount of public support came forward throughout this acquisition process to advocate for the preservation of the property and prevent a 59-lot development. Covered entirely by deciduous and mixed coniferous forest with a network of trails that some date back to as early as 1931, there is no question why the public wanted to see this parcel preserved. As some of the last remaining green space in the Town, the property has already been and will continue to be a destination for the neighborhood trail runners, dog walkers, and nature lovers to enjoy. The property is located within Atlantic Coastal Habitat, ranked as a special concern habitat for threatened and endangered species. Both the County and Town have applied to the NJDEP Green Acres Program for partial reimbursement on the property acquisition. The program now totals over 29,500 acres of preserved open space throughout the county.





# FREE WEEKEND PROGRAMS

These programs are **FREE** and will be on a first-come first served basis.

## CATTUS ISLAND COUNTY PARK

### Scales and Tales

Join a park naturalist as they dispel the myths and fears of native reptiles. You will see some of our live snakes and turtles up close and personal. Learn what makes these native species so special, and why they are such an important part of the ecosystem.

This program is sure to inspire all young nature lovers. **No registration required.**

LOCATION: Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River

DATE: Saturdays and Sundays.

TIME: 1:30 -2:00 pm

AGE: All

### Cattus Island Nature Walks

Be a part of a 40-year Ocean County tradition! Join a park naturalist and follow in the footsteps of such legendary local environmentalists as A. Morton and Betty Cooper, Dorothy Hale and Pete McLain.

Be prepared to discover the fascinating and diverse wonders of the natural world.

**\*No registration required.**

LOCATION: Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River

DATE: Saturdays and Sundays

TIME: 2:00 – 3:00pm

FEE: FREE

AGE: All

**January 6 & 7**

**January 13 & 14**

**January 20 & 21**

**January 27 & 28**

**Cattus Island's Ecosystems**

**Animal Habitats**

**Signs of Animals of Winter**

**Groundhogs or Whistlepigs?**

**February 3 & 4**

**February 10 & 11**

**February 17 & 18**

**February 24 & 25**

**Animal Tracks**

**Hibernation**

**A Winter Marsh Walk**

**Winter Birds**

**March 2 & 3**

**March 9 & 10**

**March 16 & 17**

**March 23 & 24**

**March 30 & 31**

**Backyard Birding**

**Signs of Spring**

**Return of the Osprey**

**Osprey Nests of Cattus Island**

**Naturalist's Choice**

## Stay tuned to your Ocean County Parks & Recreation



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# CLOVERDALE FARM COUNTY PARK

## Beginner Bird Walks

Learn how Cloverdale Farm County Park's bird population changes month by month. This informative bird walk is perfect for beginners. **Please be prepared to walk a mile, wear comfortable sneakers or boots, dress for the weather, and bring a pair of binoculars. If inclement weather, the program will be canceled.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATES: Saturdays, January 6, February 3, March 2

TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am

FEE: Free, No registration required

AGE: 9 years – Adult

## Great Backyard Bird Count Weekend

Stop by our Visitor Center to learn how to identify common backyard birds and help the staff count the number of birds at our feeders.

LOCATION: Visitor Center, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATES: Friday, February 16-Sunday, February 18

TIME: 10:00 am-3:30 pm

FEE: Free, No registration required

AGE: All

## Calling All Artists! Cloverdale Farm's Plein Air Weekend

Most of the best awe-inspiring works of art are usually associated with nature. Vincent Van Gogh's Starry Night, Claude Monet's Water Lilies, John James Audubon's water-colors of North American birds, and Albert Bierstadt and Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings of landscapes all have left impressions upon our hearts. Cloverdale Farm County Park is opening its gates for all types of artists from dawn to dusk. Bring your own blank canvases and medium materials and get ready to create in this plein air-style (outside in open air) event. **Keep in mind your eco footprint. Anything you bring in must be brought back home with you, including solvents or paint water, so be sure to pack containers and plastic bags.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, March 22 – Sunday, March 24

TIME: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

FEE: Free

AGE: All (children must be accompanied by adult)



### TEACHERS!...Borrow-A-Naturalist

Calling all Ocean County teachers. Sick of fluorescent lights? Tired of cutting through the red tape to run a field trip? Invite a naturalist to do a nature walk on your school's grounds. Most of Ocean County's schools are located in some of the richest and most unique natural areas in the county. The naturalist can also answer questions and provide program ideas. Perfect for all grade levels.

Contact Christopher Claus at (732) 506-5122

or

[cclaus@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:cclaus@co.ocean.nj.us)

for more information or to set up an appointment.



# JAKES BRANCH COUNTY PARK

FREE Walk-In Weekend Programs, No Registration Required

## Live Animal Talks

Come in and meet the animals of Jakes Branch County Park. Visitors will get an up-close look at the parks inhabitants and learn about each species.

Talks will last approximately 20 minutes

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Sundays, January 7 - March 31

TIME: 1:30 pm

AGE: All

FEE: Free

## Discovery Nature Walks

Join a park naturalist on these brief but informative nature walks through Jakes Branch Park. **Weather permitting - walks will not exceed 30 minutes**

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Sundays, January 7 - March 31

TIME: 2:00 pm

AGE: All

FEE: Free

## Drop In and Discover

What will you discover about nature when you drop by and join us for a FREE activity and craft?

No registration required

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturdays, January 6 - March 30

TIME: 1:30 – 3:00 pm, ongoing

AGE: 3 - 5 years

FEE: Free

## FAMILY FUN

### Create Your Own Walking Stick

Hiking season is here, and what better way to kick it off than to make your very own, personalized walking stick? Join us for an afternoon with Brad Koller, who will teach us how to handcraft a beautiful walking stick. Wood, tools, gloves, and aprons will be provided and sanitized. **Please bring exact cash or check payable to instructor Brad Koller for \$30.00. Children age 11-13 years must be accompanied by an adult.**

LOCATION: Cooper Environmental Center, Lecture Room, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River

DATE: Sunday, March 10.....442466 – 2A

TIME: 12:30 - 3:30pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: 11 years – Adult

### Owl Prowl

Are you adventurous? If so, you will enjoy a guided walk through the forest looking and listening for Great Horned Owls and Eastern Screech Owls. If we are lucky enough, we will get to see an owl up close and personal! **Please wear sneakers or boots, dress for the weather, and be prepared to walk one mile at a moderate pace. If it is overcast or there are high winds, we will cancel.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, January 26.....446530 – 1A

TIME: 5:30 – 6:30 pm

DATE: Friday, February 16.....446530 – 1B

TIME: 6:00 – 7:00 pm

DATE: Friday, March 22.....446530 – 1C

TIME: 7:30 – 8:30 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 8 years – Adult

## FAMILY FUN

### “Night of the Stars” at Jakes Branch

Spend the night under the stars with A.S.T.R.A., The Astronomical Society of the Toms River Area. Whether you're a budding astronomer or simply a casual stargazer, this night is for you. Volunteer members of the club will be on-site to share their out-of-this-world knowledge and answer your questions about the great unknown. They will have telescopes that will leave your mind reeling in amazement for days from the views you see. If you have your own telescope, feel free to bring it along. The club members will be happy to give you pointers on how to find the planets and locate constellations.

**No registration required.**

\*\*\*\***ENDING TIME APPROXIMATE. WEATHER PERMITTING!**\*\*\*\*

LOCATION: Soccer Lot, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, March 16

TIME: 8:00 – 10:00 pm

FEE: FREE

AGE: ALL

## LECTURES

### Veganuary

Veganuary is a global movement aimed at promoting a vegan lifestyle by encouraging people to try veganism for the month of January. Join us as we take a closer look at what it means to be vegan, the benefits of this lifestyle, and even taste some amazing recipes to start you off on your Veganuary journey!

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, January 6 .....445166 – 2A

TIME: 6:00 – 7:00pm

FEE: \$10.00 per person

AGE: 16 years - Adult

### Staff Stories

The Cooper Environmental Center at Cattus Island County Park is offering a power point and lecture series during the cold days of winter. Come inside and join a park naturalist for a themed presentation.

LOCATION: Cooper Environmental Center, Lecture Room, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, January 17...Honeybees.....442166 – 4A

Wednesday, February 14...Birds of Ocean County.....442166 – 4B

Wednesday, March 20...Horseshoe Crabs.....442166 – 4C

TIME: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person per lecture

AGE: 10 years – Adult

### Black Bear Education Program

Learn about the natural history and biology of the black bear, which is New Jersey's largest land mammal. This program, led by Lyla Kaul of NJ DEP's Black Bear Education Program, will also cover bear research, management, and practical information on co-existing safely with black bears.

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Saturday, January 20 .....446166 – 7B

TIME: 1:00 – 2:00 pm

FEE: Free

**CANCELED**

AGE: 16 years – Adult



# LECTURES

## Beginner Birding and Bird Feeding

Want to feed the birds but don't know where to start? The array of feeders commercially available can be dizzying! Join us as we celebrate National Bird Feeding Month with a discussion on bird identification, bird feeding and attracting birds in general. **If weather and time allow, we will head out for a brief bird walk.**

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, February 3.....445166 – 2B

TIME: 10:00 – 11:15 am

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 14 years – Adult

## Beginner Astronomy

### What to see in the night sky!

Do you have a new telescope or binoculars and are not sure what you are looking for? Join Jim Webster from the Astronomical Society of the Toms River Area and we will explore what you can see in the night sky.

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Saturday, February 3 .....446166 – 7C

TIME: 1:00 – 2:00 pm

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, March 16 .....445166 - 2D

TIME: 6:30 – 7:30 pm (Followed by a Free Star Party. See page 8)

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: 12 years – Adult

## Intermediate Medicinal Herbalism

Herbalism, the study/practice of medicinal uses of plants, is a lifelong practice, one that can be taken as little or as far as an individual wants. Continuing in this tradition can have significant impact as one not only learns how to handle and prepare plants, but develops a unique bond with them and learns how to take their health into their own hands. Join us as we continue the study of Medicinal herbalism and discuss additional plants and practices not covered in our intro to medicinal herbs class.

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, February 10.....445166 – 2C

TIME: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 14 years - Adult

## Critters of the Pines

The Pine Barrens are full of creepy and crawly critters. From frogs and salamanders to mice and moles this PowerPoint will cover some of the creatures that call New Jersey home

LOCATION: Lecture Room, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Monday, February 12

TIME: 3:00 – 4:00 pm.....444166 – 4A

TIME: 6:00-7:00 pm.....444166 – 4B

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 9 years – Adult

# LECTURES

## Cattus Island Living Shoreline Restoration Project

Cattus Island is the most significant salt marsh and the largest breakwater in the northern portion of Barnegat Bay. The overall goal of this project is to restore critical shoreline areas of Cattus Island County Park to address significant erosion and prevent extreme wetlands and habitat loss in the Barnegat Bay. Some areas of the park have lost more than 300 feet over the past 85 years. This erosion is likely to increase over time, if the shoreline, and especially the northeast peninsula known as "Page's Point," is not stabilized. This power point presentation is an overview of the changes along the shoreline and the plans for restoration.

LOCATION: Cooper Environmental Center, Lecture Room, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River

DATE: Thursday, February 22.....442166 – 4D

TIME: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

FEE\$ 5.00 per person

AGE: 12 years - Adult

## Family History: a New Perspective

Sharing family memories is a critical part of documenting family history. Connect to the people of your past while moving beyond the traditional family tree. Play detective and time traveler as we discuss ways to dive further into telling your family's story by using letters, recipes, photos of family members, family heirlooms, etc. to make your family history come alive and be more relatable for future generations. Remember, if it's worth saving, it's worth sharing!

**Please have \$25 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Wednesday, March 6 .....446166 – 7D

TIME: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: 12 years – Adult

## Roadside Ocean County

Have you ever driven around Ocean County and wondered about the story behind a certain structure; the dinosaur on Route 9 in Bayville, the former Pole Farm in Ocean Gate or the Chair House in West Creek? We usually see many of these places on our Roadside Ocean County van trip but this time we will "visit" all of these places from the comfort of our Nature Center.

LOCATION: Lecture Room, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Monday, March 11

TIME: 3:00 – 4:00 pm.....444166 – 4C

TIME: 6:00 - 7:00 pm.....444166 – 4D

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 9 years – Adult

## Genealogy 101

Interested in family history but don't know where to begin? In this class designed for beginners, participants will learn what supplies they'll need, find out how to create a research log, discover how to create an online family tree, explore the US Census, research obituaries and cemeteries, as well as scrutinize immigration and naturalization records. **Please bring \$45.00 in exact change for the instructor, a notebook and a pencil with an eraser.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Wednesday, March 13 .....446166 – 7E

TIME: 10:00 am–2:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: 12 years – Adult

(adult must accompany children under 18)



## LECTURES

### Spring your Garden Ahead

Looking to get your garden ready for spring but not sure where to start? Itching to get your hands in the dirt but fearful of the frost? Join us as we take a look at the many things you can do to ready your garden for spring before you even begin to plant.

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, March 16.....445166 – 2E

TIME: 1:00 – 2:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 14 years - Adult

## WALKS

### Groundhog's Day Winter Bay Beach Walk

A winter walk is a wonderful way to clear your mind, body, and soul. We will walk out to Page's Point to take in the winter sites of Cattus Island, Silver Bay, and the bay beach.

**This is a 2-mile interpretive walk.**

LOCATION: Cooper Environmental Center, Lobby, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River

DATE: Friday, February 2.....442536 – 5A

TIME: 1:00 – 3:00 pm

FEE: \$6.00 per person

AGE: 10 years – Adult

### Sip N Stroll

We will start our stroll and support local coffee shop GNM Coffee Shop in Barnegat.

Fueled with our caffeine, we will walk to the historic downtown area and then hop on a portion of the Barnegat Branch Rail Trail for an out and back walk.

PICK UP: Parking Lot, Lochiel Creek County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, March 8.....445536 – 6A

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 9:00 – 11:30 am

FEE: \$6.00 per person

AGE: 9 years- Adult

### History of Cattus Island Van and Walking Tour

Join a park naturalist who will transport you back in time to visit the various sites around Cattus Island, bringing its varied history to life. **Wear comfortable shoes; there will be several short walks included.**

LOCATION: Cooper Environmental Center, Lecture Room, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River

DATE: Tuesday, March 19

TIME: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.....442536 – 5B

FEE: \$6.00 per person

AGE: 10 years – Adult

### Great Bay Boulevard Moonlight Hike

Join us for this out and back hike taking us along the roadside, paved portion of Great Bay Wildlife Management Area. **THIS PROGRAM IS FULL** Important pieces of coastline in NJ, this management area hosts an assortment of birdlife that varies with the change of the seasons. A nearly full moon over the wide open salt marsh is sure to be a beautiful sight. Bundle up as the walk will be out in the open. Feel free to bring a thermos with a hot drink. **Walk is approximately 2.5 miles.**

PICK UP: Parking Lot, Tip Seaman County Park, Tuckerton

DATE: Saturday, March 23.....445536 – 6B

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 6:30 – 7:30 pm

FEE: \$6.00 per person

AGE: 9 years- Adult

# NATURE, HISTORY & BIRDING WALKS

*Our nature, history & birding walks offers participants a chance to learn about their surroundings while focusing on a specific theme. These walks are taken at a leisurely pace allowing plenty of time to absorb new information. Walks will not exceed three miles unless otherwise noted. For birding specific programs, please bring your own binoculars if you have them. We only have a few loaner pairs available. Please read walk descriptions for specific information. We recommend you arrive 15 minutes prior to departure time. Return times are approximate. Bug spray with DEET is recommended and dress for the weather. Layering is best.*

## Timberdoodle Stalk

This can be one of the most memorable birding experiences of a lifetime, as we visit their dancing grounds in Barnegat and Stafford Townships. The courtship of the male is composed of several different calls followed by flight behavior that is truly amazing.

### Dress for the weather.

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Friday, March 22.....444536 – 7D

TIME: 6:00 - 9:30 pm

FEE: \$6.00 per person

AGE: 9 years - Adult



## The Affair at CEDAR BRIDGE

Saturday  
DECEMBER 2, 2023

200 Old Halfway Road, Barnegat, New Jersey



### The Affair at Cedar Bridge 1782

At this time each year the Ocean County Parks and Recreation Department along with the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Department present, "The Affair at Cedar Bridge," a reenactment of the last land engagement of the American Revolutionary War that took place at the Cedar Bridge Tavern Historical Site in Barnegat.

Saturday, December 2, 2023 Noon to 4 P.M. Snow date – Sunday January 7, 2024  
Skirmishes at 1:30 and 3:30 PM

Refreshments, Fire Pit, NJ Fifes & Drums Historic tents, Giant Chess and Checkers,  
Crafts – Painting, Archery, Ring the Ocean County Liberty Bell and other games

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## OCEAN COUNTY HIKING CLUB

When you register and participate in any hike or jaunt offered below we automatically begin to record and keep track of your mileage. Pins and credits for free hikes are earned at the 50, 100, 250, 500 and 1000 mile marks. Join us as we get outdoor exercise, learn about our natural history, and make lasting friendships!

For more information call Wells Mills County Park at 609-971-3085

### JAUNTS

Jaunts are shorter and/or traverse easier terrain than most of our hikes. These programs are well suited for beginners or those simply seeking a shorter walk. Feel free to bring along a snack or lunch to eat at the end of the jaunt as we will generally be finished with our walk by lunch time. For later ending programs, we will have lunch at the location. **Please wear shoes appropriate for hiking and dress for the weather.** We recommend you arrive 15 minutes prior to departure time. All return times are approximate. Bug spray with DEET is recommended.

**If you have questions regarding any of the hikes or jaunts,  
please call Wells Mills County Park at 609-971-3085**

### Cheesequake State Park Jaunt

*Traveling to Monmouth County*

This 1,569-acre State Park consists of two divergent ecosystems; coastal salt marsh and upland forest, transitioning through a variety of wetlands, marshes and an Atlantic white cedar swamp to a northeastern hardwood forest.

PICK-UP: Nature Center Parking Lot, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Friday, January 12.....444536 – 7A

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: **Easy to Moderate: Hilly, steps, may be wet - 4 miles**

FEE \$8.00 per adult/ \$6.00 per child (ages 9-16 years) AGE: 9 years - Adult

### Bass River State Forest / Poor Man's Parkway Jaunt

This typical Pine Barrens hike will take us through a portion of Bass River State Forest and onto Natural Lands Trust Fund Property that lies just off of the locally famed road "Poor Man's Parkway" in Little Egg Harbor.

PICK UP: Soccer Lot, Freedom Fields County Park, Little Egg Harbor

DATE: Saturday, January 27.....444536 – 3A

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: **3.5 miles, flat with some sand**

FEE: \$8.00 per adult / \$6.00 per child (ages 9-16years) AGE: 9 years- Adult

### Tatum Park Jaunt

*Traveling to Monmouth County*

Tatum Park was once the summer home to the Charles Tatum, a glass manufacturer, whose descendants donated their summer house and part of the property to Monmouth County Parks in 1973. This jaunt will take us through rolling hills on this jaunt.

PICK-UP: Nature Center Parking Lot, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Friday, February 9.....444536 – 7B

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: **Easy to Moderate: Hilly - 4 miles**

FEE: \$8.00 per adult/ \$6.00 per child (ages 9-16 years) AGE: 9 years - Adult



# JAUNTS

## Super Sunday Saunter

Planning on indulging at a Superbowl party later or are Superbowl festivities not your thing? Either way join us for a pre-game jaunt through Stafford Forge Wildlife Management Area for some mid-winter calorie burn!

PICK UP: Soccer Lot, Freedom Fields County Park, Little Egg Harbor

DATE: Sunday, February 11.....445536 – 3B

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 9:00 – 11:30 am

RATING & MILEAGE: **Easy with some sugar sand – 3.5-4 miles**

FEE: \$8.00 per adult / \$6.00 per child (ages 9-16)

AGE: 9 years - Adult

## Sunset Hike n Hops

Join us as we change up our Hike N Hops series and embark on an evening excursion. Our hike will take us through Jakes Branch County Park as the sun sets and the moon rises. After, we will jump in our own cars and drive a short 7 minutes up the road to support local craft brewery, Toms River Brewing Company and sample what's on tap. Pack some dinner or plan on ordering out!

PICK UP: Parking Lot, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, February 24.....445536 – 3C

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 5:00 – 8:30 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: **3 miles**

FEE: \$8.00 per person

AGE: 21 years - Adult

## Hike N Hops

Sign up for the next installment of our popular Hike n Hops series. Don't miss this opportunity to hike to the top of the Forked River Mountain. This nearly 8,000 acres of Pine-lands wilderness is replete with wildlife. Jump in our own cars and head to Backward Flag Brewing Company to support a local craft brewery and sample what's on tap.

PICK UP: Parking Lot, Eno's Pond County Park, Forked River

DATE: **Saturday, March 2** .....445536 – 3D

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: **Moderate, mostly flat and sandy with areas of moderate grades, 3.5 miles**

FEE: \$8.00 per person

AGE: 21 years- Adult

## Franklin Parker Preserve

*Traveling to Burlington County*

This former cranberry farm is the New Jersey Conservation Foundation's largest preserve. Our walk will take us past old cranberry bogs and reservoirs and through Pine Barrens forests. Bald eagles are common here, so feel free to bring along your binoculars. **Trails may be wet, wear appropriate footwear.**

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: **Friday, March 15**.....444536 – 7C

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: **Easy: Some sugar sand, may be wet – 4 miles**

FEE: \$8.00 per adult/ \$6.00 per child (ages 9-16)

AGE: 9 years - Adult



# HIKES

Our naturalists cover the diverse terrain of New Jersey through our hiking programs. Pack your lunch and dress for the weather. Trail ratings follow each departure time. Please read them carefully to determine the best program for your endurance level. **Unlike our nature walks, these are recreational programs with minimal interpretation and break stops. You should be able to walk at a continuous pace on the given terrain of the hike. Please wear hiking shoes and be sure of your abilities.** We recommend you arrive 15 minutes prior to departure time. All return times are approximate. Bug spray with DEET is highly recommended. Staff reserves the right to deny a participant entry into a program if they are deemed physically unfit or inadequately prepared to participate in said program.

Any questions, please call Wells Mills County Park at 609-971-3085

## First Day Hike ~ Macri & Estlow Trail at Wells Mills

Start the New Year off right with a hike through Ocean County Park's largest park. The Macri trail, named for two of our early volunteers, will take us through the prettiest part of the park, the Atlantic White Cedar swamp, and then up to Laurel Hill with an elevation of 130' above sea level. We will return on the Estlow trail, named for one of the families that formerly owned the property.

THIS PROGRAM IS FULL

LOCATION: Wells Mills Nature Center, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Monday, January 1 .....444236 – 2A

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: **Easy to Moderate: Hilly, steps, may be wet - 5 miles**

FEE: \$8.00 per adult/ \$6.00 per child (ages 9-16) AGE: 9 years - Adult

## Sourland Mountain Hike

*Traveling to Somerset County*

A steep climb through boulder covered mountainside will be followed by a gradual descent into former farmland, now reclaimed by nature.

PICK-UP: Beach Complex Parking Lot, Ocean County Park, Lakewood

DATE: Sunday, January 21.....444236 – 2B

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 7:30 am – 3:00 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: **Moderate to Strenuous: Steep, rocky, may be slippery – 5.5 miles**

FEE: \$12.00 per adult / \$8.00 per child (ages 9-16) AGE: 9 years - Adult

## Cranberry Trail Hike

This hike will take us through a variety of habitats within Brendan T. Byrne State Forest, utilizing part of the Batona Trail for the return loop. We will enjoy lunch at one of the Civilian Conservation Corps-era pavilions overlooking scenic Pakim Pond.

PICK-UP: Parking Lot.....THIS PROGRAM IS FULL

DATE: Sunday, January 28.....444236 – 2C

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: **Easy to Moderate (due to length): Flat, some sugar sand- 6.5 miles**

FEE: \$12.00 per adult/ \$8.00 per child (ages 9-16) AGE: 9 years – Adult

# HIKES

## 1808 Trail

*Traveling to Burlington County*

Named for the old logging road that ran between Batsto Village and Crowleystown, the 1808 Trail will be part of a 10-mile loop. We will pass towering Atlantic White Cedars and cut through Mordecai Swamp as well as walk along a portion of the Batona Trail.

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Sunday, February 11.....444236 – 2D

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

RATING: **Moderate (due to length): Some sand, may be wet- 7 miles**

FEE: \$12.00 per adult/ \$8.00 per child (ages 9-16) AGE: 9 years – Adult

## Mount Defiance Hike

*Traveling to Passaic County*

Defy your limits and climb the 1,040 ft summit of Mount Defiance in Ringwood State Park. We will also pass the historic State Botanical Gardens, with its English style architecture.

PICK-UP: Beach Complex Parking Lot, Ocean County Park, Lakewood

DATE: Sunday, February 25.....444236 – 2F

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

RATING: **Moderate to Strenuous: Steep, rocky climbs, may be slippery-5.5 miles**

FEE: \$12.00 per adult/ \$8.00 per child (ages 9-16) AGE: 9 years – Adult

## Baldpate Mountain Hike

*Traveling to Mercer County*

Baldpate Mountain offers some of the most rugged trails in Mercer County, with outstanding vistas and scattered evidence of an agricultural and mining past.

PICK-UP: Beach Complex Parking Lot, Ocean County Park, Lakewood

DATE: Sunday, March 3.....444236 – 2E

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 7:30 am – 3:30 pm

RATING: **Moderate to Strenuous: Steep, rocky, may be slippery - 5 miles**

FEE: \$12.00 per adult / \$8.00 per child (ages 9-16) AGE: 9 years- Adult

## Castle Point Hike

*Traveling to Passaic County*

This hike, within Ramapo Mountain State Forest, will take us past the Foxcroft Mansion ruins, built in 1910, then we will hike down and around scenic Ramapo Lake on flat woods roads and finally back up the mountain with panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. **Portions of this climb will be on our hands and knees.**

PICK-UP: Beach Complex Parking Lot, Ocean County Park, Lakewood

DATE: Sunday, March 17.....444236 – 2G

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 7:30 am – 3:30 pm

RATING: **Moderate to Strenuous: Some steep, rocky climbs and rock scrambling, may be slippery- 6.5 miles**

FEE: \$12.00 per adult/ \$8.00 per child (ages 9-16) AGE: 9 years – Adult



# VAN TOURS

Our Ocean County Parks van tours are held throughout the year. Each trip focuses on a specific theme. Here are some things to keep in mind when signing up for a van tour:

- Pack a lunch (unless otherwise noted). We will try to stop at a picnic/park area to eat, when available.
- Dress for the weather. Layering is best as in most cases we will be in and out of the van.
- Be prepared for some walking (amount of walking will be indicated by the trip description)
- We often travel on rough unpaved roads to accomplish the goals of the trip. Be sure to wear your seatbelt.
- Read each description carefully so that you are adequately prepared.

**Please arrive 15 minutes prior to departure. All return times are approximate. Seating is first come, first choice. Following the van is not permitted.**

## Birding the North Shore

Waterfowl are abundant in Ocean and Monmouth Counties this time of year. We will meander our way along the coast stopping at ponds and scanning the ocean looking for Mergansers, Grebes, Ducks and Gulls. **Bring your binoculars, pack a lunch, dress for the weather (layering is best) and be prepared for short walks.**

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Friday, January 26.....444516 – 9A

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

FEE: \$14.00 per person

AGE: 9 years – Adult

## Winter Eagle Festival

*Traveling to Cumberland County*

Cumberland County's Winter Eagle Festival provides opportunities for bird watching and walks, visiting displays from local nature and non-profits organizations, and listening to talks by speakers such as Don Freiday, Pete Dunne and Pat and Clay Sutton. **Bring binoculars/cameras and money for food or items to purchase. Pack a lunch or snacks/drinks, dress for the weather and to be prepared for walks on uneven ground and climbing viewing platforms. There will be an additional charge of \$10.00/Adult and \$5.00/Child 12 & under. Indoor activities are at the firehouse where hot food and drinks are available for purchase.**

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Saturday, February 3.....444516 – 9B

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 7:30 am – 4:30 pm

FEE: \$14.00 per person

AGE: 9 years - Adult

## Eagles & Waterfowl Along the Delaware Bayshore

The magnificence of our national bird amidst the snow and ice is a sight not soon forgotten but there are also a wide variety of other birds to be seen this time of year along the Delaware Bayshore. Join us as we explore the nooks and crannies of the Delaware to find these magnificent birds. **Due to the remoteness of our destinations, this trip has minimum bathroom breaks. Dress for the weather, pack a lunch and bring your binoculars.**

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Thursday, February 15.....444516 – 9C

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

FEE: \$14.00 per person

AGE: 9 years - Adult



# VAN TOURS

## Old Church & Graveyard Van Trip within the Pines

Sea captains, baymen, woodsmen, and veterans of our earliest wars are among those finding their final resting place in our local graveyards. These are the brave souls who carved communities out of a wilderness. **Bring a lunch, dress for the weather and be prepared for walking on uneven ground.**

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Friday, February 23.....444516 – 9D

DEPARTURE/ RETURN: 9:00 am –3:30 pm

FEE: \$14.00 per person

AGE: 9 years - Adult

## Exploring the Hook & Surrounding Area

Sandy Hook's history dates back to the late 1600s and the Hartshorne family. It was then developed into Fort Hancock and now is a renowned location for winter wildlife. We will hopefully see a variety of ducks and sea birds but also, with any luck, some seals. We will also visit the Twin Lights and other areas related to the Hartshorne family. **Bring your binoculars, pack a lunch, dress for the weather (layers are best as we will be in and out of the van) and be prepared for short walks on the sand.**

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Thursday, February 29.....444516 – 9E

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

FEE: \$14.00 per person

AGE: 9 years – Adult

## Waterfowl of Barnegat Bay to Brigantine

We will head to Barnegat Light for views of Harlequin and Long-tailed Ducks, as well as Scoters and Purple Sandpipers. Next we will visit the Brigantine Division of the Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, which will hopefully offer excellent views of a variety of waterfowl species, thousands of Snow Geese, over-wintering Tundra Swans and a chance sighting of a Bald Eagle. **Be prepared to walk up to 1.5 miles in sand. Wear appropriate footwear and winter gear. Bring your binoculars, pack a lunch and dress for the weather. Layering is best.**

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Thursday, March 7.....444516 – 9F

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

FEE: \$14.00 per person

AGE: 9 years - Adult

## Morristown National Park

*Traveling to Morris County*

Morristown National Park commemorates the sites of General Washington and his Continental Army's winter encampment of December 1779 to June 1780, where they survived through what would be the coldest winter on record. Washington's Headquarters, Ford Mansion, Wick House, J. R. Clark's Headquarters, and the Soldiers hut area are some of the places that we will attempt to visit. **Dress for the weather and be prepared for short walks and climbing stairs. Pack a lunch and bring drinks. Bring money for any donations or purchases.**

PICK-UP: Nature Center Parking Lot, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Thursday, March 14.....444516 – 9G

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

FEE: \$14.00 per person

AGE: 9 years – Adult



### TEACHERS!...Borrow-A-Naturalist

Calling all Ocean County teachers. Sick of fluorescent lights? Tired of cutting through the red tape to run a field trip? Invite a naturalist to do a nature walk on your school's grounds. Most of Ocean County's schools are located in some of the richest and most unique natural areas in the county. The naturalist can also answer questions and provide program ideas. Perfect for all grade levels.

Contact Christopher Claus at (732) 506-5122

or

cclaus@co.ocean.nj.us

for more information or to set up an appointment.

# PARENT & CHILD FUN

## Grandparent & Me - Family History and Craft

Grandparents play an important role in their grandchildren's lives. They inspire, teach and, let's face it have more opportunity to have fun together than parents do who are running around endlessly to get everything done in a day! During this program, you will have an opportunity to share a little more about your family history as you create a beautiful handcrafted keepsake and make precious memories together. **Please bring three scanned 4"x6" photos and \$20.00 for one adult and child team in exact change for the instructor and materials.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Saturday, February 10.....446266 – 6D

TIME: 8:00 am – 9:30 am

FEE: \$5.00 per team registration fee (one adult & one child) AGE: 3 years – Adult

## Fireside Storytelling and Craftmaking

**Pull up a chair in front of the warm fire as we read a few children's stories inside.**

**Afterward, the children will make a craft related to the story.**

**LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood**

**TIME: 10:30 – 11:30 am**

**FEE: \$5.00 per child**

**AGE: 3 - 5 years**

## Playful Penguins!

Slipping across the ice, splashing in the water; penguins are plenty playful! Join us as we read a few silly penguin stories followed by a craft sure to have you shaking your tail-feathers.

DATE: Thursday, January 11.....445266 – 7A

## Purrfect Pets

Ready for a howling good time? Looking for the purrfect way to chase away the winter blues? Join us for a tail chasing good time as we listen to a few themed stories about our furry feline and cool canine companions followed by a craft sure to please any pet parent!

DATE: Thursday, February 15.....445266 – 7B

## Beautiful Birds

One of the first signs of warmer weather is already upon us. Look out the window and you may catch a glimpse as they flutter past. As spring wings back in so do our feathered friends! Join our feathery flock as we read a few books about our high-flying friends followed by a craft sure to brighten your own nest.

DATE: Thursday, March 7.....445266 – 7C

## Maker Mondays Kids Craft Hour

Nature Crafts and activities are an easy way to inspire kids to develop a love and appreciation of the outdoors. Drop by with your child any time between 10 and 11 am and help them create their own natural wonder!

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Mondays,

January 15.....Making Tracks

January 29.....Fish Printing

February 5.....Bark Owl

February 19.....Pine Cone Critters

March 11.....Nature Prints

March 25.....Fantastic Flowers

TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am

AGE: 3 – 5 years

FEE: Free

## Toddler Nature Trek

Leave the stroller behind and get those little feet moving down the trail with Cloverdale's Naturalist staff. We will use our five senses to take in the wonders of nature.

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATES:

Friday, January 5.....446266 – 6A

Friday, February 2.....446266 – 6B

Friday, March 1.....446266 – 6C

TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am

AGE: Infant – 5 years

FEE: \$5.00 per child. Parent or guardian must accompany child

Adults are free but must register



# PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

**Children must be potty-trained.**  
**Please note any food allergies or special needs.**

## Arctic Antics

What snow-white bear keeps her cubs hidden in an igloo? Using its wings as flippers, what bird loves swimming through the icy water? Let's find out together. With crafts, stories and games, we will learn all about cold-loving creatures!

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Thursday, January 4.....441021 – 5A

TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per child

AGE: 3 - 5 years

## Mittens, Snowmen, and Hot Cocoa!

Put on your mittens and boots for an hour in an imaginary Winter Wonderland. Join us as we make snowmen, read winter tales, and warm our bellies!

**PLEASE LIST ANY FOOD ALLERGIES AT TIME OF REGISTRATION**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Tuesday, January 9.....441021 – 5B

TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per child

AGE: 3 – 5 years

## Dragon Magic

We are going on a dragon hunt, using the magic of imagination. Through stories, games, and crafts, our little adventurers will capture their own magic dragon.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, January 17.....441021 – 5C

TIME: 10:00 - 11:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per child

AGE: 3 - 5 years

## Penguins, Zebras and Oreo Cookies

What do they have in common? They're all black and white. Join us and learn about the uniqueness of black and white animals. We will discover them through stories, crafts and more.

**PLEASE LIST ANY FOOD ALLERGIES AT TIME OF REGISTRATION**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Tuesday, January 23.....441021 – 5D

TIME: 10:00 -11:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per child

AGE: 3 - 5 years

## Young Naturalists

Your little naturalist will learn about bugs and frogs, feel furs of local mammals, and make a fish print to take home.

LOCATION: Beach Complex - Ocean County Park, Lakewood

DATE: Thursday, January 25.....448021 – 8A

DATE: Thursday, February 8.....448021 – 8B

TIME: 1:00 – 1:45 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per child

AGE: 3 - 5 years

# PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

## Teddy Bear's Picnic

"If you go into the woods today, you're in for a big surprise" It's the Teddy Bear's picnic! Bring your favorite teddy to class and join us for "Beary" fun stories, games and crafts.

**PLEASE LIST ANY FOOD ALLERGIES AT TIME OF REGISTRATION**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Tuesday, February 6.....441021 – 5E

TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per child

AGE: 3 - 5 years

## NEW Indoor Tennis for Preschoolers

Come join in on the tennis fun! In this beginner's Pre-K class, we will lay the groundwork for tennis by learning the fundamentals of the sport. We will go over forehands, backhands, and volleys and play a variety of lively games. Rackets will be available.

**Please wear sneakers and bring a drink. This class is indoors, so please dress appropriately.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Mondays, February 5 & 12.....443021 – 3A

TIME: 1:00 – 2:00 pm

FEE: \$8.00 per child

AGE: 3 – 5 years

## NEW Valentine's Day and Play

Valentine's Day is right around the corner! Come join us for a fun-filled holiday. We will play Valentine-themed games like Cupid Tag, and each participant will receive their own Valentine at the end of the class to bring home to share the love. **Please wear sneakers and bring a drink.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, February 14.....443021 – 3B

TIME: 1:00 – 2:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per child

AGE: 3 – 5 years

## Cupid's Arrow

Preschoolers come and join in the fun of making special Valentine Crafts. We will read stories, make crafts and play games, all about Valentine's Day!

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, February 14.....441021 – 5F

TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per child

AGE: 3 - 5 years

## Monkey Tails

Come and monkey around with us. We will listen to monkey tales, make monkey crafts and play silly monkey games.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Thursday, February 22.....441021 – 5G

TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per child

AGE: 3 – 5 years

## Fundamental Games & Sports

This class will introduce your child to some new and classic games while learning good sportsmanship, taking turns, and sharing. Special sports props and equipment will be used to help develop your child's coordination and sports skills. Come and have fun with us and other children. **Please wear sneakers and bring a drink.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Stanley "Tip" Seaman County Park, Tuckerton

DATE: Thursday, February 22.....443021 – 3C

TIME: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per child

AGE: 3 - 5 years

# PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

## Dinosaur Roar

Dinosaurs roamed the Earth a long time ago. Let's roar and stomp with dinosaur stories, crafts and games.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Tuesday, February 27.....441021 – 5H

TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per child

AGE: 3 - 5 years

## Lucky Leprechauns

Catch a leprechaun and capture his pot of gold! Through stories, crafts, and games, we will be Irish for the day and bring home your very own leprechaun.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, March 6.....441021 – 5I

TIME: 10:00 -11:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per child

AGE: 3 - 5 years

## Just Ducky

Come paddle about with our web-footed friends. You will “quack up” with stories, games and ducky crafts.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Tuesday, March 19.....441021 – 5J

TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per child

AGE: 3 - 5 years

## It's A Spring Thing!

Come join us as we discover what starts to bloom and grow in the spring. Our little gardeners will enjoy stories, games, and gardening related crafts.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Thursday, March 21.....441021 – 5K

TIME: 10:00 -11:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per child

AGE: 3 - 5 years

## Funny Bunnies

Spring is the time for hopping down the bunny trail. We will make some fluffy bunny crafts and enjoy bouncy bunny tales.

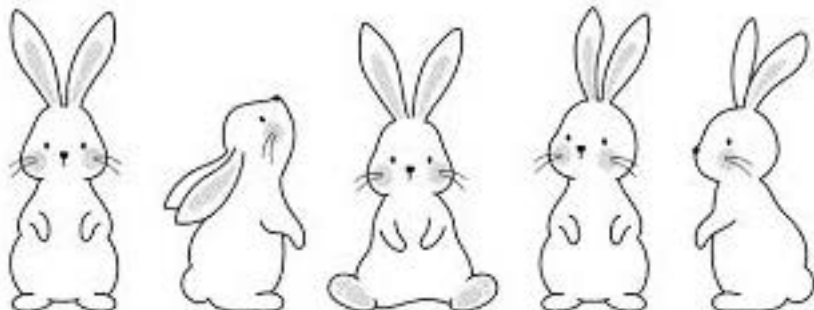
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, March 27.....441021 – 5L

TIME: 10:00-11:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per child

AGE: 3 - 5 years



# FUN FOR KIDS

## Homeschool Gym - North

This class is designed for children who are being homeschooled but still want that gym class atmosphere. Every week, fun new activities will be introduced to allow children to get some exercise, learn new skills, and play and interact with other children. Not only is exercise good for your physical well-being. Exercise also helps decrease levels of stress, anxiety and helps improve self-esteem, among many other health benefits. The instructors will bring various pieces of equipment for all to use depending on the activity planned for the day. **Please wear sneakers and bring a drink. If you have questions, please contact Victoria at [vwagner@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:vwagner@co.ocean.nj.us). We will have two instructors from 10:30 – 11:30 am teaching separately.**

LOCATION: Beach Complex, Ocean County Park, Lakewood

DATE: Mondays, February 26 – March 25.....443262 – 3A

TIME: 10:30 – 11:30 am AGE: 5 – 6 years

DATE: Mondays, February 26 – March 25.....443262 – 3B

TIME: 10:30 – 11:30 am AGE: 7 – 8 years

DATE: Mondays, February 26 – March 25.....443262 – 3C

TIME: 12:00 – 1:00 pm AGE: 9 – 14 years

FEE: \$14.00 per child

## Homeschool Gym - South

This class is designed for children who are being homeschooled but still want that gym class atmosphere. Every week, fun new activities will be introduced to allow children to get some exercise, learn new skills, and play and interact with other children. Not only is exercise good for your physical well-being. Exercise also helps decrease levels of stress, anxiety and improves self-esteem, among many other health benefits. The instructor will bring various pieces of equipment for all to use depending on the activity planned for the day. **Please wear sneakers and bring a drink. If you have questions, please contact Victoria at [vwagner@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:vwagner@co.ocean.nj.us)**

LOCATION: Softball Field 1, Stanley “Tip” Seaman County Park, Tuckerton

DATE: Wednesdays, February 28 – March 27.....443262 – 3D

TIME: 10:30 – 11:30 am AGE: 5 – 7 years

DATE: Wednesdays, February 28 – March 27.....443262 – 3E

TIME: 12:00 – 1:00 pm AGE: 8 – 13 years

FEE: \$14.00 per child



## Know the Bear Facts for Kids

During this program, Lyla Kaul of NJ DEP's Black Bear Education Program will discuss black bear biology, research and safety information on what to do when you encounter a black bear in the wild. After the program, there will be a question-and-answer session as well as an opportunity to examine a black bear skull and fur.

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Saturday, January 20 .....466166 – 7A

TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am

FEE: Free

AGE: 9 – 15 years



# CREATIVE EXPRESSION

## Pottery Classes

Enjoy the exciting world of pottery. You will study hand building techniques, use of the potter's wheel, and glazing.

**These PROGRAMS ARE FULL**

LOCATION: Pottery Barn, Ocean County Park, Lakewood

DATES: Tuesdays, February 13 – April 30

TIMES: 10:00 am -12:00 noon.....441384 – 2A

5:00 – 7:00 pm.....441384 – 2B

7:00 – 9:00 pm.....441384 – 2C

DATE: Wednesdays, February 14 – May 1

10:00 am – 12:00 noon.....441384 – 2D

FEE: \$165.00 per person, includes expert instruction, firing and glazing AGE: Adult

## Hello winter!

Is your door WINTER READY? This Hello Winter door sign is the perfect addition to any entryway. This sign is made of wood and features a white letter "H" with a winter scene inside. You will get to decorate with all kinds of winter embellishments.

**THIS PROGRAM IS FULL**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Tom River

DATE: Thursday, January 11 .....441186 – 3A

TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

FEE: \$15.00 per person

AGE: Adult



## Winter-Inspired Wreath

This adorable winter-inspired wreath will warm you and all your girlfriend's hearts as you get together to chase away the wintertime blues. **Please have \$30 in exact change for the instructor and materials.** **CANCELED**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATES: Friday, January 12.....466186 – 8A

TIME: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

## Frozen Felt Forest

Create a magical winter forest inspired by the frosty colors of winter. Using felt, cones and wooden dowels, our winter wonderland will come alive. All supplies provided but feel free to bring anything from home to add a personal touch.

DATE: Thursday, January 18.....441186 – 3B

TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

FEE: \$15.00 per person

AGE: Adult

# CREATIVE EXPRESSION

## Valentine's Flower Bar

Love is in the air. Come and make yourself a bouquet to take home this special Valentine's Day. All your favorite flowers will be available to choose from; roses, peony, carnations, greens and more. You will decorate your vase and choose from an array of flowers.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Thursday, February 1.....441186 – 3C

TIME: 6:30 – 7:30 pm

DATE: Thursday, February 8.....441186 – 3D

TIME: 6:30 – 7:30 pm

FEE: \$20.00 per person

AGE: Adult

## Woven Wheat 6-inch Heart

The practice of wheat weaving was a technique used all over the world in regions where grain grew. Because of the Industrial Revolution and changes made in harvesting methods, the art and craft of wheat weaving was almost completely lost. Join us as Christine Metzler helps us rediscover this once common and relaxing art form by creating a woven heart. During this program, you will learn the background of this little known Mid-western art form, prepare the wheat, soak the straw, and create a masterpiece. No prior experience needed, just nimble fingers! **Please have \$22 in exact change to cover instructor fees and material costs.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Thursday, February 8.....466186 – 8B

TIME: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: 16 years – Adults

## Decorating with Buttercream Frosting

Create roses, leaves, flowers, and beautiful borders using buttercream. We will teach you how to use a pastry bag, piping tips, couplers, and flower nails. Design your very own pretty Valentine. **THIS PROGRAM IS FULL**

LOCATION: Cooper Environmental Center, Lecture Room, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River

DATE: Monday, February 12.....442186 – 4A

TIME: 6:00 - 7:30pm

FEE: \$10.00 per person

AGE: 12 years – Adult

## Wooden Spatula Carving Class

Join us as Kevin Hammell, a local carver, teaches you the art of carving a wooden cooking spatula through step-by-step instructions. **Please bring \$30.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials. If you have a Dremel tool kit, please bring it with you.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATES: Saturday, February 17.....446186 – 4C

TIME: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

# CREATIVE EXPRESSION

## Red Knot Shorebird Carving

Join us as Kevin Hammell, a local carver, teaches you the fine art of carving a Red Knot through step-by-step instructions. The first day of class will focus on carving. The second day will entail putting finishing touches on your carving and learning how to paint your shorebird. Pack a bagged lunch or snack. **Please bring \$90.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials the first day of class.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATES: Friday, March 1 & Saturday, March 2.....446186 – 8D

TIME: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: Adult



## Pysanky, Ukrainian Egg Decorating

Pysanky is the folk art of Ukrainian egg decorating. The designs are “written” on the eggs using natural bees wax, and the eggs are submerged in beautiful dyes. This craft is thousands of years old and a large part of the Ukrainian tradition. Learn about the history and symbolism of the pysanky designs and how to create your very own egg to take home.

LOCATION: Cooper Environmental Center, Lecture Room, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River

DATE: Saturday, March 2.....446186 – 4B

Sunday, March 3.....446186 – 4C

TIME: 1:00 - 3:30pm

FEE: \$10.00 per person

AGE: 12 years – Adult

## Rustic Easter Door tags

Come and design your own personalized Easter door decoration. Easter has always been a time of celebration and renewal. So why not think about decorating your home with an Easter door hanger?

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Tom River

DATE: Thursday, March 7 .....441186 – 3E

TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

FEE: \$15.00 per person

AGE: Adult

## Quilling

Quilling or paper filigree involves the use of paper strips that are rolled, shaped and glued together to create a decorative design. This program will show you the basic skills and use them to make an individualized project. All materials will be provided, but feel free to bring anything you might like to decorate with.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Thursday, March 28.....441186 – 3F

TIME: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

FEE: \$15.00 per person

AGE: Adult





# WINTER BEACH BLAST

**FREE Ocean County Mall ~ Toms River**  
**Saturday ~ February 17**  
**1:00pm - 3:00pm**

**Giant Twister Game**  
**Crafts**  
**Cool...Fun Games**

## SUMMER FUN...IN WINTER



# The Affair at CEDAR BRIDGE

**DECEMBER 2, 2023**  
**12:00 - 4:00pm**

**200 Old Halfway Road, Barnegat, New Jersey**



### **The Affair at Cedar Bridge 1782**

A reenactment of the last land engagement of the American Revolutionary War that took place at the Cedar Bridge Tavern Historical Site in Barnegat.

**Saturday, December 2, 2023 Noon to 4 P.M. Snow date – Sunday January 7, 2024**  
**Skirmishes at 1:30 and 3:30 PM**

**Refreshments including period Switchel drink, Fire Pit, NJ Fifes & Drums**  
**Sea Dogs – Traditional Tavern musicians, Historic style tents, Giant Chess and Checkers,**  
**Crafts – Painting, Archery, Ring the Ocean County Liberty Bell and other games**  
**Historic Story Telling and Guided Tour of the 200 year old restored tavern**



# Cattus Island Gingerbread House Contest



**In-person  
People's  
Choice Voting**  
**Dec. 20 - Dec. 31**  
**10:00am - 4:00pm**

**Categories:**  
**Youth 1 (0-6)**  
**Youth 2 (7-12)**  
**Teen (13-17)**  
**Adult (18+)**

**Drop-Off**  
**12/13 - 12/17**  
**10am - 4:30pm**

## Photos with Santa

**FREE**

Family/Pets photo op

**Sunday Dec. 10**  
**10am - 2pm**

**Cattus Island County Park**  
**Lecture Room in Nature Center**



Bring your own camera,  
and one of Santa's helpers  
will be on hand to take your  
perfect holiday photo.

**All Pets Must be  
on a Leash**

**No Registration...First Come, First Served**



# Lighting Up Nature



**FREE**

Heading out to drive through your neighborhood to look at Holiday Lights?... swing by Jakes Branch County Park for their **NEIGHBORHOOD-Style Drive Thru Display**  
"Lighting Up Nature"

Gates will be open December 15 thru 18 from 6 – 8 pm. **FREE!!**

**JAKES BRANCH COUNTY PARK**  
1100 Double Trouble Road, Beachwood

## WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Games ~ Crafts ~ Live Animal Talks ~ Horse Carriage Rides (11am-2pm) ~ Campfire Storytime  
Food ~ A Visit from Santa ~ Candy Cane Nature Walk



**FREE  
EVENT**

**Saturday, December 9 ~ 10am - 2pm**

Horse Carriage Rides 11am-2pm

**Cattus Island County Park**  
Cooper Environmental Center



# YOUR OCEAN COUNTY GOLF COURSES

BOOK YOUR TEE TIMES  
[www.oceancountyparks.org](http://www.oceancountyparks.org)

## HIGHLIGHTS:

Sign up at either golf course pro-shop for an Ocean County Golf ID Card for \$25 which will entitle you to all of our resident rates

Unlimited play packages are available at both county golf courses. Check our website or stop in to one of the pro-shops for further details and pricing

Like us on Facebook to keep a close eye on upcoming events and weekly happenings at our County Courses

We will be starting group lessons in the Spring of 2024. Intro to golf, chipping and putting, and proper setup are to name just a few of the lessons coming in the Spring. Call the pro-shop and give us your email so you can keep updated on the specific times and dates these lessons will be available

Spring Leagues will be back in 2024.  
Keep an eye out for our registration date and pricing

**Gift Certificates are available at both Atlantis and Forge Pond.**

Ocean County Golf Course at Atlantis  
One of the Best in Ocean County 2019, APP

Forge Pond County Golf Course  
2019 Golf Advisor Top 20 in NJ

Come on over to our two courses, Forge Pond located in Brick and Atlantis located in Little Egg Harbor, and see what our Ocean County Golf Courses have to offer. At Atlantis, our maintenance staff will be working on renovating 10 new sand bunkers and replacing the 13th green.

Book online  
[www.golfnow.com](http://www.golfnow.com)  
or  
[www.oceancountyparks.org](http://www.oceancountyparks.org)

Looking for a change  
of scenery? Purchase  
our Play 2 Voucher  
Available at our courses  
for \$50  
Enjoy one round of golf  
at each of our courses



Atlantis Golf Course  
261 Country Club Boulevard  
Little Egg Harbor, NJ  
609-296-2444



Forge Pond Golf Course  
301 Chambers Bridge Road  
Brick, NJ  
(732) 920-8899

# CREATIVE EXPRESSION

## South Jersey Basket Making

Join us as Mary May, a local basket maker, speaks about South Jersey basket traditions and demonstrates how to create a basket. Be prepared to weave, as you will be creating your very own basket



### Mary's Work Basket

This rectangular woven work basket, 23-inch long x 17-inch wide x 12.5-inch tall, with traditional bushel handles is both beautiful and practical. It will make the perfect basket for holding throws in the living room this upcoming winter or it can be used to carry laundry throughout the house. This durable basket will have three runners to support weight. Experienced weavers only, with more than four basket making experiences.

**Please bring \$175.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, January 26 & Saturday, January 27 .....446186 – 8E

TIME: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult



### A True Beginner Basket

Have you always wanted to make a basket but are unsure if you could do it? If so, this introductory class will be perfect for you. Basket maker, Mary May, will show you the difference between staves and weavers and get your hands moving as you create your own handcrafted masterpiece to show off to friends and family.

**Please bring \$35.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, February 16 .....446186 – 8F

TIME: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult



# CREATIVE EXPRESSION



## Archer Basket

This New Jersey style 10-inch round basket was traditionally used for pickin' fruits and vegetables. The basket was easily hung over the forearm of the pickers by its sturdy handle thus freeing their hands to tend to the harvest. Although this basket was principally used in the field, it maintains a unique elegance in its eight over-eight construction that would look beautiful as a centerpiece or adorning your fireplace mantle this spring. This is a great basket for beginners.

**Please have \$60 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATES: Friday, March 8.....446186 – 8G

TIME: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: 15 year – Adult



## Heirloom Easter Basket

Create a beautiful handmade, custom basket to surprise the little ones with love this Easter! Memories can be filled in this basket year after year!

**Please bring \$55 in exact change to cover instructor fees and material costs.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, March 22.....466186 – 8H

TIME: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

# HEALTH & WELLNESS

## Stress Relief for Women's Health

Meditation has tremendous benefits for managing everyday stress. Find out ways everyone can live more in the present moment and effectively deal with stress in your present life. Give yourself permission to stop for an hour and just relax and breathe! This is a perfect class for those who are new to meditation. Dress comfortably and bring a mat, pillow and or blanket. Very gentle stretching and aromatherapy included!

**\*Please bring exact cash or a check payable to Instructor Karen English for \$50.00\***

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River.

DATE: Session 1: Tuesdays, January 9 – February 13..... 441544 – 5A

DATE: Session 2: Tuesdays, February 20 – March 26 .....441544 – 5B

TIME: 5:30 - 6:30 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

## Massage Oil and Beeswax Perfume Using Essential Oils

Offer some TLC to your body with a sensual massage oil and a beautifully scented solid beeswax perfume. Each product will be made with high quality essential oils and carrier oils. All supplies will be provided and handouts with the materials covered in class.

**Please bring exact cash or check payable to Instructor, Kathy Gabrielli for \$20 (Certified Holistic Aromatherapist)**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River.

DATE: Monday, February 5.....441544 – 5C

TIME: 6:30-8:30 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

## Foaming Hand Soap and Body Wash using Essential Oils

Take care of your skin and say good-bye to germs with a non-chemical foaming hand soap and body wash. Explore the skin friendly essential oils to use for daily care and support your body system while sudsing up and moisturizing your skin. All supplies and handouts will be provided.

**Please bring exact cash or check payable to Instructor Kathy Gabrielli for \$20 (Certified Holistic Aromatherapist)**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, March 27 .....441544 – 5D

TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person Registration fee

AGE: Adult

## SEVA Acupressure for Stress Release Part 1 for Self-Care

This workshop teaches how to use the Seva Stress Release program for self-care to release shock and stress and promote relaxation. This program is simple to learn, easy to perform, profoundly supportive for physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health, and can be completed on yourself in 20 minutes. Participants will: experience the healing and transformative power of acupressure; learn to use an Awareness Journal; learn a unique method of touch through demonstration and hands-on practice; and learn Chakra Tai Chi, a movement meditation.

**\*Please bring exact cash or check payable to Instructor Regina Rosenthal for \$20.00\***

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, February 28 .....441544 – 5E

TIME: 6:00 – 8:30 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

# HEALTH & WELLNESS

## Creating Your Life Your Way

One of the greatest challenges we face is living a healthy, peaceful and balanced life while juggling daily living. Through this three session program participants will learn and formulate a step by step personal health action plan using the Circle of Life process. Participants will assess twelve life areas and select one for designing a Blueprint for Change. This will be a clear action plan with specific goals, resources and body-mind and self-care practices. This program will empower and support you in creating greater well-being in your life.

**Please bring exact cash or check payable to Instructor Regina Rosenthal for \$40.00\***

LOCATION: Conference Room Upstairs, Parks Administration Office, Toms River  
DATE: Mondays, March 11, 18 & 25 .....441544 – 5F  
TIME: 6:00 – 8:30 pm  
FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult

# ACTIVE RECREATION



## Seniorcise Exercise

Let's get moving. This gentle exercise class includes low-impact aerobics, stretching, and strengthening routines. Improve your joint flexibility, balance, range of motion, and muscular strength. Participants may perform these exercises while seated. Some equipment will be supplied. Linda is an AAAI-certified personal trainer with over 20 years of experience.

LOCATION: Program Room, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood  
DATE: Tuesdays and Fridays  
SESSION 1: January 9 – January 30.....443123 – 1A  
SESSION 2: February 2 – March 1 (no class 2/20 & 2/23).....443123 – 1B  
TIME: 9:15 - 10:00 am  
FEE: \$60.00 per person AGE: Adult

## Walk N' Workout

Calling all energetic adults. If you love being social and being out in nature, then this is the perfect class for you. We will walk up to an hour and experience the beautiful trails of Cattus Island County Park. This class will include some warm-up exercises and end with a few stretches. In each class, we will walk a different trail, weather permitting. Please wear comfortable clothing and proper footwear. **Please have a check for \$60.00 made payable to Linda Osowski on the first day of class.** Linda is an AAAI-certified personal trainer with over 20 years of experience.

LOCATION: Meet outside Nature Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River  
DATE: Tuesdays and Fridays  
SESSION 1: January 9 – January 30.....443123 – 1C  
SESSION 2: February 2 – March 1 (no class 2/20 & 2/23).....443123 - 1D  
TIME: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
FEE: \$5.00 registration fee per person AGE: Adult

# ACTIVE RECREATION

## NEW Chair Tai Chi

This new and exciting Tai Chi stretch class will improve balance, strength, mobility, flexibility, and reduce stress. All movements will be safely performed in and around a chair. Adaptable for all fitness levels and physical challenges. In this class, you will be doing exercises that involve multiple body parts and muscle groups. You will be working the FULL BODY, not just body parts. The Tai Chi part of the class will be actual Tai Chi-inspired movements in a fluid way. **Please have a check for \$60.00 made payable to Linda Osowski on the first day of class.** Linda is an AAAI-certified personal trainer with over 20 years of experience.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Tuesdays and Fridays

SESSION 1: January 9 – January 30.....443123 – 1E

SESSION 2: February 2 – March 1 (no class 2/20 & 2/23).....443123 – 1F

TIME: 1:30 – 2:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 registration fee per person

AGE: Adult

## Tai Chi with a Yoga Twist

This program improves the quality of life for people with joint pain without any knowledge of Tai Chi. This ancient practice combines agile steps, joint safe exercise, and mental strength to improve mobility, breathing, and relaxation in ways that help you feel better. In this class, you will learn warm-up and cool-down exercises and eight basic movements, along with some meditation. **Please have a check for \$60.00 made payable to Linda Osowski on the first day of class.** Linda is an AAAI-certified personal trainer with over 20 years of experience.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Tuesdays and Fridays

SESSION 1: January 9 – January 30.....443123 – 1G

SESSION 2: February 2 – March 1 (no class 2/20 & 2/23).....443123 – 1H

TIME: 2:00 – 2:45 pm

FEE: \$5.00 registration fee per person

AGE: Adult

## Gentle Yoga

Join us for this class teaching the essentials of yoga. This 6 week class is for anyone new to yoga as well as those with experience. Exercise, meditation, and breathing are key components of this practice. Connect with yourself...relax. **Please wear loose comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat.** Lores Way is a registered yoga instructor with the Yoga Alliance.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

SESSION 1: Mondays, January 22 – March 4 (no class 2/19).....FULL.....443123 – 2A

SESSION 2: Mondays, March 18 – April 29.....443123 – 2B

TIME: 5:00 – 6:00 pm

FEE: \$36.00 per person

AGE: 16 years – Adult

## Yoga after Work

Keep calm and try yoga. This 6 week class is designed for students of any level interested in furthering their yoga knowledge. The practice of yoga benefits the body, mind, and spirit. Focus on exercise, breathing, and meditation for a transforming experience. Feel free to move at your comfort level. **Please wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat.** Lores Way is a registered yoga instructor with the Yoga Alliance.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

SESSION 1: Thursdays, January 25 – February 29.....443123 – 2C

SESSION 2: Thursdays, March 21 – April 25 .....443123 – 2D

TIME: 5:00 – 6:00 pm

FEE: \$36.00 per person

AGE: 16 years – Adult



# ACTIVE RECREATION

## Beginners Geocaching Challenge

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunt. It's a great way to get outdoors and exercise the gray matter. Adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices search for hidden containers, called geocaches. Geocaching also involves an online community where information is shared and members develop a strong sense of community and support for the environment. After a brief introduction to Geocaching, participants will be given coordinates and turned loose in the park after a multi-cache. The first team to find the final cache will receive a prize.

**You will need a GPS unit or an equivalent smartphone app to participate. Participants must be able to walk two miles over uneven terrain.**

LOCATION: Beach Complex, Ocean County Park, Lakewood

DATE: Saturday, January 27.....448466 – 6A

TIME: 12:00 - 3:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 14 years - Adult

## Intro to Pickleball

Join in on the fastest-growing sport in the country. Pickleball is a sport that combines tennis, badminton, and ping pong. The game is played with a solid pickleball paddle and a plastic ball on a court about 1/3 the size of a tennis court. Learn how to play the game in this fun and exciting clinic. This is a sport you can learn quickly. All equipment will be supplied. Please wear sneakers and bring a drink.

**You must complete this class BEFORE taking the Rally.**

LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 1 & 2, Stanley "Tip" Seaman County Park, Tuckerton

DATE: Wednesdays, March 13 – March 27.....443123 – 2E

TIME: 3:00 – 4:30 pm

LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 3 & 4, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Tuesdays, March 19 – April 2.....443123 – 2F

TIME: 10:00 – 11:30 am

LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 3 & 4, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Tuesdays, March 19 – April 2.....443123 – 2G

TIME: 12:00 – 1:30 pm

LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 3 & 4, Ocean County Park, Lakewood

DATE: Thursdays, March 21 – April 4.....443123 – 2H

TIME: 5:00 – 6:30 pm

FEE: \$10.00 per person

AGE: Adult

## Pickleball Rally

The Pickleball Rally class is designed for newer players who have some experience playing pickleball but want to play more matches to practice their newly acquired skills. Players should have a basic understanding of the rules of pickleball before signing up for this class. Staff will be available to answer questions and go over positioning and strategy to help get you on your way. Equipment will be available if needed. Please wear sneakers and bring a drink.

**You must have taken the Intro to Pickleball BEFORE taking this class.**

LOCATION: Pickleball Courts, 2, 3, & 4, Ocean County Park, Lakewood

DATE: Thursdays, March 21 – April 4.....443123 – 3A

TIME: 3:00 – 4:30 pm

FEE: \$10.00 per person

AGE: Adult

# CPR & Basic Life Support

## Adult/Child/Infant CPR AED Certification

Did you know that four out of five cardiac arrests happen at home? If called on to administer CPR in an emergency, the life you save is likely to be that of a child, spouse, parent or friend. Prepare yourself!! Come and learn life-saving CPR and AED use, as well as how to relieve choking in adults, children and infants. This hands-on course is taught in a relaxed and comfortable environment by certified instructors and is designed for anyone with limited or no medical training. Upon completion, participants will receive a CPR AED Course Completion Card.

**Please bring a check for \$50.00 payable to Ocean Side CPR.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, January 10.....441166 - 9A

DATE: Wednesday, February 7.....441166 - 9B

DATE: Wednesday, March 6.....441166 - 9C

TIME: 6:30 – 9:00 PM

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: 14 years – Adult



## Basic Life Support (BLS) for the Healthcare Provider

Designed for the health care professional, this extensive hands-on course will prepare you to recognize and confidently respond to several life – threatening emergencies. Participants will actively engage in simulated clinical scenarios mastering CPR, use of an AED, and relieving choking in a safe, timely, and effective manner. Certified instructors will guide you through various learning stations to test ability and ensure proficiency in performing these life – saving skills. Upon the conclusion of skills testing, participants must also complete a written exam. Participants will receive a BLS for the Healthcare Provider Completion Card.

**Please bring a check for \$70.00 payable to Ocean Side CPR.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, January 24.....441166 – 9D

DATE: Wednesday, February 21.....441166 – 9E

DATE: Wednesday, March 20.....441166 – 9F

TIME: 6:30 – 9:00 PM

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: 14 years - Adult

## Stay tuned to your Ocean County Parks & Recreation



**Search: Ocean County Parks & Recreation  
on FACEBOOK**

**Search: MyOCParks on INSTAGRAM**

[www.oceancountyparks.org](http://www.oceancountyparks.org)



# **LIFEGUARDS WANTED**



## **CERTIFIED LIFEGUARDS Needed for OCEAN COUNTY PARK LAKES 2024**

**A. PAUL KING COUNTY PARK - MANAHAWKIN  
OCEAN COUNTY PARK - LAKEWOOD**

**Competitive Salary and Certification  
Reimbursement at the end of the  
working season.**



**Apply: Ocean County Department of Parks  
and Recreation**

**1198 Bandon Road**

**Toms River, NJ 08753**

**Call: (732) 506-9090 X 5956**

**or Email: [bblank@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:bblank@co.ocean.nj.us)  
for information/application**

# **HELP WANTED**

**The Active Recreation Department is accepting applications for this summer to work as a Sports Recreation Aide.**

**All Applicants must be 17 years of age or older with a valid driver's license by the application deadline.**

**Must be an Ocean County Resident.**

**This position is mostly mornings to early afternoon Monday – Thursday.**

**We do have some evening special events. Staff will start each day at Ocean County Park in Lakewood.**

**Please email [vwagner@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:vwagner@co.ocean.nj.us) for an application or if you have any questions concerning the position.**

**Application Deadline – February 23, 2024**





# Ocean County Parks Nature Lessons

# YouTube

<https://bit.ly/NatureLessonVideos>



## Keeping Wildlife WILD

Ocean County Parks & R...



## Cranberries: Ocean County History &...

Ocean County Parks & R...



## Virtual Nature Lessons: Meet th...

Ocean County Parks & R...



## Seining Silver Bay at Cattus Island...

Ocean County Parks & R...



## Cattus Salt Marsh Revisited as...

Ocean County Parks & R...



## OCParks: Cuban Tree Frogs

Ocean County Parks & R...



## KIDS CRAFTS: NATURE PICTURE...

Ocean County Parks & R...



## Snapping Turtles of Cattus Island

Ocean County Parks & R...



## Cattus Island's Carnivorous Plants

Ocean County Parks & R...



## 051520WellsFeeder

Ocean County Parks & R...



## Plants of Wells Mills County Park

Ocean County Parks & R...



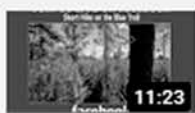
## Page's Point...Science,...

Ocean County Parks & R...



## Pine Barrens Industries

Ocean County Parks & R...



## Short Hike on the Blue Trail at Cattu...

Ocean County Parks & R...



## Meet the Northern Pine Snake

Ocean County Parks & R...



## Tour of the Cooper Environmental...

Ocean County Parks & R...



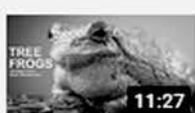
## NATURE LESSONS: Owls are a HOOT!

Ocean County Parks & R...



## Early Spring on the Salt Marsh

Ocean County Parks & R...



## The Eastern Tree Frog

Ocean County Parks & R...



## Science Lesson: Doctor Dude

Ocean County Parks & R...



# WINTER IN YOUR OCEAN COUNTY PARKS

**Cloverdale Farm County Park**



**Ocean County Park**



**Jakes Branch County Park**



**Wells Mills County Park**



**Ocean County Park**



**Barnegat Branch Trail**



**Cattus Island County Park**





# RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREES



Until Jan. 31, 2024



Cattus Island County Park, Toms River  
Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat  
Wells Mills County Park, Waretown  
Lake Shenandoah County Park, Lakewood  
Beaver Dam County Park, Point Pleasant  
Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood  
Mill Creek County Park, Berkeley  
Enos Pond County Park, Forked River  
Robert J. Miller Airpark, Berkeley  
Freedom Fields County Park, Little Egg Harbor  
Patriots County Park, Jackson  
Stanley H. "Tip" Seaman County Park, Tuckerton  
A. Paul King County Park, Stafford  
Atlantis Golf Course, Little Egg Harbor  
Forge Pond Golf Course, Brick

Brought to you by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners

## The Affair at CEDAR BRIDGE

Saturday  
DECEMBER 2, 2023

12:00 - 4:00 pm

200 Old Halfway Road, Barnegat, New Jersey



### The Affair at Cedar Bridge 1782

At this time each year the Ocean County Parks and Recreation Department along with the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Department present, "The Affair at Cedar Bridge," a reenactment of the last land engagement of the American Revolutionary War that took place at the Cedar Bridge Tavern Historical Site in Barnegat.

Saturday, December 2, 2023 Noon to 4 P.M. Snow date – Sunday January 7, 2024  
Skirmishes at 1:30 and 3:30 PM

Refreshments, Fire Pit, NJ Fifes & Drums Historic tents, Giant Chess and Checkers,  
Crafts – Painting, Archery, Ring the Ocean County Liberty Bell and other games

# Bird Feeder Bandit or Fantastic Forester?



## Nature Up Close – Eastern Gray Squirrel

Eastern Gray Squirrels are mammals that have the knack to delight or dismay. These agile, problem-solving rodents are among a group of more than 200 species of squirrels world-wide. Often best known for their acrobatic antics or seemingly indecisive nature when crossing a road, grey squirrels play an important role in what's known as seed dispersal. As winter approaches, squirrels carry their food and bury it in several locations. They hide more food than they will recover and eat. The forgotten nuts and seeds will eventually sprout leading to a natural method of replanting forests.

### Squirrel “Digs”

Gray squirrels will use old woodpecker holes or natural tree cavities as dens to live in and raise young. Gray squirrels will also build large nests composed of leaves and twigs. Generally, dens are made at least 20 feet off the ground. Gray squirrels are often social and will share their nests with other gray squirrels during certain times of the year.



### On The Menu.....

Considered omnivores, grey squirrels primary foods are nuts, flowers, seeds, insects, mushrooms...and let's not forget your backyard bird feeder!

### Fun Facts

- Gray squirrels are very vocal animals that use a variety of calls, including harsh squalls, warning barks, chucks, mews, purrs, and tooth chattering, to communicate with other squirrels.
- Eastern Gray Squirrels typically live up to 3 years in the wild, though some wild squirrels have been found to reach the ripe age of 13.

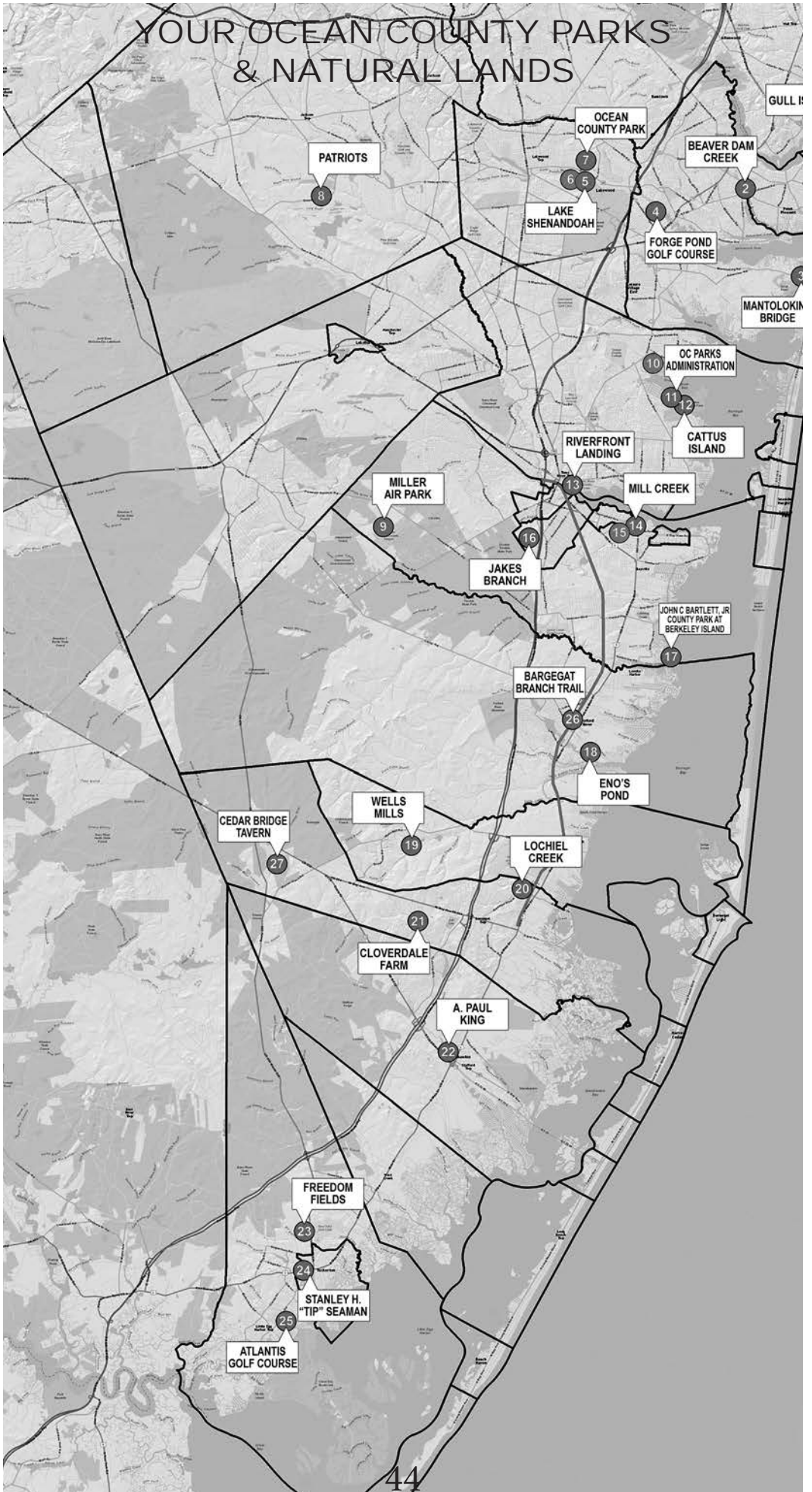
### Did you Know

National Squirrel Appreciation Day is celebrated on January 21?





# YOUR OCEAN COUNTY PARKS & NATURAL LANDS



**A. Paul King County Park**

48 acres  
2 W. Bay Avenue  
Stafford Township (Manahawkin)

**Barnegat Branch Trail**

15.6 miles  
Barnegat to Toms River

**Beaver Dam Creek County Park**

40 acres  
3430 Bridge Avenue  
Point Pleasant

**Cattus Island County Park**

530 acres  
1170 Cattus Island Boulevard  
Toms River.

**Cedar Bridge Tavern**

291 acres  
200 Old Halfway Road  
Barnegat

**Cloverdale Farm County Park**

90 acres  
34 Cloverdale Road  
Barnegat

**E.B. Leone County Conservation Area**

45 acres  
Hooper Ave. & South Shore Drive  
Toms River

**Eno's Pond County Park**

8 acres  
330 East Lacey Road  
Lacey Township

**Florence T. Allen Conservation Area**

45 acres  
110 Chelsea Avenue  
Berkeley Twp

**Freedom Fields County Park**

1160 Route 539  
Little Egg Harbor Township

**Gull Island County Park/Conservation Area**

48 acres  
419 Broadway  
Point Pleasant Beach

**Jakes Branch County Park**

400 acres  
1100 Double Trouble Road  
Beachwood

**John C. Bartlett, Jr. County Park at Berkeley Island**

25 acres  
399 Brennan Concourse,  
Berkeley Township

**Lake Shenandoah County Park & Sports Field Complex**

143 acres  
660 Ocean Avenue & 300 New Hampshire Avenue, Lakewood

**Lochiel Creek County Park**

177 acres  
Barnegat Boulevard North  
Barnegat

**Mantoloking Bridge Fishing Pier**

30 Mantoloking Road  
Brick, NJ

**Metedeconk River Conservation Area**

318 acres  
Lakewood & Brick Townships

**Mill Creek County Park**

14 acres  
111 Chelsea Avenue  
Berkeley Township

**Ocean County Park**

323 acres  
659 Ocean Ave. (Route 88)  
Lakewood

**Ocean County Park Off-Leash Dog Facility**

659 Ocean Avenue  
Lakewood

**Parks & Recreation Administrative Offices**

39 acres  
1198 Bandon Road,  
Toms River

**Patriots County Park & Sports Field Complex**

219 acres  
485 Bowman Road,  
Jackson Township

**Riverfront Landing County Park**

71 East Water Street,  
Toms River

**Robert J. Miller Airpark**

35 acres  
901 Route 530,  
Berkeley Township

**RJ Miller County Airpark Off-Leash Dog Facility**

901 Route 530  
Berkeley Township

**Stanley H. "Tip" Seaman County Park**

22 acres  
120 Lakeside Drive (Route 9)  
Tuckerton

**Wells Mills County Park**

910 acres  
905 Wells Mills Road (Route 532)  
Waretown



[www.oceancountyparks.org](http://www.oceancountyparks.org)  
(732) 506-9090



**TICKS ARE ACTIVE AT 35F AND ABOVE. USE CAUTION IN ALL SEASONS**

## **AVOID LYME DISEASE**



**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

### **Before You Go Outdoors:**

- Know where to expect ticks. Ticks live in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas, or even on animals. Spending time outside walking your dog, camping, gardening, or hunting could bring you in close contact with ticks. Many people get ticks in their own yard.
- Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin.
- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents.

### **Avoid Contact with Ticks:**

Avoid wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter.  
Walk in the center of trails.

### **After You Come Indoors:**

Check your clothing for ticks. Ticks may be carried into the house on clothing. Any ticks that are found should be removed. Tumble dry clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 mins. to kill ticks on dry clothing after you come indoors. Water will not kill ticks.

Examine gear and pets. Ticks can ride into the home on clothing and pets, then attach to a person later, so carefully examine pets, coats, and daypacks.

Shower soon after being outdoors. Showering within two hours of coming indoors has been shown to reduce your risk of getting Lyme disease and may be effective in reducing the risk of other tickborne diseases. Showering may help wash off unattached ticks and it is a good opportunity to do a tick check.

Check your body for ticks after being outdoors. Conduct a full body check upon return from potentially tick-infested areas, including your own backyard. Use a hand-held or full-length mirror to view all parts of your body. Check these parts of your body and your child's body for ticks:

- Under the arms
- In and around the ears
- Inside belly button
- Back of the knees
- In and around the hair
- Between the legs
- Around the waist

### **Preventing Ticks on Your Pets**

Dogs are very susceptible to tick bites and tickborne diseases. Vaccines are not available for most of the tickborne diseases that dogs can get, and they don't keep the dogs from bringing ticks into your home. For these reasons, it's important to use a tick preventive product on your dog.

Tick bites on dogs may be hard to detect. Signs of tickborne disease may not appear for 7-21 days or longer after a tick bite, so watch your dog closely for changes in behavior or appetite if you suspect that your pet has been bitten by a tick.

Talk to your veterinarian about:

- The best tick prevention products for your dog
- Tickborne diseases in your area

To further reduce the chances that a tick bite will make your dog sick:

- Check your pets for ticks daily, especially after they spend time outdoors.
- If you find a tick on your pet, remove it right away.
- Reduce tick habitat in your yard.

**Note: Cats are extremely sensitive to a variety of chemicals. Do not apply any tick prevention products to your cats without first asking your veterinarian!**





# Ocean County's Big Tree Registry

*Check out our webpage dedicated to the Big Trees of Ocean County*

*LINK: <https://www.oceancountyparks.org/frmBigTreeRegistry>*

While the winter season may have stripped it of its leaves, the Sweet Gum tree (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) at Mott Place in downtown Toms River still fit the bill of one of Ocean County's big trees.

With measuring tape in hand, Ocean County Commissioner Virginia E. Haines, liaison to the Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation, along with Michael Mangum, Director of the Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation, measured the tree's circumference noting it was almost 10 feet.

The tree height of 70 feet and the crown spread of 68 feet makes it a perfect candidate for the county's Big Tree list.

"This tree is probably 100 years old if not older," Haines said. "We have big trees gracing lands across this County. We want to know about them in order to preserve and protect them.

"Big trees play an important role in the health of our environment and ultimately our health," she said.

The Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the Ocean County Shade Tree Commission is asking residents to nominate big trees throughout the County for a Big Tree Registry.

Ocean County has launched the Big Tree Registry, a compilation of the largest native and naturalized tree species in the County. Nominated by Ocean County residents, these trees have environmental and historical value that should be conserved for future generations.

To nominate a big tree, visit the Ocean County Parks Facebook page (@OceanCountyParks), or the Ocean County Parks website [www.oceancountyparks.org](http://www.oceancountyparks.org) to find the necessary forms, as well as instructions as to how to measure the tree.

Some of the environmental benefits of big trees include the removal of tons of pollution in the air; combating climate change by removing carbon dioxide; preventing water runoff, erosion and water pollution; preventing flooding; providing wildlife habitats; and the tree roots help filter ground water by absorbing nutrients and toxins.

"Big trees provide up to 600 times the environmental benefits of typical trees," said Ocean County Commissioner Virginia E. Haines, who serves as Chairwoman to the Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation, as well as liaison to the Ocean County Shade Tree Commission. "It is important that these trees are documented to keep them from being removed."

In addition, large trees are also a way to preserve history. Trees that have historic value are also called Heritage or Witness trees.

"Many trees also have historic value and have been around for hundreds of years," Haines said. "The only way for these trees to truly tell their story is for us to preserve and appreciate them for the value and pleasure they bring to the County."

"The Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation has always taken great pride in educating our residents on proper conservation," said the Director of the Ocean County Board of Commissioners Gary Quinn. "With the help of our residents, we can continue our ongoing conservation efforts and make sure our trees are protected."

Ocean County has been part of the New Jersey Forest Service (NJFS), who oversees the state Big Tree Conservation Program and keeps a record of the largest trees in the state, since the 1930s.

On the NJFS Big Tree Registry, Ocean County has 23 trees listed, with many of them located on the grounds of Georgian Court University in Lakewood Township.

**For more information on the Big Tree Registry, contact the Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation's administration office at 732-506-9090 ext. 5941 or email [bigtreelist@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:bigtreelist@co.ocean.nj.us).**



# Ocean County Timeline...Fun Facts

**11,500 BC** - Paleo-Indians migrated into what is now Ocean County and lived in nomadic bands hunting and fishing.

**1000 AD** - Early Woodland Period Indians, known as Lenape, emerge as hunters and gatherers. [Note: By 1740, there were only about 200 Native Americans living in New Jersey, south of the Raritan Bay to Cape May.]

**1600** - Dutch navigator, surveyor, and cartographer Cornelius Hendrickson navigated Barnegat Inlet and the Toms River onboard the Onrust, becoming the first European explorer to set foot on what became Ocean County soil. The land, which he claimed for Holland, became part of New Netherlands.

**1685** - After Sir George Carteret died, his land holding in the province was sold off piecemeal to pay his indebtedness. The Proprietors began to buy land from the local Native Americans, which gave title for Ocean County lands to Europeans for the first time.

**1687** - East Jersey and West Jersey was split distinctly into two tracts after land disputes forced a line to be surveyed formally between the two territories. This line became known as the Keith Province Line, which eventually divided Ocean and Burlington counties.

**1696** - Captain William Kidd set sail from New York. Soon, he, with his crew, turned pirate and began working the waters off the Southern Jersey coast.

**1700** - Captain Kidd was captured, taken to London where he was tried and hanged for piracy. About this time small settlements began to be established in the Little Egg Harbor (Tuckerton), Goose Creek (Toms River), and New Egypt (Plumsted) areas.

**1712** - First road established in Ocean County..

**1754** - French and Indian War erupted and continued until the treaty was signed between the British and French nine years later.

**1758** - A violent storm opened Cranberry Inlet, which later served a major role in the American Revolution and local history before closing during another violent storm in 1812.

**1767** - Dover Township formally established by charter.

**1778** - Count Casimir Pulaski, a Polish cavalry officer, and his legion were engaged by the British on Osborn Island. Forty troops, massacred by the British in a surprise early morning attack, gained the dubious distinction of being the only men from Washington's Army to be killed by the British on Ocean County soil.

**1782** - A British expedition attacked the Toms River Blockhouse and its compliment of twenty-five militiamen under the command of Captain Joshua Huddy. The British burned the village of Toms River and captured and hanged Huddy. Notorious Tory outlaw John Bacon and his men committed the Barnegat Light Massacre, slaughtering twenty local crew of a salvaged British sloop as they slept. A skirmish at Cedar Creek (now in Barnegat Township) marked last land conflict of American Revolution.

**1789** - George Washington inaugurated as the first president of the United States. The first local iron forge was built on Lake Horicon (near present-day Lakehurst)

**1814** - A formal New Jersey militia was organized to combat British attacks, especially against coastal and naval interests, during the War of 1812.

**1820** - Over-hunting forces an end to the whaling industry in Southern Ocean County.

**1845** - Joel Haywood of West Creek, wrote a letter to the New Jersey State Legislature urging that a new county, called Ocean, be formed from Monmouth County.

**1850** - Ocean County was set-off from Monmouth County by charter on February 15, becoming the state's twentieth county, the second largest in area. It consisted of six original townships – Brick, Dover, Jackson, Plumsted, Stafford, and Union (now Barnegat). The 12-member Board of Freeholders met on May 8 at the Thomas P. Barkalow house in Toms River, the designated county seat, and authorized purchase of land and construction of the Ocean County Courthouse. The first operating budget was set at \$1,800.

**1855** - Cultivation of cranberries as a cash crop begun by Daniel Gowdy.

**1857** - The third (and present) Barnegat Lighthouse was completed at the northern end of Long Beach Island at a cost of \$60,000. The towering 163-foot structure, made of steel, bricks and mortar, maintained watch over the sea until 1927. It is not only the second oldest lighthouse in the United States, but it is also the tallest in New Jersey.

**1862** - Railroads began service through Ocean County. Trains transported Union troops to and from Ocean County during the Civil War.

**1871** - Congress appropriated funding to initiate professionalization of the Life Saving Service. The life-saving service was formalized by Captain Hugh McClellan on Island Beach (later Island Beach State Park). He took 6 trained uniformed men to New Orleans for the World's Fair to demonstrate lifesaving techniques, which became the national standard.

**1880** - A building boom, including many large hotels, began in Lakewood.

**1895** - A crude boardwalk, consisting of boards laid temporarily on the sand, was replaced by a permanent one built on piling in Point Pleasant Beach.

**1887** - Georgian Court, the estate of George Jay Gould, scion of robber baron and railroad tycoon, Jay Gould, was built in Lakewood during the glorious Gilded Age.

**1913** - The Paul Kimball Hospital in Lakewood opened its doors with sixteen beds and a staff of nine.

**1915** - Ocean County was the only county in New Jersey to support a referendum to amend the state constitution extending suffrage to women.

**1917** - The United States entered World War I. The former ammunition proving grounds in Manchester and Jackson townships was acquired by U.S. Army and renamed Camp Kendrick.

**1923** - Lila W. Thompson of New Egypt (Plumsted Township) was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly, thus, becoming Ocean County's first woman legislator.

**1924** - The Lakewood estate of the financier and railroad magnate George Jay Gould was acquired by the Sisters of Mercy to establish Georgian Court College, a four-year women's educational institution.

**1927** - South Toms River Borough, the last of Ocean County's 33 municipalities and the eleventh since 1900, was formed from Berkeley Township lands. By then, the County had 14 townships and 19 boroughs.

**1937** - The Hindenburg, a huge, luxurious, German-built dirigible, crashed in a fiery blaze at Lakehurst Naval Air Station on May 6. The disaster, killing 37 passengers and crew, was reported nationwide on radio as it was happening.

**1940** - John D. Rockefeller, Jr. offered the family's Lakewood estate, both mansion and property) to the County as a gift three years after his father's death.

**1941** - The Freeholders agreed to accept the Rockefeller gift and establish Ocean County's first park on the estate.

**1945** - Operating under the code name "Bumblebee," the world's first successful supersonic ramjet, traveling 1,500 m.p.h., was fired from Island Beach on June 3.

**1954** - Garden State Parkway opens.

**1962** - A savage northeast storm, which destroyed millions of dollars in property and cost the lives of several residents on Long Beach Island in March, did not discourage rebuilding and future development along the shore.

**1963** - Plans for one of the County's first adult communities, Leisure Village in Lakewood, were unveiled.

Beth Medrash Govoha, a rabbinical college, was established in Lakewood.

**1964** - The Island Beach estate of Henry Phipps, the steel magnate and co-owner of Bethlehem Steel, was purchased by the State for conservation and recreation, establishing Island Beach State Park.

Ocean County College, a two-year community college, was established in Toms River.

**1970** - A 92.6% population explosion in the last decade, mushroomed the County's population to 208,470.

**1975** - The Lakewood Little League team won the National Tournament of Champions in August at Williamsport, Pennsylvania, beating Tampa, Florida, 4-3.

**1990** - The County's population was 433,203, representing more than 60 racial and ancestral ethnic groups.

**1998** - The Toms River East American Little League team defeated a Japanese team in the Little League World Series in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania.





## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PARKS HOME FIND A PARK ABOUT - PROGRAMS - UPDATES THINGS TO DO BIG TREE REGISTRY CONTACT

### 23 MILES OF HIKING TRAILS

Visit Wells Mills County Park

#### CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

#### LATEST UPDATES

##### RESTROOMS CLOSED AT CLOVERDALE

The restrooms at Cloverdale Farm County Park will be closed until at least Thursday. We will update here.

[Read More...](#)

##### VIRTUAL NATURE LESSONS

YouTube video nature lessons from your Ocean County Parks.

[Read More...](#)

##### FALL PROGRAM GUIDE 2022

Links to our Fall Program Guide and registration information



##### PARKS

Ocean County Parks and Recreation offers a wide variety of outdoor activities in 27 parks and conservation areas. With over 4000 acres of preserved and well maintained land you can enjoy hiking, biking, swimming, canoeing, fishing, ball fields, tennis courts, playgrounds and so much more. With parks from Point Pleasant to Tuckerton you're sure to find an adventure near you.

[View All](#)



##### GOLF

Ocean County is home to many challenging golf courses. Among these are two public courses maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Forge Pond Golf Course was ranked in the top 20 public golf courses to play in NJ by Golf Advisor. Atlantis Golf Course is a much longer course than Forge Pond but to some golf enthusiasts is one of the best layouts in the state of NJ.

[Learn More](#)



##### NATURAL LANDS TRUST FUND

The Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Program was established in 1997 as a way to preserve the natural beauty of Ocean County, and protect our watershed. By preserving open space we have established over 17,000 acres of land for public use. The public enjoy many activities from kayaking along the bay, to hiking miles of trail, or hunting on over 13,000 acres.

[Learn More](#)



##### PROGRAM GUIDE

In our online guide you'll find detailed descriptions of all the programs available in the parks system. There are organized hikes, van tours and trips, educational and art classes, wellness programs and so much more. In the guide you'll find something for everyone; from Pre-K fun to senior exercise classes.

[View Program Guide](#)



##### SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout the year we offer a wide variety of special events ranging from the Annual Decoy and Gunning Show in Tuckerton to the Beach Ball-A-Palooza in Toms River. Other events include the Pine Barrens Jamboree, The Awesome Autumn Festival and the Recreation Celebration...just to name a few.

[View Events](#)



##### VIRTUAL NATURE LESSONS

**Teachers, Parents, Students:** Our Virtual Nature Lessons are a growing collection of videos done in our Ocean County Parks and hosted by our Park Naturalists. In these times of COVID-19, with limited class trips and outdoor activities, we want to offer you the Ocean County Park's experience... virtually.

[Learn More](#)



##### CULTURAL & HERITAGE

Formed in 1969, the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission is the primary leader and catalyst in promoting the arts and cultural heritage in Ocean County. The commission runs peer reviewed grant programs distributing nearly \$2 million, technical support, nearly 50,000 copies of Out & About and historic preservation leadership.

[Learn More](#)

#### NJ FOREST FIRE SERVICE

[LEARN MORE >](#)



There are now 3  
Ocean County  
Parks & Recreation  
Off-Leash Dog Parks:

**Freedom Fields**

Little Egg Harbor Township

**Ocean County Park**

Lakewood

**Robert J. Miller**

**Air Park**

Berkeley Township

**For more information contact:**

**MSteuer@co.ocean.nj.us**

or

**(732) 506-9090 x5950**

## Recreation Program Policy and Information

1. Recreation personnel in charge of each program will have the final decision in all matters, especially where participant safety is concerned.
2. Due to the strenuous nature of some of our activities, recreation personnel reserve the right to deny a participant entry into a program. If the participant has already paid a fee, this fee will be reimbursed in accordance with our refund/credit policy.
3. Alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited on all recreational programs.
4. All participants and their guardians must realize there may be some unavoidable hazards involved in all recreation programs. At the start of the program you will be asked to sign a Waiver of Liability Form, which is mandatory in order to attend the program and must be signed.
5. It is the participant's or guardian's responsibility to inform staff members of any medical problems that may inhibit your participation in a program. Please consult your doctor if you are not sure.
6. Please be advised that all return times are approximate. The actual times depends on the ability of the participants, prevailing weather, field conditions, and unforeseen circumstances.
7. All children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult, except programs specifically designed for young children.
8. Age range for programs have been designated according to program content and will be strictly adhered to.
9. **WARNING!** Ticks may be present on all outdoor programs. To protect yourself from Lyme Disease, we recommend participants spray clothing with insect repellent which contains DEET, wear light color clothes, tuck pants into your boots or socks, always change clothes as soon as you return home and check yourself over closely for ticks. Deer ticks are present all year round.
10. **WARNING!** The rabies epidemic is present throughout the state. For your safety, please enjoy wildlife from a distance, report any wildlife behaving strangely to park staff.



# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Unless otherwise stated, all programs require registration along with payment in full at time of **registration**. Anyone attending a program or trip, without registering in advance, must pay by check or money order (cash is unacceptable). Participants will only be permitted upon availability. When a program/trip has been advertised in a previous newsletter we will accept enrollment prior to the registration date listed in this newsletter issue.

**SPECIAL ASSISTANCE/ACCOMMODATIONS** available upon request

For program availability or a program guide please call:

(732) 506-9090

**MAIL-IN REGISTRATION IS PREFERRED** (early mail-ins will be returned)

## REGISTRATION LOCATIONS:

Monday – Friday 8:30am to 3:30pm

Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood (732) 281-2750

Parks & Recreation Administrative Office, Toms River (732) 506-9090

Wells Mills County Park, Waretown (609) 971-3085

# PROGRAM REGISTRATION APPLICATION

When registering by mail or in person, you must complete and sign the entire **Program Registration Application**. For your convenience you can print our “**Program Registration Application**” right from our website or you may copy this application; however, an original signature must be on each application. Incomplete and unsigned applications will be returned unprocessed. Please return your completed Program Registration Application along with your payment to:

**Ocean County Parks & Recreation Administrative Offices**

**1198 Bandon Road, Toms River, N.J. 08753-3138**

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO “COUNTY OF OCEAN”**

If you would like to register in person, please visit one of our three locations listed above. Mail ins are also accepted.

## Refund and Cancellation Policy

**\*\*Once a program has started, fees will not be refunded nor credit issued, regardless of the reason.\*\***

### REFUND POLICY

1. When the **Department** reschedules or cancels a program costing \$15 or more per person, a full refund will be issued by means of a **properly completed and signed Program Registration Application**.
2. When the **Customer** cancels participation in a program costing \$15 or more per person, having given **at least two weeks notice prior to the scheduled program start date**, a full refund will be issued by means of a **properly completed and signed Program Registration Application**.
3. Vouchers or credits will only be issued to the **individual whose name appears on the check and/or reservation**.

### CREDIT POLICY

1. When a program costing less than \$15 per person is cancelled or rescheduled by the **Department**, the customer will receive a credit which is valid up to one year from the original date of that program. The credit will be applied to the household that the class was registered to.
2. When the **Customer** cancels participation in a program costing less than \$15 per person, having given **at least two weeks notice prior to the scheduled program start date**, the customer will receive a credit which has no expiration date.
3. If a Customer cancels a program less than two weeks prior to the scheduled program start date, regardless of the cost per person, the customer **does not** receive a credit or a refund on that program.
4. Once a credit has been issued, it may not be **exchanged for a cash refund**. This includes all credits applied to future registrations. **NO EXCEPTIONS**.

*The Department of Parks & Recreation reserves the right to cancel or postpone any trip or program. NOTE: See application for Refund and Cancellation Policy.*

# REGISTRATION FORM

Each of the undersigned, with the intention of binding himself or herself and any other persons for whom his or her signature is requested as parent or legal guardian, and the heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns of the undersigned or said other persons, does hereby knowingly and voluntarily release and discharge the County of Ocean and its officers, employees and agents, from any and all claims, demands, actions, judgments, and executions which each of the undersigned or the persons for whom his or her signature has been requested ever had, or now has, or may have or claim to have out of participation or any activity conducted, sponsored or approved by the Ocean County Parks and Recreation Department or the County of Ocean whether occasioned by the negligence of the county, its officers, agents or employees, or otherwise.

This Release and Waiver is given in consideration of the efforts of the County of Ocean in making these activities available to undersigned of the person for whom his or her signature is requested as parent or legal guardian and allowing the undersigned or such person to participate in these activities.

Each undersigned declares that prior to the execution of this Release he or she apprised him or herself of sufficient relevant data in order to intelligently exercise his or her own judgement in deciding whether to execute this Release and he or she further declares that this decision was not predicated on or influenced by any declarations or representations of the County of Ocean or its agent, officers or employees.

Each undersigned expressly agrees that the foregoing Release and Waiver is intended to be as broad as is permitted by the laws of the State of New Jersey and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

EACH UNDERSIGNED ACKNOWLEDGES THAT HE/SHE HAS READ  
AND VOLUNTARILY SIGNS THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF ALL  
LIABILITY.

**I need a reasonable modification for a disability to enjoy this activity**  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Upon completion of this application, please sign the Claimant's Certification & Declaration box below. In the event a program refund is necessary, for programs costing more than \$15.00 per person, this application will serve as a County Refund Voucher.

County of Ocean - Parks & Recreation Vendor Claimant's Certification & Declaration I do solemnly declare and certify under the penalties of the law that the within bill is correct in all its particulars; that no bonus has been given or received by any person or persons within the above claim; that the amount therein stated is justly due and owing.

It is understood and agreed that park visitors and participants in Ocean County Park System programs, activities, and events may have their names and pictures used, without fee, in broadcast, telecast, and print media accounts for promotional and publicity purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Signature

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Today's Date

Event #: \_\_\_\_\_ Refund Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Refund Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Event #: \_\_\_\_\_ Refund Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Refund Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

# REGISTRATION FORM

**CUSTOMER:** please print the following information and return the entire signed and completed application to the address noted below.

## OCEAN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION APPLICATION

LAST \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

APT #/BUILDING \_\_\_\_\_ TOWN \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ 4 DIGIT EXT. \_\_\_\_\_

HOME # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

WORK # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ EXT #. \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

*Make check payable to "COUNTY OF OCEAN" and mail to: Ocean County Parks & Recreation,  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE 1198 Bandon Road, Toms River, N.J. 08753-3138*

**Mail in registration preferred. REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED BEGINNING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 FOR PROGRAMS IN THIS ISSUE**

PROGRAM #	TITLE	LOCATION	TIME / DATE
Last Name/First: Date of Birth:			FEE:
Staff Use:			
PROGRAM #	TITLE	LOCATION	TIME / DATE
Last Name/First: Date of Birth:			FEE:
Staff Use:			
PROGRAM #	TITLE	LOCATION	TIME / DATE
Last Name/First: Date of Birth:			FEE:
Staff Use:			
PROGRAM #	TITLE	LOCATION	TIME / DATE
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Staff Use:			

**YOU MUST SIGN THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THIS FORM**



# Save The Dates!



**The Affair at CEDAR BRIDGE**  
Saturday  
DECEMBER 2, 2023

200 Old Halfway Road, Barnegat, New Jersey

**The Affair at Cedar Bridge 1782**  
At this time each year the Ocean County Parks and Recreation Department along with the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Department present, "The Affair at Cedar Bridge," a reenactment of the last land engagement of the American Revolutionary War that took place at the Cedar Bridge Tavern Historical Site in Barnegat.

Saturday, December 2, 2023 Noon to 4 P.M. Snow date - Sunday January 7, 2024  
Skirmishes at 1:30 and 3:30 PM  
Refreshments, Fire Pit, NJ Fife & Drums Historic tents, Giant Chess and Checkers, Crafts - Painting, Archery, Ring the Ocean County Liberty Bell and other games

## Affair at Cedar Bridge 12/2 Cedar Bridge Tavern



**Photos with Santa**  
FREE Family/Pets photo op  
Sunday Dec. 10  
10am - 2pm  
Cattus Island County Park  
Lecture Room in Nature Center

Bring your own camera, and one of Santa's helpers will be on hand to take your perfect holiday photo.

All Pets Must be on a Leash

No Registration...First Come, First Served

## Photos with Santa 12/10 Cattus Island



**WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION**  
Games ~ Crafts ~ Live Animal Talks ~ Horse Carriage Rides (11am-2pm) ~ Campfire Storytime  
Food ~ A Visit from Santa ~ Candy Cane Nature Walk

**FREE EVENT**

Saturday, December 9 ~ 10am - 2pm  
Horse Carriage Rides 11am-2pm  
**Cattus Island County Park**  
Cooper Environmental Center

## Winter Solstice 12/9 Cattus Island



**Cattus Island Gingerbread House Contest**

Categories:  
Youth 1 (0-6)  
Youth 2 (7-12)  
Teen (13-17)  
Adult (18+)

In-person  
**People's Choice Voting**  
Dec. 20 - Dec. 31  
10:00am - 4:00pm

Drop-Off  
12/13 - 12/17  
10am - 4:30pm

## Gingerbread Contest 12/13 - 1/2 Cattus Island



**Lighting Up Nature**

FREE

Heading out to drive through your neighborhood to look at Holiday Lights?... swing by Jakes Branch County Park for their **NEIGHBORHOOD-Style Drive Thru Display** "Lighting Up Nature"

Gates will be open December 15 thru 18 from 6 - 8 pm. FREE!!

**JAKES BRANCH COUNTY PARK**  
1100 Double Trouble Road, Beachwood

## Lighting Up Nature 12/15-18 Jakes Branch



**WINTER BEACH BLAST**  
FREE Ocean County Mall ~ Toms River  
Saturday ~ February 17  
1:00pm - 3:00pm

Giant Twister Game  
Crafts  
Cool...Fun Games

**SUMMER FUN...IN WINTER**

## Winter Beach Blast 2/17 Ocean County Mall



**OCEAN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

1198 Bandon Road

Toms River, New Jersey 08753-3138

(732) 506-9090

**PRSPT STD**  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #544  
LAKEWOOD, NJ  
08701

**Mail in Registration is Preferred  
REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED BEGINNING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29th FOR PROGRAMS IN THIS ISSUE**

**Early Mail-Ins Will Be Returned**

**Parks & Recreation Administrative Office, Toms River 732-506-9090**

**[www.oceancountyparks.org](http://www.oceancountyparks.org)**



Vistis our website: [www.oceancountyparks.org](http://www.oceancountyparks.org)  
for full information on all our parks, trail maps,  
rental forms, rules and regulations, etc.

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

