

**REGISTRATION BEGINS MONDAY, MARCH 9**

Your guide to Programs, Events, Classes & More

# 2026 SPRING PROGRAM GUIDE & NEWSLETTER

# Ocean County Parks & Recreation Natural Lands Trust



Ocean County's  
250th Anniversary of the American Revolution

## Ocean County Board of Commissioners

Robert S. Arace – Chairman of Parks and Recreation

Frank Sadeghi – Director

Jennifer Bacchione – Deputy Director,

Robert S. Arace, Sam Ellenbogen, Ray Gormley

Mary Jane Bavais

Director of Parks and Recreation

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

## Ocean County's 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution (1775–1783)

Ocean County is commemorating the 250th anniversary (Semiquincentennial) of the American Revolution (1775–1783) in what is now Ocean County, New Jersey.

Commissioner Robert S. Arace stated, "Ocean County is leading the State of New Jersey in commemorating this important milestone in American history. I encourage residents and visitors to explore our recently updated website at [www.ocean250.org](http://www.ocean250.org)."

As part of this initiative, the County has developed a traveling educational trailer that has participated in 25 parades and 178 events throughout New Jersey.

Ocean County Parks & Recreation has been actively engaged in planning and programming for the Semiquincentennial for the past five years and will continue these efforts through April 3, 2033.

Commissioner Arace added, "The Cedar Bridge County Historic Site, located at 200 Old Halfway Road in Barnegat, NJ 08005, is a restored c.1816 tavern that offers an excellent introduction to late 18th- and early 19th-century life in the New Jersey Pinelands. The site is open Thursday through Monday and by special arrangement."

Schools and civic organizations may also arrange complimentary guided tours of the facility. Additionally, the Ocean County Board of Commissioners offers limited financial assistance for school bus transportation to and from the tavern.

The first major event of 2026 will be the REVNJ 5K Run and 1K Walk at Cedar Bridge Tavern, to be held on Sunday, March 29, with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. This event will be the first of five planned REVNJ events statewide.

The second event will be the regional meeting of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey, scheduled for Saturday, April 18, at Cedar Bridge Tavern. The featured speaker will be Robert Cobb, presenting on privateers during the American Revolution.

In recognition of Arbor Day, the Ocean County Parks Department, in partnership with the Ocean County Shade Tree Commission, will plant a Liberty Tree on the Ocean County Courthouse lawn in Toms River at 10:00 a.m. on April 22.

Commissioner Arace also announced the release of the Ocean County 250th Revolutionary War Activity Book. This publication complements *The 250th Anniversary: American Revolution in War – Ocean County, New Jersey, Volume IV*. Both books are available in print and online at [www.ocean250.org](http://www.ocean250.org).

Ocean County will participate in the Wawa Welcome America Presents: Salute to Independence Parade in Philadelphia on July 3, featuring the 250th Anniversary trailer, the Ocean County Liberty Bell, and the mini whale boat Hero's Revenge.

Many Ocean County municipalities will host parades, picnics, and fireworks on Independence Day. At 1:00 p.m., the County will conduct a ceremony on the Courthouse lawn on Washington Street in Toms River, featuring a multi-reader presentation of the Declaration of Independence.

At 2:00 p.m., the County will sponsor local participation in Ringing from Sea to Shining Sea, including the ringing of major Ocean County bells such as the Dewtler Victory Bell and the Ocean County Liberty Bell. Local bell choirs have been invited to participate.

The day's events will conclude with a patriotic concert on the lawn of the Ocean County Library on Washington Street.

"Commissioner Arace added "The Semiquincentennial is an opportunity for all of us to connect with our shared history and celebrate the enduring spirit of our community. I encourage residents, families, and visitors to take part in these programs and events as we honor the past and come together to shape the future of Ocean County."

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FOR PROGRAMS IN THIS GUIDE



**Newsletter Editor:  
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

## Westray Ave

This property is approximately 1.29 acres and located in Island Heights Borough; this is the County's third purchase in Island Heights. This property is one of the last remaining undeveloped tracts in the Borough and had a concept design for 5 single-family homes to be built on it. Westray Ave is the largest undeveloped tract left in the historic district of IH South of Lake Ave. This property is located adjacent to the historic Wanamaker Field and Barnegat Bay. The Barnegat Bay is crucial for the migratory path for numerous bird species. The Island Heights community has voiced strong support for the County's acquisition of this property and has expressed sincere gratitude for its preservation.



**BACK TO SCHOOL?**

CALLING ALL OCEAN COUNTY  
**TEACHERS**  
BORROW  
an  
Ocean County  
Park's  
Naturalist

Science  
Environment  
Ecology  
Nature  
Discovery  
FUN



(732) 506-5122

### 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.

# FREE WEEKEND PROGRAMS

These programs are 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. (Excluding April 5 & 25)

TIME: 1:30 -2:00 pm

FEE: FREE

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 (Excluding April 5 & 25)

TIME: 2:00 – 3:00pm

FEE: FREE

AGE: All

**April 4**

**Signs of Spring**

**April 11 & 12**

**Welcome Back Osprey**

**April 18 & 19**

**Every Day is Earth Day**

**April 26**

**Welcome Back Osprey**

**May 2 & 3**

**History of Cattus**

**May 9 & 10**

**Mother's Day Stroll**

**May 16 & 17**

**Kids in the Park Nifty Nature Walk**

**May 23 & 24**

**Herps; A Search for Reptiles**

**May 30 & 31**

**Hummingbirds at Home**

**June 6 & 7**

**Carnivorous Plants**

**June 13 & 14**

**Pollinators in the Garden**

**June 20 & 21**

**Naturalist's Choice**

**June 27 & 28**

**Pollinators in the Garden**

## CEDAR BRIDGE TAVERN

### What does 250 mean to you?

In this program for children in Kindergarten through Third grade, we will explore what it means to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country. We'll read a kid-friendly story about how fairness, community, and working together helped us grow into the America we know today. We'll talk about what this big anniversary means and why we commemorate it. Then we'll create a patriotic craft and add our input to a special commemorative 250 art piece. **All supplies provided, parent must accompany child.**

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat

DATES: Saturday, April 11.....189332 - 9E

Sunday, April 19..... 189332 - 9F

Saturday, May 2..... 189332 - 9G

Saturday, May 16.....189332 - 9H

Sunday, May 31..... 189332 - 9I

Saturday, June 6..... 189332 - 9J

Sunday, June 14..... 189332 - 9K

Saturday, June 27.....189332 - 9L

Sunday, June 28.....189332 - 9M

TIME: 10:30 am - 11:45 am

FEE: FREE, but must register

AGE: 5 – 9 years

# FREE WEEKEND PROGRAMS

## JAKES BRANCH COUNTY PARK

The following programs are Free, 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, April 12 – June 28

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, April 12 – June 28

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?

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturdays, April 4 – June 27 (Excluding April 25, May 9, June 20)

TIME: 1:30 – 3:00 pm, ongoing

AGE: 3 - 5 years

FEE: Free

### Seeds Away for Earth Day Drop In

From mighty oaks to sunny sunflowers, seeds hold the potential to provide an array of plant life for us to enjoy and the earth to enrich. Join us for this Earth Day Drop-In as we create a simple craft using the simple seed that you can plant (or toss) outside to grow a garden of your own.

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, April 25

TIME: 1:00 – 3:30 pm, ongoing

AGE: All

FEE: Free

### Mother's Day Drop-In

Join us for a quick make-and-take craft and create a gift sure to please any Mother or Grandmother this Mother's Day!

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, May 9

TIME: 1:00 – 3:30 pm, ongoing

AGE: 3 – 9 years

FEE: Free

### Father's Day Drop-In

Join us for a quick make-and-take craft and create a gift sure to please any Father or Grandfather this Father's Day!

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, June 20

TIME: 1:00 – 3:30 pm, ongoing

AGE: 3 – 9 years

FEE: Free

# FREE WEEKEND PROGRAMS

## CLOVERDALE FARM COUNTY PARK

### Monthly 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,

April 4

May 9

June 6

TIME: 8:00 - 9:00 am

FEE: Free

AGE: 9 years - Adult

### Armchair Birding

During this program, we will set up our chairs on the back porch to watch the birds at the feeders. A Naturalist will be at your side to help you identify all the birds. This program is great for beginners and those with limited mobility. **Please bring a camp chair.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATES: Saturdays,

April 4

May 9

June 6

TIME: 10:00 - 11:00 am

FEE: Free

AGE: 12 years - Adult

### Family Bird Walk

Get those little feet moving and out in nature while learning about the birds that call Ocean County home. Adults must remain with children. Please be prepared to walk a mile. **Dress for the weather, wear comfortable sneakers or boots, and bring a pair of binoculars. If inclement weather, the program will be canceled.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Sunday, April 19

TIME: 8:30 - 9:30 am

FEE: Free

AGE: All

### Solving STEM Problems With LEGOs

Science, technology, engineering, and math, or STEM, are the foundations for many practical problem-solving skills that are useful in life. Fostering love and respect for STEM can be much easier when it's made a little more creative and fun. Join us at Cloverdale, where we will be using LEGOs and our brains to create simple contraptions to solve practical STEM-related problems.

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATES: Sundays,

April 19

May 17

June 14

TIME: 10:00 - 11:00 am

FEE: Free

AGE: 8 years - Adult

# FREE WEEKEND PROGRAMS

## CLOVERDALE FARM COUNTY PARK

### Calling All Artists!

#### Cloverdale Farm's Plein Air Weekend

Some of the most awe-inspiring works of art are associated with nature. Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night*, Claude Monet's *Water Lilies*, John James Audubon's watercolors 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 to 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 must be brought back home with you, including solvents or paint water, so be sure to pack containers and plastic bags.

LOCATION: Entire Park, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATES/TIMES:

Friday, April 10 - Sunday, April 12 8:00 am - 7:00 pm

Friday, May 1 - Sunday, May 3 8:00 am - 7:30 pm

Friday, June 19 - Sunday, June 21 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

FEE: Free

AGE: All; children must be accompanied by adult

## FAMILY FUN

### Jakes Branch Plant & Seed Swap

Bring in your seed packets, garden collected seeds, tubers, cuttings, pups, seedlings, saplings, potted plants and more!

Entrance Fee: minimum 1 item

Feel free to bring more! The more you bring- the more you can swap! Indoor and outdoor seeds and plants welcome! Please have all items labeled. Bring only healthy, pest-free plants to the swap. This will be a "trade" style swap only, **NO CASH SALES will be allowed.**

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, April 4

TIME: 10:30am – 12:30pm

FEE: Free, no registration required

AGE: All

### Jersey Shore BlueClaws Ballpark Tour

#### *Shoretown Ballpark*

Shoretown Ballpark first opened its gates in 2001 when the BlueClaws came to the Jersey Shore. This state-of-the-art facility features 6,588 reserved seats, 16 luxury suites, 2 party decks, 2 picnic areas, and a new 1,859-square foot video scoreboard. Bring your family and tour the ballpark. Take lots of pictures, as this is a thrill for any baseball fan. This is a great way to enjoy the day while many kids are off from school.

LOCATION: Shoretown Ballpark, New Hampshire, Cedar Bridge Ave, Lakewood. Meet under the Tower by the Ticket Booth

DATE: Thursday, April 9

TIME: 11:00 am.....183466 – 3A

TIME: 12:00 pm.....183466 – 3B

FEE: **FREE** must be pre-registered by mail, or in person with the Ocean County Parks & Recreation Department.

AGE: All



# FAMILY FUN

## WANTED! VOLUNTEERS TO HELP CLEAN UP THE FORKED RIVER MOUNTAIN AREA

DATE: Sunday, April 19, 2026

TIME: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

### PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

\* Participants will be divided into small groups during registration and instructed where to meet as we get closer to the event. Exact meeting locations, such as Wells Mills County Park or other local facilities, will be sent to each person at the email address provided at the time of registration. First come, first serve. Register on the FRM Coalition website. [www.frmc.org](http://www.frmc.org), starting in early March. In Cooperation with the Forked River Mountain Coalition and the Pinelands Preservation Alliance  
Call Wells Mills County Park 609-971-3085 for more information.

*Last year we cleaned up 16.5 tons.*

*Grand total is 783 tons over a 32 year period*

*This year's clean up will be number 33.*

Sponsored by:  
Ocean County Board of Commissioners  
Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation

# FAMILY FUN - Park After Dark

## “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 and come a little early. 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: Sports Field Parking Lot, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood**

DATE: Saturday, April 25

TIME: 8:30 – 10:30 pm

DATE: Saturday, May 23

TIME: 9:00 – 11:00 pm

DATE: Saturday, June 20

TIME: 9:00 – 11:00 pm

**LOCATION: Parking Lot, Patriots County Park**

DATE: Saturday, May 16

TIME: 9:00 – 11:00 pm

FEE: FREE

AGE: ALL

## Frogs by Flashlight

Are you an amphibian enthusiast, frog finder, or toad tracker? Join us as we hike the sand trails of Jakes Branch exploring potholes and puddles in search of the many elusive amphibian species native to the Pinelands. Come early to catch a view of the sunset from the observation deck.

PICK UP: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Friday, May 1

TIME: 8:00 – 9:00 pm

DATE: Friday, June 5

TIME: 8:30 – 9:30 pm

FEE: FREE, pre-registration required

AGE: 7 years – Adult

# FAMILY FUN

## Kids' Stuff Flea Market

Come shop or sell at our Kids' Stuff Flea Market. It's time to clean out those closets and earn some extra cash. Items may include toys, games, clothes, or sporting goods. New and used items may be sold. This event is held rain or shine. Register now, as this event sells out quickly!

LOCATION: Beach Complex parking lot, Ocean County Park, Lakewood

DATE: Sunday, May 17 .....KDFLM26

TIME: Set up begins at 7:15 am. Sell from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

FEE: \$15.00 for two parking spots (one to sell your stuff, and one to park your vehicle early). No other vehicles are allowed in the lot.

**The deadline to register is Friday, May 1st.**

For anyone registering the day of the flea market, the cost will increase from \$15.00 to \$40.00 per unit if space is still available.

**NOTE: Pre-registration is mandatory, visit the website at [oceancountyparks.org](http://oceancountyparks.org) or email Jake at [JHaug@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:JHaug@co.ocean.nj.us) for an application.**

## Kids to Parks Day May 16

### Cattus Island County Park

Seining Demonstration

11am-12pm & 1pm-2pm

Meet at the Bay Beach, 1 mile walk from nature center.

Meet Jaba, the Common Snapping Turtle

10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm

Meet in Cooper Center Exhibit Room

Kids in the Park Nifty Nature Walk

2pm

Meet in Nature Center lobby



### Wells Mills County Park

Make Your Own Bird Habitat

Learn how we can make our own backyards a better habitat for our local songbirds.

We will plant seeds that will attract birds to your yard and construct bird houses from recycled materials that you can take home. Programs run approximately 1.5 hrs.

TIME: 10:00 am & 1:00 pm

### Jakes Branch County Park

Discovery Play Trail Walk N' Play

Join a park Naturalist on this learning adventure through the woods at Jake Branch.

Walk the Discovery Play Trail in search of nature themed "Play Pockets" where we will learn, play and craft!

TIMES: 1:30 & 2:30 pm

### Hidden Clues Scavenger Hunt

Get to know your local county park! Stop in our Nature Center and challenge yourself with our "Clues to Nature" Scavenger Hunt! Search the park for hidden clue cards to find answers that only nature can reveal!

TIME: 1:00 – 3:00 pm, ongoing

### Cloverdale Farm County Park

#### Habitat Exploration Scavenger Hunt

Stop in the visitor center and grab a list for a Habitat Exploration Scavenger Hunt!

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Saturday, May 16

TIME: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

# FAMILY FUN

## Pond Critters

Get your waterproof boots on and get ready for this fun, interactive program. During this program, we will be taking a closer look at aquatic insects and other invertebrates known as macroinvertebrates. Your family will get to scoop up these small swimming critters that live in Cloverdale Farm County Park's bogs and reservoirs by using fine mesh nets. You will then learn to identify the various species. **Please dress for the weather and wear waterproof boots. Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Saturday, May 16

TIME: 1:00 - 2:00 pm

FEE: Free

AGE: 8 years - Adult

## Celebrate World Turtle Day©

World Turtle Day© on May 23rd, was started in 2000 by the American Tortoise Rescue© to increase the knowledge, respect and protection of turtles and tortoises worldwide. Come "shell-ebrate" with us at the Cooper Environmental Center with crafts, lectures, live animal encounters & learn how you can do your part to save these important species!

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

DATE: Saturday, May 23

TIME: 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.....Drop in crafts

11:30 am.....Turtle Story Time

1:30 pm.....Live Turtle Talk & Feeding Demonstration

FEE: Free

AGE: All

## Youth Fishing Challenge

This free contest is open to children 18 and under but adults can fish alongside them. All anglers 16 and over must have a current New Jersey fishing license.

The contest is sponsored by New Jersey's Hooked on Fishing Not On Drugs program and prizes will be given for the 3 longest fish caught.

LOCATION: Visitors Center, Lake Shenandoah County Park

DATE: Saturday, June 6

TIME: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

FEE: FREE

AGE: 5 - 18 years

## Celebrating International Horseshoe Crab Day

Did you know? Fossil discoveries have recorded Horseshoe Crabs appearing as early as 450 million years ago. Though the remaining four species of horseshoe crabs living today have evolved from those earlier ancestors into unique species, their overall adaptations and physiology have remained mostly unchanged. Join us at the Cooper Environmental Center as we celebrate these magnificent creatures and learn more about them with crafts, lectures, stories, and live encounters.

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

DATE: Thursday, June 18

TIME: 11:00 am – 3:00 pm....Drop in crafts

11:00 am .....Horseshoe Crab Story time

1:00pm .....Our Living Fossils: The Atlantic Horseshoe Crab  
Presentation

2:00 pm.....Live Horseshoe Crab encounter

FEE: Free

AGE: All

# FAMILY FUN



## Family Campout at Ocean County Park

Our hope is to give families some outdoor exposure. You should arrive having eaten dinner. We will have a campfire, take an evening nature walk and bed down for the night. You will need a tent, sleeping bag, marshmallows for roasting and a “no-cook” breakfast for the following morning. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

If you have questions on what else to bring call 732-506-5122.

**GREAT AMERICAN  
CAMPOUT**

LOCATION: Beach Complex, Ocean County Park, Lakewood

DATE: Friday, June 19 - Saturday, June 20.....188466 – 8B

TIME: 7:00 pm Friday - 9:00 am Saturday

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 5 years & up

## Jakes Branch Solstice Late Hours

Come celebrate the solstice in style atop the Jakes Branch Tower! Jakes Branch will be keeping its doors open late to watch the sun set on its 40 ft. observation deck. Join us for the longest day of the year! A make-and-take craft will be available for the young and young-at-heart.

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Sunday, June 21

TIME: 4:00 – 9:30pm

FEE: Free

AGE: All

## Summer Picnic Party

John C. Bartlett Jr. County Park at Berkeley Island

Kick-off the summer with a little fun at this beautiful park overlooking Barnegat Bay. Enjoy the sun and the cool breeze while you listen to some live music. We will have plenty of activities for both kids and adults. The park features a free spray park, playground, two bocce courts, and two horseshoe pits. We will also have cornhole, giant chess and checker set and a giant twister game available. Food trucks will be available along with a campfire for roasting marshmallows and making s'mores. Please pack your blanket, bring some chairs, and enjoy the day with us.

LOCATION: John C. Bartlett Jr. County Park at Berkeley Island, Berkeley

DATE: Thursday, June 25

TIME: 5:00 pm – 8:30 pm

FEE: Free

AGE: All

**bluejourney UNIFIED**

## COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE & PADDLE

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 10:00 - 12:00\*

OCEAN COUNTY PARKS & REC. ADMINISTRATION BEACH & BOAT RAMP  
1198 BANDON RD, TOMS RIVER, NJ

Supporting inclusive outdoor recreation and empowering those with physical and movement challenges to explore recreation and sport in our natural waters.



Join this first ever event in Ocean County hosted by Ocean County Parks & Recreation and Ocean Positive showcasing inclusive outdoor aquatic activities AND building community.



\*Register online beginning 3/15 using QR code or website.

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

# FAMILY FUN

## Summer Kick-Off Beach Campfire

What a better way to kick off the summer season than on the beach in front of a campfire? Enjoy the fire, live music and marshmallows roasting as you watch the sun go down and listen to the waves lap the shoreline – all with Ole' Barney as the backdrop. Please bring a beach chair or blanket and some marshmallows and a stick. The lighthouse will be open if you are up for a climb! These programs are in cooperation with Barnegat Lighthouse State Park. Limited beach wheelchair access is available with advance 48-hour notice. Rain or shine. No registration is required.

LOCATION: Barnegat Lighthouse State Park, Long Beach Island

DATE: Saturday, June 27

TIME: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

FEE: Free

AGE: All

## Non-Profit Groups & Vendors Wanted Beach Ball Blast

Our 14th Annual Beach Ball Blast is rapidly approaching. This premier event hosted by the Ocean County Parks and Recreation Department usually draws a large crowd of all ages. The evening will include a variety of food trucks, games, and music. Non-profit groups are invited, free of charge, to use this event as a fundraiser by providing various activities, food, or organizational information. We are also accepting food and craft vendors for a small fee. This year's event will take place on Thursday, July 23 from 5:00-8:30 pm. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jared at 732-506-9090 x 5951 or email [jaredtate@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:jaredtate@co.ocean.nj.us)

LOCATION: Ocean County Parks & Recreation Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Thursday, July 23.....BEACH26

Vendors must arrive between 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

FEE: Non-Profits are free, for profit you must pay a \$15.00 fee. The deadline to register is Friday, July 17th. For anyone registering after the 17th, the cost will increase from \$15.00 to \$40.00, if space is still available.

NOTE: Pre-registration is required, visit our website at [oceancountyparks.org](http://oceancountyparks.org) or email Jared at [jaredtate@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:jaredtate@co.ocean.nj.us) for an application



# LECTURES

## Floriography: The Victorian Language of Flowers

These days, social media and texts make it easy to let someone know how you feel about them. Back in the late 1800s, though, directly expressing your feelings was frowned upon. So what did those straight-laced Victorians do? They developed a “language” of combining flowers to let that special someone know how they were feeling... whether it was love, compassion, jealousy, or even “I can’t stand the very thought of you!” Learn to use flowers to express your emotions with this fun and informative presentation.

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

DATE: Tuesday, April 7.....182166 – 3A

TIME: 2:00 - 3:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 16 years – Adult

# LECTURES

## Everyday Choices for the Earth: Idea Session

Have you ever wondered what you can do besides recycling and using green energy to help preserve our Earth for future generations? There are endless choices you can make every day to help. In this session, you will learn practices for making informed choices when purchasing clothing, food, tools, cleaning products, and native plants for insect and bird populations. Debbie McGuire, a local sustainability advocate will use fun, interactive trivia, demonstrations, and a PowerPoint presentation in this program. The session will help fulfill requirements for Scouts, especially Environmental Science and Sustainability badges.

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, April 10.....186166 – 6A

TIME: 10:00 - 11:30 am

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 15 years – Adult

## Make Sustainable Choices: Hands-On Mini Family Workshop

With Debbie McGuire, a local sustainability advocate as your guide, we will be conducting experiments and demonstrations to learn about choices that have a direct impact on the environment. Topics include ways to choose toys, clothing, cleaning products, and food options with the product's carbon footprint and pollution impacts in mind. She will also cover how small everyday actions, such as composting, recycling, gardening, and choosing manually powered tools can lead to a better life for ourselves and aid the planet. This session will help fulfill requirements for Scouts, especially Environmental Science and Sustainability badges.

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, April 10.....186166 – 6B

TIME: 1:00 - 3:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per team (1 child, 1 adult)

AGE: 7 years – Adult

## All About Sea Glass

Come and join in on a talk about sea glass. We will talk about the history of glassmaking, rise of industries, and the origins of specific glass colors, the mechanics of the ocean and formation of sea glass, as well as the best places and seasons to find sea glasses. This is a great lecture to learn about a new beachcombing hobby for the coming summer.

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, April 11.....185166 – 5A

TIME: 10:30 – 11:30 am

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 12 years - Adult

## SAVE THE SONGBIRDS

### Certify your Yard with Wild Birds Unlimited®

The North American bird population has decreased by 2.9 billion breeding adults, a net loss of 29% over the last half-century. Scientists have identified habitat loss as the biggest reason for the decline. Wild Birds Unlimited is proud to be the Champion for the National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat program, whose goal is to inspire everyone to create a haven for wildlife in their yard. Join staff from Wild Birds Unlimited to learn how to certify your own backyard habitat.

LOCATION: Lecture Room, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River

DATE: Saturday, April 18.....182166 – 3B

TIME: 1:00 - 2:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 10 years – Adult

# LECTURES

## Butterflies & Hummingbirds in Your Garden

We all want species of butterflies and hummingbirds in our gardens because they are beautiful and fun to watch. However, they are also important pollinators. Declining Monarch butterfly populations have led them to be listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as an endangered species in 2022. We need to do what we can to help them survive. Sue Masoorli, Rutgers Master Gardener, will address gardening basics, including specific host flowers, water, and habitat needs.

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATES: Saturday, April 18..... 186166 – 6C

TIME: 10:00 - 11:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 10 years - Adult

## Fire in the Pines – a Year after the Jones Road Fire

Fire is an integral part of Pine Barrens ecology. In the spring of 2025, a massive fire roared through the forest across the street from Wells Mills. This fire was named the Jones Road Fire, and it consumed over 15,000 acres. During our lecture we will discuss the value of fire and why the pines are so adapted to it. Then, for those interested, we will take a quick drive across the street into the Forked River Mountain area to observe the impact of the fire and the resilience of the Pine Barrens firsthand. Some walking will be involved. Bug spray with DEET is recommended.

LOCATION: Lecture Room, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Tuesday, April 21..... 184166 – 4A

TIME: 3:00 – 5:30 pm

DATE: Sunday, April 26..... 184166 – 4B

TIME: 1:00 – 3:30 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 9 years – Adult

## Shells of the Jersey Shore

Come by and learn about all the varieties of seashells that can be found along NJ's beaches! We will talk about the types of animals that call these shells home, the best beaches to find them, as well as providing great pictures of what these shells look like.

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, May 2..... 185166 – 5B

TIME: 10:30 – 11:30am

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 12 years – Adult

## Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crabs

In preparation for our Shorebird and Horseshoe Crab trip, we will discuss the amazing ornithological phenomenon that occurs every spring. During this time, hundreds of horseshoe crabs come onshore to lay their eggs at the exact time that endangered and threatened shorebirds stop over at the Jersey shores to fatten up for their long migrations to their breeding grounds up north.

LOCATION: Lecture Room, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Monday, May 18

TIME: 2:30 – 4:00 pm..... 184166 – 4C

TIME: 5:30 – 7:00 pm..... 184166 – 4D

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 9 years – Adult

# LECTURES

## The Power of Pollinators

What do birds, bees, bugs, bats, and butterflies have in common? They are all Pollinators! These creatures account for the pollination of 75% of the world's flowering plants. Come join us as we look at the world's most important group of creatures and prepare for our summer gardens (and kick off Pollinator week). We will look at ways to protect and enhance your backyard habitat to attract these vital and beautiful creatures.

LOCATION: Program Room, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Friday, June 12.....185166 – 5C

TIME: 6:30 – 7:30pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 14 years - Adult

## 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, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, June 17.....182166 – 3C

TIME: 2:00 - 3:00pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 12 years – Adult

# STAND UP PADDLEBOARDING

## Introduction to Stand Up Paddleboarding

Have you ever wanted to try paddleboarding? This introductory class will give you the basics on this amazing sport. We will review the types of paddleboards and equipment needed. We will then venture out into the lagoon to learn how to paddle. Paddleboard, paddle, and PFDs are provided. You must be able to swim and must be able to kneel for long periods. Please wear bathing suit, water shoes, and bring water. This class is weather and wind dependent. Paddleboards are rated with a weight limit of 275lbs.

LOCATION: Boat Dock, County Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, June 10.....182123 – 2A

TIME: 9:00 - 10:30 am

FEE: \$10.00 per person

AGE: 14 years – Adult

## Stand Up Paddleboard Eco Float & Photography

See the beautiful blooms and dancing dragonflies of late spring from a whole new perspective. Our naturalists will help you enjoy a relaxing afternoon on Wells Mills Lake using stand-up paddleboards. No experience? No problem! Due to the lake's "stumpy" nature, we encourage all participants to remain seated or kneeling during the paddle. In fact, lying down on your board will be the best way to get some amazing photos! **Please bring your phone or camera in a waterproof case or dry bag, and wear clothes you don't mind getting wet. Water, sun protection, and insect repellent are also recommended. Boards, paddles, and PFDs will be provided.**

LOCATION: Nature Center, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Thursday, May 28.....184123 – 4A

TIME: 1:00 – 3:00 pm

DATE: Wednesday, June 24.....184123 – 4B

TIME: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

FEE: \$10.00 per person

AGE: 14 years - Adult

# STAND UP PADDLEBOARDING

## Stand Up Paddleboarding Marsh Ecology Tour

Explore the salt marshes in Cattus Island County Park via paddleboarding. Adventure through the ditches and ponds of the salt marsh taking in a unique perspective of the marsh ecology. **Must have taken Introduction to Paddleboarding or have paddleboarding experience.**

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

DATE: Tuesday, June 16.....182123 – 2B

TIME: 2:00 - 4:00 pm

FEE: \$10.00 per person

AGE: 14 years – Adult

# RIVER PADDLING

There's no better way to see the natural areas of our state than on the water! With our canoe instructors and naturalist guides, you can enjoy a guided tour with environmental/historical interpretation along the way. We provide one canoe for every two people or a limited number of single person river kayaks. The \$14 fee includes a canoe or river kayak, paddle, life vest and transportation. If you bring your own canoe or kayak, the fee is \$10 per person. Kayaks appropriate for smaller rivers are welcome. Please pack lunch and wear appropriate clothing that can get wet and/or dirty. Quick drying fabrics are best. If you have never canoed before or would like to sharpen your skills, sign up for a class (listed below when in season). **Registration is required. Please consult the ratings below and be sure to select a trip that matches your skill level. \*Children must be 11 years or older and accompanied by an adult to participate. Each child ages 11-13 must be in a canoe with an adult. Older children may rent a kayak.** We recommend you arrive 20 minutes prior to departure time. All return times are approximate. Any questions, please call Wells Mills County Park on 609-971-3085. 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. Be prepared for portages (carrying your boat over obstacles) on **ALL** trips.

### Canoe Difficulty Rating

- A. Continual paddling for several hours
- B. Must negotiate quick river turns
- C. Must paddle in open water and be able to handle wind, waves and/or tide
- D. May encounter portages (must be able to lift your boat over obstacles)
- E. Many portages
- F. DANGER! Cold water. Please bring a change of clothes in a waterproof bag
- G. General paddling experience required
- H. River paddling experience required

**\*\*YOU MUST HAVE RIVER PADDLING EXPERIENCE AND BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE RIVER TURNS and OBSTACLES/PORTAGES TO PARTICIPATE ON RIVER TRIPS\*\***

We have a limited number of river kayaks to rent, in addition to our canoes, for our river trips. Please indicate which type of vessel you would like by using the corresponding registration number below. We will provide you with a PFD and kayak paddle. All other rules above apply.

## Oswego River (Oswego Lake to Harrisville Lake) -7.5 miles

*Traveling to Burlington County*

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

DATE: Thursday, April 30

CANOE (rental) or BRING OWN BOAT.....FULL.....184126 – 4A

RIVER KAYAK (rental).....184126 – 4B

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

RATING: A, B, D, F, H,

AGE: 11 years\*- Adult

FEE: \$14.00 per person, \$10.00 if you bring own boat

# RIVER PADDLING

## Wading River (Hawkins Bridge – Beaver Branch)-9.5 miles

*Traveling to Burlington County*

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

DATE: Friday, May 8

CANOE (rental) or BRING OWN BOAT.....FULL.....184126 – 4C

RIVER KAYAK (rental).....FULL.....184126 – 4D

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

RATING: A, B, D, F, H

FEE: \$14.00 per person, \$10.00 if bringing your own boat      AGE: 11 years\*- Adult

### Beginners Canoe Clinic & River Paddle

We will start our day with a short clinic on a local lake to get you acquainted with canoe gear, paddling strokes and get comfortable on the water. Then we will head to the Wading River to get some river paddling experience, which is required for our other trips. This program is canoeing only.

PICK-UP: Nature Center, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Sunday, June 14.....184126 – 4E

TIME: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

RATING: Beginners. Must be able to swim      AGE: 11 years - Adult

FEE: \$14.00 per person

## Great Egg Harbor River (Penny Pot to Weymouth)-10 miles

*Traveling to Atlantic County*

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

DATE: Thursday, June 18

CANOE (rental) or BRING OWN BOAT.....FULL.....184126 – 4F

RIVER KAYAK (rental).....FULL.....184126 – 4G

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

RATING: A, B, D, H

FEE: \$14.00 per person, \$10.00 if bringing your own boat      AGE: 11 years\*- Adult

### National Canoe Day Paddle

## Cedar Creek (Ore Pond – Trestle) - 6.5 miles

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

DATE: Friday, June 26

CANOE (rental) or BRING OWN BOAT.....FULL.....184126 – 4H

RIVER KAYAK (rental).....FULL.....184126 – 4I

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

RATING: A, B, D, G, H

FEE: \$14.00 per person, \$10.00 if bringing your own boat      AGE: 11 years\*- Adult

## River Paddling Jaunts

Would you like to go canoeing but not paddle for as long as our regular trips? Then try our canoeing jaunts. The mileage will be shorter and we should end our day a little earlier but the rating of the river will not change from our longer stretches. Please have river paddling experience when signing up for these trips. Bring water and a snack or lunch in case the trip takes longer than expected. See general paddling description and ratings above for important information.

## Wading River Jaunt (Evans Bridge–Beaver Branch)-4 miles

*Traveling to Burlington County*

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

DATE: Friday, June 12 .....FULL.....

CANOE (rental) or BRING OWN BOAT.....FULL.....184126 – 4J

RIVER KAYAK (rental).....FULL.....184126 – 4K

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

RATING: A, B, D, H

FEE: \$12.00 per person, \$8.00 if bringing your own boat      AGE: 11 years\*- Adult

# KAYAK TOURING TRIPS

On all kayak trips, you must have **previous kayak paddling experience – preferably in a “sit-in” style kayak**. Expect to paddle anywhere from 3-5 hours on ALL trips regardless of the rating. We will supply the kayaks and all related gear. All trips are subject to change per the discretion of the trip leaders. **It is the participant’s responsibility to consult the ratings listed below for each trip and match their skills accordingly.**

On all trips come expecting to get wet.

Please read the following considerations BEFORE signing up for a program:

- All participants who choose to bring their own boat must have a kayak that measures at least 12 feet in length and is a “sit-in” style boat. **\*\*\* NO Sit On Top Kayaks \*\*\***
- Please avoid cotton clothing. Synthetic-fiber clothing is preferred. Come prepared with water shoes No flip-flops or Crocs.
- **It is strongly recommended that participants have practiced a wet exit (turning the kayak over, releasing spray skirt and swimming out of boat) PRIOR to signing up for a trip.** As with all recreation programs, we reserve the right to deny a participant entry into a program if we deem the participant is not physically fit, does not match the skill level of the program or is ill-prepared. **A participant will be turned away the day of the trip if the criteria listed here is not met.**

If you have specific questions or concerns regarding any of the kayak programs please call Jakes Branch County Park at 732-281-2750

**\*\*\*\*ALL RETURN TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE\*\*\*\***

## RATING SYSTEM

- Prior experience demonstrating a wet exit is preferred
- Prior participation in either OCPR Beginner Kayaking class OR participation in 2 OCPR trips required
- Full day trip – 4 to 5 hours - pack lunch/snacks/water
- Trip will be in mostly protected waters. May experience small waves and current/tide, obstacles/portages. Boats and other watercraft may be present.
- May experience larger waves and/or stronger current/tide. Trip will have more open water paddling; possible portages/obstacles. Boats and other watercraft may be present.
- Open water paddling: Possible large waves and strong current/tides. Boats and other watercraft may be present.
- Cold Water Trip: Wetsuits recommended. NO cotton clothing. Must bring a full change of clothes in a waterproof bag
- Spray skirts required
- Plan to eat in your boat or exit on uneven ground for the lunch stop.

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## Barnegat Marsh Birding Float

Launching from the Barnegat Township Municipal Dock, this birding by kayak trip will take us into some beautiful saltmarsh behind an area known as Little Beach where we will explore some salt ponds and grassy channels for the saltmarshes’ secretive and not so secretive inhabitants. **Pack a lunch, plenty of water, sunscreen and insect repellent.**

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

DATE: Saturday, May 23.....185306 – 5A

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

RATING: A, B, C, E

AGE: 16 years - Adult

FEE: \$14.00 per person, \$10.00 if you bring your own boat



# KAYAK TOURING TRIPS

## National Trails Day Paddle

Celebrate National Trails Day in a different way, by paddling one of our amazing local waterways! Join us as we meander down Nacote Creek, located in the hamlet of Port Republic. While we look for eagles and take in the abundant scenery, we will grab any trash that has made its way into this local waterway and do our part cleaning up our public spaces. After heading down stream and exploring a few side creeks we will wind our way back to our starting point. **Pack sunscreen, insect repellent, lunch and plenty of water.**

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

DATE: Saturday, June 6.....185306 – 5B

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 9:00am – 3:00pm

RATING: A, B, C, E

AGE: 16 years - Adult

FEE: \$14.00 per person, \$10.00 if you are bringing own boat

## OCEAN COUNTY HIKING CLUB

When you register and participate on 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.

## 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.

If you have any questions, please call Wells Mills County Park at 609-971-3085.

**\*Spring Hikes: Bug spray with DEET is highly recommended and be sure to bring extra water on warm days.**

### Maurice River Bluffs Hike

*Traveling to Cumberland County*

This hike will take us along the “Wild and Scenic” Maurice River. Unlike the mostly flat terrain in southern New Jersey, we will be walking on the hilly terrain of this former sand mine and chicken feed operation. This preserve is also a major stopover habitat for migrating songbirds, waterfowl and raptors. If we are lucky, we should see bald eagles and nesting osprey during this hike. **Trails will be slippery if wet. Bug spray with DEET is recommended.**

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

DATE: Friday, April 10.....**FULL**.....184236 – 4A

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: Easy to Moderate: few hills, may be wet, some sand-5 miles

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

AGE: 9 years – Adult

# HIKES

## Huyler's Landing Hike/Palisades

*Traveling to Bergen County*

This moderate hike features both walks atop the Palisades cliffs and along the riverfront. We will pass the interesting ruins of several former estates that were acquired when the park was created.

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

DATE: Saturday, April 18.....FULL.....184236 – 4B

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 7:30 am - 3:00 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: Moderate to strenuous, some steep climbs– 5.5 miles

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

## Washington Crossing State Park Hike

*Traveling to Mercer County*

This hike will take us around the park where the Continental Army landed after the historic crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas Night in 1776.

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

DATE: Friday, April 24.....FULL.....184236 – 4C

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: Easy to moderate mostly flat, few hills- 5 miles

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

# JAUNTS

Jaunts are shorter 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 lunchtime. 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 any questions, please call Wells Mills County Park on 609-971-3085.

## Forked River Mountain Jaunt

The Forked River Mountain Wilderness Area is a vast 20,000-acre tract of Pine-Oak Scrub forest. This jaunt will take us through the heart of the area recently burned by recent Jones Road Wildfire. We will witness the impact of the fire and the resilience of the Pine Barrens.

LOCATION: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Thursday, April 16.....FULL.....184236 – 4H

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: Easy: some sugar sand – 4.5 miles

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

## 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 from saltwater and freshwater marshes and a white cedar swamp to a northeastern hardwood forest. **We will be climbing many steps.**

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

DATE: Friday, May 1.....FULL.....184236 – 4D

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: Easy to Moderate: Hilly, some steep steps, maybe wet- 4.5 miles

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

# JAUNTS

## Sounds of the Night Full Moon Jaunt at Wells Mills

Now is your chance to visit Wells Mills County Park after dark! Join us for a hike on the trails at Wells Mills as we listen to the nocturnal denizens of our park. Bring a flashlight or headlamp and dress for the weather.

LOCATION: Nature Center, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Saturday, May 2.....FULL.....184236 – 4E

TIME: 7:30 - 9:00 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: Easy: some small hills - 3.5 miles

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

Age: 9 years – Adult

## Clayton Jaunt

*Traveling to Monmouth County*

Moderate terrain and gentle hills make this an interesting yet easy hike. The stately stands of huge oak, beech and ash trees are a testament to the long period of undisturbed history of this tract.

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

DATE: Friday, May 29.....FULL.....184236 – 4F

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:30 am –1:00 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: Easy to Moderate: Flat, with some hills – 3.5 miles

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

AGE: 9 years- Adult

## Huber Woods Jaunt

This jaunt will take us through a less traveled Monmouth County Park, not far off the banks of the Navesink River. We will be walking through dense mountain laurel, along high coastal ridges and beside old fields and meadows dotted with old growth cedar and dogwoods.

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

DATE: Thursday, June 4 .....FULL.....184236 – 4G

DEPARTURE/ RETURN: 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

RATING & MILEAGE: Easy to Moderate: hilly – 4.5 miles

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

AGE: 9 years - Adult

# GET-A-WAYS

## Springtime at Peddler's Village

Join us for an afternoon at Peddler's Village in Lahaska, Pennsylvania. Sit back and enjoy the scenery. Upon arrival, there will be plenty of time for shopping, dining and enjoying the day.

PICK-UP: Depart from the Program Room, lower-level parking lot, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, May 13 .....FULL.....181466 – 1A

TIME: Small Van departs at 9:00 am. Approximate return time is 6:00 pm

FEE: \$15.00 per person (includes round-trip transportation)

AGE: Adult

## Historic Smithville Charm

Join us for an afternoon in Smithville, NJ. Located just minutes from Atlantic City this Southern gem will be your perfect afternoon getaway. Enjoy an afternoon of exploring the cobblestone walkways and footbridges. Upon arrival, indulge in delicious foods, and shopping all day.

PICK-UP: Depart from the Program Room, lower level parking lot, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, June 10.....181466 – 1B

TIME: Small Van departs at 9:00am. Approximate return time is 4:30 pm

FEE: \$15.00 per person (includes round-trip transportation)

AGE: Adult

# VAN TOURS

Our 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 trip:

- 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 description of the trip)
- 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.
- Bug spray with DEET is recommended for our outdoor programs.
- Those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult unless otherwise specified.

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to departure. All return times are approximate.

Seating is first come, first choice. Following the van is not permitted.

## Port Republic and Surrounding Area History

*Traveling to Atlantic County*

The history of Port Republic dates back to the early 1600s when the area was first settled. We will visit historic sites, graveyards, explore dirt roads that lead to the bay shore to discuss baymen, privateers and revolutionary war battles of the area and maybe even see the possible birthplace of the Jersey Devil. Pack lunch, dress for the weather and be prepared to walk over uneven ground. **Bug Spray with DEET is recommended.**

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

DATE: Thursday, May 7.....FULL.....184516 – 4A

DATE: Thursday, May 14.....184516 – 4B

DEPARTURE/ RETURN: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

FEE: \$14.00 per person

AGE: 9 years - Adult

## Back Bays of Cape May Boat Tour: Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crabs

*Traveling to the Delaware Bayshore and Cape May County*

We will board the Osprey for an exploration of the Cape May Coastal Wetlands Wildlife Management Area. After lunch on land, we will seek out shorebirds as they gorge themselves on horseshoe crab eggs before they continue their journey to the Arctic. Dress for the weather, bring your camera and binoculars and pack a lunch with drinks. Also bring sunscreen, insect repellent and a hat. There will be an additional charge of \$30.00 for the Osprey. Please bring exact change. Be prepared to walk on uneven ground and sand.

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

DATE: Thursday, May 21.....FULL.....184516 – 4C

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

FEE: \$14.00 per person

AGE: 9 years - Adult

## Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crab Roulette

*Traveling to Cape May County*

Historically, shorebird migration would occur in the full moons of May or June, but things seem to be changing. In the past, we seem to have missed migration by a week or two. So, this year we are running the trip twice in hopes of seeing the greatest ornithological spectacle in New Jersey! We will hopefully view a variety of shorebirds, including endangered Red Knots, gorging themselves on horseshoe crab eggs to double their weight and continue their 3,000+ mile migration to their breeding grounds in the Arctic. If we miss the migration, we will still seek out whatever birds we can find to make it an interesting day. **Pack a lunch, dress for the weather and bring your binoculars.**

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

DATE: Wednesday, May 27 .....184516 – 4D

DATE: Tuesday, June 2.....184516 – 4E

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

FEE: \$14.00 per person

AGE: 9 years – Adult

# VAN TOURS

## Orchids, Carnivorous Plants and the Pygmy Pines

Ocean County is host to an array of plants with unique adaptations that allow them to thrive in the harsh and dynamic conditions of our dry Pine Barrens and wet boggy fens. We will visit the Pygmy Pine Forest in Warren Grove to see a vast stand of Pitch Pines and understand the conditions that have led to their stunted growth. We will also stop at a variety of wet, boggy areas to look at the carnivorous pitcher plants, sundews and other wildflowers that thrive in wet, muddy conditions. **Dress for the weather; bring your binoculars/camera, sunscreen, insect repellent, hat and lunch. Be prepared to walk on uneven ground and sand. Your feet may get wet; wear appropriate footwear.**

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

DATE: Friday, June 5 .....FULL.....184516 – 4F

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

FEE: \$14.00 per person

AGE: 9 years - Adult

## Jackson Township – Ocean County’s Best Kept Birding Secret

Collier’s Mills Wildlife Management Area, the Forest Resource Education Center and Bunker Hill Bogs, all within Jackson Township, provide a wooded haven for migrating and nesting songbirds. Streamside trails and grassy fields offer opportunities to see and hear warblers, vireos and orioles, as well as inland waders and shorebirds such as herons and sandpipers. **Pack a lunch, dress for the weather and bring your binoculars. Be prepared for trail walks ranging from a quarter to a full mile on uneven terrain at each stop.**

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

DATE: Tuesday, June 9 .....FULL.....184516 – 4G

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

FEE: \$14.00 per person

AGE: 9 years - Adult

# NATURE, HISTORY & BIRDING WALKS

Our nature, history & birding walks offer 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 dressed for the weather. Layering is best.

## Dover Bogs Nature Walk

This historic cranberry bog, now part of Double Trouble State Park, hosts all kinds of neat plant and animal species as the bogs return to nature. Join us and see how nature is reclaiming these old bogs and reservoirs. Wear proper footwear and come dressed for the weather. **We will be walking in soft sand with some hills on this 3.5 miles long nature walk.**

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

DATE: Tuesday, May 19 .....184536 – 4A

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:30-11:30 am

FEE: \$6.00 per person

AGE: 9 years – Adult

# NATURE, HISTORY & BIRDING WALKS

## Ephraim P. Emsom Preserve: Mountain Laurel and Migrants Nature Walk

This splendid tract of oak forest bordering farm fields is awash in Mountain Laurel blooms and the perfect way to spend a morning. These trees also hold good numbers of migrants including the flashy Scarlet Tanager and various species of warblers. The trail is a little over two miles and has some small elevation changes. **Be sure to bring binoculars and bug spray.**

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

DATE: Friday May 22..... 184536 – 4B

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

FEE: \$6.00 per person

AGE: 9 years – Adult

## Whip-poor-wills Nighttime Nature Walk

These nocturnal hunters start arriving in New Jersey mid-spring and stay through the summer. This walk will lead us into prime Whip-poor-will habitat to listen for these amazing nightjars. **Bring a headlamp or flashlight and dress for the weather. The trails will be mostly flat with some sand. 1.5 miles**

LOCATION: Nature Center, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Saturday, May 30.....FULL..... 184536 – 4C

TIME: 7:30 – 9:00 pm

FEE: \$6.00 per person

AGE: 9 years – Adult

# WALKS

## Full Moon Walk

Join us as moonlight shines down on cranberry bogs and sandy trails of Cloverdale.

**Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable sneakers or boots.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, May 1..... 186536 – 6A

TIME: 7:30 - 8:30 pm

FEE: \$6.00 per person

AGE: 12 years - Adult

## World Migratory Bird Day Walk with Wild Birds Unlimited

Join staff from Wild Birds Unlimited, Toms River, for a bird walk through Cattus Island County Park. Learn about local wading birds, as well as some spring migrants. You may even get a glimpse of an osprey or two. **Plan to walk at least 1 to 2 miles. Binoculars are provided if needed.**

LOCATION: Lobby, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River

DATE: Saturday, May 9..... 182536 – 1A

TIME: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 12 years – Adult

## Sip n Stroll

We will begin our morning by shopping locally at the Revolutionary Lounge & Cafe where we will grab a fresh brew and maybe a snack or two. After, we will head south to Winding River Park and enjoy a leisurely out-and-back 2-mile walk enjoying views of the river and looking for signs of spring.

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

DATE: Friday, May 15..... 185536 – 5A

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 9:00 – 11:00 am

FEE: \$6.00 per person

AGE: 10 years – Adult

# WALKS

## Jakes Branch Herp Walk

Join us for a guided herpetology walk in the New Jersey Pine Barrens with a special focus on the region's native snakes. We'll explore forest trails, wetlands, and sandy habitats while learning how to identify local species, understand their behavior, and recognize the important role snakes play in the Pine Barrens ecosystem. This walk emphasizes safe, respectful observation and is designed to be informative and approachable for all experience levels. **Please wear sneakers or boots, dress for the weather, and be prepared to walk up to 2 miles.**

PICK UP: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Sunday, May 24.....185536 - 5B

DATE: Sunday, June 14.....185536 - 5C

TIME: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 8 years – Adult



*ean County has the largest population of veterans in New Jersey. Our goal is to create a Veterans in Nature series of programs each season. These programs are designed to provide an outdoor experience for our military veterans. Studies show that nature based programs can help veterans with stress, anxiety, focusing, silence and PTSD. Veterans Services Department will have a representative available to assist our veterans and to provide information on necessary resources they may need.*

*Veterans may bring one non-veteran guest and will need to provide their military ID for registration.*

## Rucking Through

Join us for a low-impact resistance training activity known as rucking. Our focus will be on becoming stronger, mentally and physically, as we challenge our bodies to become the best versions of ourselves. You must be able to walk 3 miles at a continuous pace.

LOCATIONS WHERE WE WILL BE MEETING:

April 1: Lochiel Creek County Park, Barnegat

May 6: Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

June 3: Burr Street Parking Lot, Barnegat Branch Trail, Barnegat

DATE: Wednesdays, April 1 - June 3.....~~CANCELED~~.....186536 – 6Z

TIME: 8:30 - 10:30 am

FEE: \$8.00 per person

AGE: Adult

## The Great Jakes Branch Campout

Dust off your camping gear and experience the sights and sounds of a County Park at night all while celebrating the Great American Campout! This program gives families the opportunity to spend some quality time together away from the television and computer. We will start off with a ½ mile walk led by a park naturalist, get the chance to stargaze with members of the Astronomical Society of the Toms River Area (A.S.T.R.A), and spend some time in front of the campfire while roasting marshmallows. Feel free to bring other food to cook over the fire too! Bagels, muffins, OJ and coffee will be provided Sunday morning. You will need to provide your own dinner for Saturday night and camping gear. Please call Jakes Branch County Park at 732-281-2750 for a list of recommended gear if you are unsure what to bring. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, June 20 – Sunday June 21.....185536 - 5Z

TIME: 6:00pm Saturday – 9:00 am Sunday

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 5 years – Adult

# VOLUNTEERS: FORKED RIVER MOUNTAIN CLEAN-UP

**VOLUNTEERS TO HELP CLEAN UP  
THE FORKED RIVER MOUNTAIN AREA**

**DATE: Sunday, April 19, 2026**

**TIME: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**

**\*Participants will be divided into small groups during registration and instructed where to meet as we get closer to the event.**

**Exact meeting locations, such as Wells Mills County Park or other local facilities, will be sent to each person at the email address provided at the time of registration.**

**First come, first serve.**

**Register on the FRM Coalitions**

**website. [www.frmc.org](http://www.frmc.org), will start in early**

**March. In Cooperation with the Forked River**

**Mountain Coalition and the Pinelands Preservation**

**Alliance Call Wells Mills 609-971-3085 for more info**

**Last year we cleaned up 16.5 tons**

**Grand total is 783 tons over a 32 year period**

# Cattus Island

~ Nature Festival ~

**46 Years**

**Connecting Community with Nature**

**FREE EVENT FOR ALL AGES**

**April 25 10am - 3pm**

**at the Cooper Environmental Center**



**Seining, Kayak Tours, Live Animal Talks, The Great Bug Race  
Crafts, Nature Games, Lectures, Environmental Groups & Vendors**



**Weigh-In Locations  
Door Prizes  
2 Age Groups  
(732) 506-5122**



# FISHING CONTEST

**AT LAKE SHENANDOAN  
COUNTY PARK, LAKEWOOD**

**Saturday  
May 2nd**

**7:30am-2pm Sign up at Lake Shenandoah before heading out. \$2 under 16.....\$4 for 16 & up**

Clean out those closets...

**KIDS' STUFF**



# FLEA MARKET



Ocean County Park ~ Lakewood  
Sunday, May 17 9:00am - 1:00pm

**Items must be child related Vendor spots \$15**

Registration deadline 5/15 (732) 506-9090 for more information



**Kids to Parks Day** is a national day of outdoor play celebrated annually on the third Saturday of May. The day connects kids and families with their local, state, and national parks and public lands through hundreds of park events that promote discovery and exploration in the great outdoors.

**SATURDAY, MAY 16<sup>th</sup>**

### *Cattus Island County Park:*

Seining Demonstration - Meet Jaba, the Common Snapping Turtle  
Kids in the Park Nifty Nature Walk

### *Wells Mills County Park*

Make Your Own Bird Habitat - Hidden Clues Scavenger Hunt

### *Jakes Branch County Park*

Discovery Play Trail Walk N' Play

### *Cloverdale Farm County Park*

Habitat Exploration Scavenger Hunt

**SEE PAGE 10 FOR FULL PROGRAM INFORMATION**

# PAWS in the PARK

Fairgrounds  
**Miller Air  
Park  
Berkeley**

**Demos, Vendors,  
Contests**

Call 732-506-9090  
for information

**Saturday, June 13 10am-2pm**

# SUMMER PICNIC PARTY

at the John C. Bartlett Jr. County Park  
at **BERKELEY ISLAND**

**SUMMER KICK-OFF!!!**

On the Barnegat Bay! 399 Brennan Concourse in Berkeley



Kids Spray Park

**Thursday June 25 5:00 - 8:30pm**

**LIVE MUSIC~FREE ADMISSION~Bocce~Horseshoes~Giant Twister**

FOOD TRUCK...or pack a picnic. Bring your blankets and beach chairs

**FREE!**

## JAKES BRANCH COUNTY PARK

Friday, June 26 10am-1pm

\*sensory friendly hour (10:00-11:00) no horns, sirens or flashing lights for community members with special needs

Kids will be allowed to touch, get behind the wheel, climb, explore, learn and have fun  
~ALL IN ONE PLACE~



**TOUCH  
-A-  
TRUCK  
Festival**

Jakes Branch County Park  
1100 Double Trouble Rd.  
Beachwood



**Crafts & Snacks Available**



## Summer Kick-Off Beach Campfire at Barnegat Lighthouse State Park

Saturday, June 27

7:00 - 9:00 pm

FREE All Ages



# SPRING IS BACK...AND SO IS GOLF!

FRESH GREENS, LONGER DAYS, BETTER GOLF!



## FORGE POND

Golf Course  
Brick, NJ

732-920-8899

301 Chambers Bridge Road  
Brick, NJ 08723

## ATLANTIS

Golf Course  
Little Egg Harbor, NJ

609-296-2444

261 Country Club Boulevard  
Little Egg Harbor, NJ 0807

## ANNUAL SPRING TOURNAMENT

Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### ATLANTIS GOLF COURSE

Sign-ups begin April 1<sup>st</sup> | Open to all skill levels!

## 2026 "UP TO PAR" GOLF CLINICS

WITH CHRIS NELSON | \$35 PER PERSON

**Short Game** This hands-on clinic covers chipping, pitching, putting, and bunker play with personalized feedback. Perfect for golfers ready to lower their scores.

**Women's Golf Clinic** A welcoming, supportive environment to sharpen your full swing, chipping, and putting

**Intro to Golf** This beginner-friendly class covers grip, stance, swing basics, and course etiquette. All equipment provided. Ages 14+.

CALL OR TEXT CHRIS AT 908-278-2775, EMAIL CHRIS@UPTOPARGOLF.COM,  
OR SIGNUP DIRECTLY ONLINE AT WWW.BOOKUTPG.COM

### ATLANTIS GC

#### Women's Clinic

April 2nd @ 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

April 18th @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

May 7th @ 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

June 4th @ 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

#### Short Game Clinic

April 2nd @ 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

April 18th @ 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

June 4th @ 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

#### Intro to Golf

May 7th @ 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

### FORGE POND GC

#### Women's Clinic

April 2nd @ 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

April 18th @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

May 7th @ 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

June 4th @ 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

#### Short Game Clinic

April 2nd @ 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

April 18th @ 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

June 4th @ 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

#### Intro to Golf

May 7th @ 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Visit [OceanCountyParks.Org](http://OceanCountyParks.Org) For Course Details, Rates And More.  
Book Online Or Call Pro Shop For More!

# PRESCHOOL DROP IN

## Jakes Branch County Park

### Maker Monday's Kids Craft Drop In

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! No Registration Required.

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Mondays,

April	13	Wonderful Weather
May	18	Fabulous Flowers
June	15	Fishy Fun

TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am

FEE: FREE

AGE: 3 – 5 years

### Drop-in Storytime and More!

Join your child as we gather around and read a few stories and engage in an activity or craft related to the stories. No registration required. Story reading will begin promptly at 10:00am. No Registration required.

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am

FEE: FREE

AGE: 3 – 5 years

### Our Amazing Earth

Majestic Mountains, outrageous oceans, fantastic forests and the amazing arctic. All of these things and more make our Earth enthralling! Join us for a special Earth Day story time as we read all about how incredible our Earth is. After, we will complete a recycled craft in honor of protecting our planet and even a few earth day activities sure to please the planet and your little one as well.

DATE: Tuesday, April 14

### Glorious Gardens

Tomatoes, cucumbers, roses, violets, and marigolds! There is something special about growing you own plants; fruits, vegetables, or flowers. Join us as we read a few garden themed stories, explore the many gardens of Jakes Branch, and even pot a few plants of our own.

DATE: Tuesday, May 12

### Pollinator Power

Birds, Bees, and Butterflies, oh my! Pollinators are as beautiful as they are important to our everyday lives, and they need our help! Join us as we participate in the "Million Pollinator Garden Challenge". We will hear a story or two about our pollinating friends, see some amazing pollinators up close, create a bee-autiful craft, and help plant a Pollinator Garden at Jakes Branch.

DATE: Tuesday, June 9



# PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

The following programs are designed for preschool children without parent participation. These are drop-off programs only. Please  
**Note: Children must be Potty-Trained.**  
**ALL CLASSES ARE HELD AT THE PROGRAM ROOM at the Park's Administration Office in Toms River UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**  
They are from 10:00 – 11:00 am.

FEE: \$5.00 per class

Ages: 3 - 5 years old

## Jellybean, Blue or Green

Jellybeans come in all the colors of the rainbow. Let's have some colorful fun with jellybeans, through stories, games and crafts.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, April 1.....181021 – 1A

## Never smile at a Crocodile!

Let's look through the swamp and see what we can find! We'll make some swampy crafts, read a story and play a swampy game. But watch out for Mr. Crocodile!

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Tuesday, April 7.....181021 – 1B

## Bug-A-Boo

They fly, they crawl and they are everywhere! Children have natural curiosity about bugs. We will explore our tiny bugs through games, stories and crafts.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Thursday, April 9.....181021 – 1C

## The Shape of Things

Shape recognition is an important cognitive step for children. Through stories, crafts and activities, we will make learning shapes fun.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, April 15.....181021 – 1D

## Jungle Roar

Take an imaginary safari through the jungle with us. We will discover wild animals through stories, games and crafts.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, April 22.....181021 – 1E

## Butterfly, Flutter by

Spread your wings and fly like a beautiful butterfly. We will explore the amazing journey from caterpillar to butterfly with colorful crafts, stories and games.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Tuesday, April 28.....181021 – 1F

## Alphabet Avalanche

"A told B and B told C, I'll race you to the top of the coconut tree!"

Letters are hiding everywhere. Let's try to find all 26 letters using crafts, games and stories.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Thursday, April 30 .....181021 – 1G

## Beautiful Flowers

Spring has sprung and flowers are blooming everywhere. We will create bouquets of colorful flowers and other floral crafts.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, May 6.....181021 – 1H

# PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

The following programs are designed for preschool children without parent participation. These are drop-off programs only. Please  
**Note: Children must be Potty-Trained.**  
**ALL CLASSES ARE HELD AT THE PROGRAM ROOM at the Park's Administration Office in Toms River UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**  
They are from 10:00 – 11:00 am.

FEE: \$5.00 per class

Ages: 3 - 5 years old

## Unicorns Rule!

Dancing, prancing, sparkling and shining, Unicorns rule because unicorns are cool! We will make cool unicorn crafts.

DATE: Thursday, May 14.....181021 – 1I

## Numbers Count

Count to ten and back again! Number recognition is an important cognitive step for children. Through stories, crafts and activities, we will make learning numbers fun.

DATE: Tuesday, May 19.....181021 – 1J

## When I grow up

Firefighter, doctor, teacher and so many more occupations to choose. What will you be when you grow up? Through stories, games and crafts, we'll take a look.

DATE: Wednesday, May 20.....181021 – 1K

## Turtle Time!

Big turtles, small turtles, green turtles, all turtles! Through stories, games, and crafts, we will find out about this interesting animal who carries his house on his back.

DATE: Wednesday, May 27.....181021 – 1L

## Little Ace's Tennis

This program is designed to teach children the basics of the game of tennis. Children will get a feel for a racket and will learn the basic groundstrokes and footwork for the game. Drills and games will be incorporated so that kids will have loads of fun learning a new sport. Rackets will be provided. Please wear sneakers and bring a drink.

LOCATION: Tennis Courts 1 & 2, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood  
DATE: Thursday, June 11.....183021 – 3A

## Buzzing Bees

Come join us as we explore the busy, buzzy world of bumblebees. We will make busy bee crafts and listen to buzzing stories.

DATE: Wednesday, June 3.....181021 – 1M

## Rainbow Fun

Little artists, let's explore the colors of the rainbow. We will make an assortment of colorful crafts and play a colorful game.

DATE: Tuesday, June 9.....181021 – 1N

## Who wants to be a Pirate?

Let's pretend we are pirates and sail away to an adventure. There is gold in pirate stories and a treasure chest of crafts to bring home.

DATE: Wednesday, June 17.....181021 – 1O

## Fun in the Sun

Summer is here and it is time for some fun. We will warm our toes with summer stories and summer crafts.

DATE: Tuesday, June 23.....181021 – 1P

## Red, White and Blueberry

The 4th of July is just around the corner and we are celebrating. There will be red, white and blue crafts, Patriotic stories, and a tasty blueberry treat!

\*Please list any food allergies at the time of registration\*

DATE: Wednesday, June 24.....181021 – 1Q

# PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

The following programs are designed for preschool children without parent participation. These are drop-off programs only. Please

**Note: Children must be Potty-Trained.**

**ALL CLASSES ARE HELD AT THE PROGRAM ROOM at the Park's Administration Office in Toms River UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

**They are from 10:00 – 11:00 am.**

**FEE: \$5.00 per class**

**Ages: 3 - 5 years old**

## WISH UPON A STAR

The night sky is full of wonder and magic. Our little stars will create sparkling star crafts, play a game and listen to twinkling stories.

DATE: Thursday, June 25 .....181021 – 1R

## Lucky Ladybug

"Ladybug, Ladybug, fly away home" Did you know Ladybugs are a sign of good luck? We'll try our luck playing cute Ladybug games, stories and making crafts.

DATE: Tuesday, June 30.....181021 – 1S

## Pre-K Gym

Play a variety of fun games that will help improve your child's coordination and physical development while interacting with other children. We will finish the class with a giant parachute which is always a fan favorite. Children will also practice sportsmanship, sharing, and taking turns. **Please wear sneakers and bring a drink.**

LOCATION: Soccer Field, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Thursday, June 18.....183021 – 3B



## Preschool Creative Movement

This program is designed for children who love to jump around & dance with props like scarves & maracas!!! Join us for 2 classes filled with lots of rhythm, fun & games. Please wear sneakers and bring some water. \*This is a drop-off program, though you are welcome to sit outside the glass walled classroom or take a scenic walk! **Please have a check for \$15.00 made payable to Gabrielle Molino on the first day of class.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Fridays, May 8 - May 15.....183021 – 3C

TIME: 11:45 am – 12:30 pm

FEE: \$5.00 registration fee per person

AGE: 4 - 5 years

## Earth Day Story Time and Craft

Join us for an early Earth Day celebration featuring a nature-themed story time and a hands-on craft perfect for young explorers.

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

DATE: Friday, April 17.....182021 – 2A

TIME: 2:00 - 3:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

# FUN FOR KIDS

## Spring Break Drop-in Crafts for Kids

Hop into the Cooper Environmental Center for a nature themed craft

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

DATE: Monday, April 6-Friday, April 10

TIME: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, ongoing

FEE: Free

AGE: ALL

## Spring Break Bonanza!

Spring has sprung and so have we! Itching for something to do with your kids during their break? Looking for a fun and fast activity to take with you after your visit? Join us for Spring Break as we do some quick make and take activities and crafts sure to put a smile on their face and a spring in their step! No pre-registration required.

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATES: Monday, April 6 – Friday April 10

TIME: 1:00 – 3:30 pm Ongoing

FEE: Free

AGE: 5 – 12 years

## Pinch Pots: Lenape Traditions

Has your little artist ever made a pinch pot before? We'll use air dry clay to pinch a bowl shape and use shells and beads to decorate the outside and talk about how Indigenous peoples have made and used this style for hundreds of years.

**All supplies provided, parents must accompany the child.**

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat

DATE: Sunday, April 12.....189332 – 9D

TIME: 1:00 - 1:45 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 4 – 7 years

## Play those Freedom Beats: Make your own 250 Drum!

Come design your own drum to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution! We'll read a book for patriotic inspiration and then get started on our designs. All supplies provided. **Parents must accompany child.**

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat

DATE: Sunday, May 17.....189332 – 9C

TIME: 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 4 – 7 years

## Bottle Gourd Bumblebees

Become a folk artist and paint a small, dried bottle gourd as a busy bumblebee! We'll talk about how important bees are to the ecosystem and what we can do to help them. Painting will be done outside. **Please dress for the weather, wear clothes that can get paint on them, and use bug spray. Parents must accompany the child.**

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat

DATE:

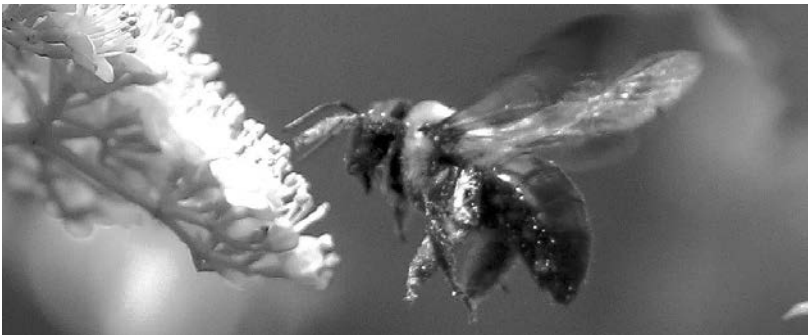
Sunday, April 26.....189332 – 9A

Thursday, May 28.....189332 – 9B

TIME: 10:00 - 11:15 am

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 5 – 12 years



# FUN FOR KIDS

## Make a Nature Journal

We will be making our own nature journals- just in time to document the changes from winter to spring! Journals will be decorated with a variety of craft supplies and be complete with nature- related activity pages to spark scientific creativity.

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, April 25.....185332 – 5A

TIME: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 7 – 10 years

## Fugio Cent Craft

Drop-in to design your own Fugio Cent! The Fugio Cent was authorized by Congress in 1787 with the caption, “Fugio” (Latin referring to time flying by). By some accounts, this coin was designed by Benjamin Franklin who put the message on the coin”Mind your business”. The reverse side bore the motto “We Are One” surrounded by thirteen chain links, representing the thirteen colonies. **Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

**All materials are provided.**

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat

DATE: Saturday, June 13

TIME: 10:00 - 11:00 am

FEE: FREE

AGE: 5 – 10 years

## Present Pleistocene Megafauna

Learn about the Ice Age and the extinct creatures that used to roam New Jersey’s past through a hands-on activity and craft.

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

DATE: Friday, April 10.....182332 – 2A

TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 8 - 12 years

## Beginner Tennis for Kids & Teens

This program is designed for children who are beginners in tennis. This three-week program will incorporate all the basics needed for a child to get a feel for the sport. Groundstrokes, serving, volleying, and more will be taught through fun drills and games to introduce a child to the wonderful game of tennis. **Please wear sneakers and bring a drink. Rackets will be provided.**

LOCATION: Tennis Courts 1 & 2, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Wednesday, May 6 – May 20.....183332 – 3G

TIME: 4:30 - 5:30 pm

FEE: \$10.00 per child

AGE: 8 - 15 years



# HOME SCHOOL

## 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 the opportunity 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 stress and anxiety levels, 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. We will have two instructors from 10:30 – 11:30 am.**

LOCATION: Soccer Field, Beaver Dam Creek Park, Point Pleasant

DATE: Mondays, June 1 – June 29.....183332 – 3A

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

DATE: Mondays, June 1 – June 29.....183332 – 3B

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

DATE: Mondays, June 1 – June 29.....183332 – 3C

TIME: 12:00 pm – 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 the opportunity 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 stress and anxiety levels, and helps improve 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.**

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

DATE: Wednesdays, May 20 – June 17.....183332 – 3D

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

DATE: Wednesdays, May 20 – June 17.....183332 – 3E

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

FEE: \$14.00 per child

## Homeschool Art

Spend an hour making an assortment of fun spring crafts. This program is an opportunity for homeschooled children to express themselves creatively.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, April 29.....181021 – 1T

DATE: Wednesday, June 10.....181021 – 1U

TIME: 1:00 – 2:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per child AGES: 6-8 years

## Homeschool Musical Muscles

Children will explore multiple forms of fitness throughout this 3-week session. From dance to cardio drumming to kickboxing, students will enjoy learning a variety of ways to exercise to music. We may go outdoors for one of the classes. Please wear sneakers and bring a mat. \*This is a drop-off program, though you are welcome to sit outside the glass walled classroom or take a scenic walk! **Please have a check for \$25.00 made payable to Gabrielle Molino on the first day of class.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Tuesdays, May 5 – May 19.....183332 – 3F

TIME: 11:30 am – 12:15 pm AGE: 6 - 10 years

FEE: \$5.00 per child registration fee

# CREATIVE EXPRESSION

## Pottery Classes

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

LOCATION: Pottery Barn, Ocean County Park, Lakewood

DATES: Tuesdays, June 2 – August 18

TIMES: 10:00 am -12:00 noon.....FULL.....181384 – 1A

5:00 – 7:00 pm.....FULL.....181384 – 1B

7:00 – 9:00 pm.....FULL.....181384 – 1C

DATE: Wednesdays, June 3 – August 19

10:00 am – 12:00 noon.....FULL.....181384 – 1D

FEE: \$200.00, includes expert instruction, firing and glazing AGE: Adult

## Every Path Has Its Puddles

Come and make a spring wooden décor set which will include a wooden rain boot and a small wooden sign with a spring saying displayed on it.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Thursday, April 9.....FULL.....181186 – 1A

TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

FEE: \$20.00 per person AGE: Adult

## Easter Egg Acorn Craft

When Easter has come and has gone, some of us are left with empty plastic eggs. Why throw them away when you can upcycle them? Join a naturalist as we upcycle our Easter eggs and turn them into decorative acorns. Bring one dozen plastic eggs.

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

DATE: Monday, April 13.....FULL.....182186 – 2A

TIME: 5:30 - 6:30 pm

FEE: \$10.00 per person AGE: 13 years – Adult

## Spring Needle Felting

Needle felting is the art of using specialized needles to condense natural wool fibers to create beautiful soft sculptures. Join us for our spring needle felting class, where the theme will be "Owls". You will learn basic needle felting techniques and leave with your very own felted owl! No experience necessary, all supplies will be provided by the instructor.

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Sunday, April 19.....FULL.....185186 – 5A

TIME: 10:30 am – 1:30 pm

FEE: \$10.00 per person AGE: 16 years - Adult

## 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 made payable to instructor Brad Koller for \$30.00. Children aged 11-13 must be accompanied by an adult.**

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

DATE: Sunday, April 19.....FULL.....182186 – 2B

TIME: 12:00 - 3:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee AGE: 11 years – Adult

# CREATIVE EXPRESSION

## Floral Arrangement Class with Whiting Flower Shoppe

Amy of the Whiting Flower Shoppe will show us how to create a beautiful flower arrangement to brighten up your week! No experience is needed. **Please bring your own hand pruners and have \$20.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Tuesday, April 21.....CANCELED.....186186 – 6A

TIME: 10:00 - 11:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: 12 years - Adult

## Colorful Fabric Wreath

It's the time of year when spring explodes with color. Our wreath will incorporate a variety of bright spring colors.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Thursday, April 23.....181186 – 1B

TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

FEE: \$25.00 per person

AGE: Adult

## Celebrate Arbor Day with Woven Trees

During this program, basket maker Mary May will lead us on a nature walk to gather natural supplies to create the framework for our woven trees. Please dress for the weather as we will be weaving in the sunshine on the dock. If inclement weather, the program will be moved inside. **Please bring \$15.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**

LOCATION: Dock, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, April 24.....186186 – 6B

TIME: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: 8 years - Adult

## Scherenschnitte

Join us for this fun, interactive workshop in which you will learn the traditional German folk art of paper cutting or "scissor cuts" known as Scherenschnitte. You will create intricate designs by folding and cutting paper using Exacto knives. **Please have \$25.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Saturday, April 25.....FULL.....186186 – 6C

TIME: 9:00 - 11:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

## Charcoal Ink Making

The Declaration of Independence was written using iron gall ink with a quill pen. For this program we will learn how to make similar ink using charcoal and trying our hand with a quill pen.

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat

DATE: Thursday, May 7.....189186 – 9A

TIME: 10:00 – 10:45 am

FEE: \$7.00 per person

AGE: ALL

## Miniature Decoy: Bufflehead

Try your hand at something new and carve a miniature bufflehead. Miniatures are smaller replicas of traditional hunting decoys usually under 6 inches in length. They pose a fun challenge in carving and adding detailed painting. **Please bring \$45.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials the day of class.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Sunday, May 31.....186186 – 6D

TIME: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

# CREATIVE EXPRESSION

## NEW! Paint-along: Bottle Gourd Birdhouses

Time to spread your creative wings with our NEW paint-along class! We'll paint a beautiful design on a bottle gourd, perfect for indoor decorating or waterproofing it at home for local birds to nest in. No experience needed! All participants will leave with something they can be proud of. Bottle Gourds, paint, and use of brushes included. Wear clothing that can get paint on it. **Please pack a bagged lunch.**

LOCATION: Community Center, Stanley "Tip" Seaman County Park, Tuckerton

DATE: Sunday, May 3.....FULL.....189186 – 1B

TIME: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

FEE: \$15.00 per person

AGE: 12 years – Adult

## Patriotic Porch Leaner

Wood is full of character, and no two pieces will look alike. Come and paint your own distressed Patriotic porch leaner, using a combination of stars and stripes in your own unique way.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Thursday, May 7.....FULL.....181186 – 1C

TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

FEE: \$25.00 per person

AGE: Adult

## Flowerpot Wind Chimes

Add a pop of color to your yard or garden with this handmade wind chime! You will be transforming simple terracotta pots into beautiful, melodic decorations for your garden. Participants will enjoy painting pots, adding colorful beads, and assembling charming chimes that dance in the breeze. Learn about the soothing sounds that wind chimes bring to outdoor spaces.

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

DATE: Friday, May 8.....FULL.....182186 – 2C

TIME: 5:00 - 6:30 pm..

FEE: \$10.00 per person

AGE: 13 years – Adult

## Wearable Art: Earrings

Have fun by creating your own set of unique watercolor earrings just in time for Mother's Day. During this program, Diane Israel, local artist, will guide you on how to design two miniature watercolor paintings to create a matching earring set. **Please bring \$40.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**

LOCATION: Cloverdale Farm County Park Program Room, Barnegat

DATE: Saturday, May 9.....186186 – 6J

TIME: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: 15 years – Adult

## Whittling on the Dock: Song Bird

Join Kevin Hammell, local decoy carver, as he introduces you to the art of whittling. Please dress for the weather as we will be whittling on the dock. If inclement weather, the program will be moved inside. **Please bring \$30.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**

LOCATION: Dock, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Saturday, May 16 .....FULL.....186186 – 6E

TIME: 9:00 - 11:30 am

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

## Paper Hydrangea Wreath

Enjoy the iconic look of hydrangeas year-round! This chunky wreath is bursting with spring cheer and bound to brighten up whatever space it's hung in. We will be using pre-cut paper flowers to create our wreaths in pink, blue, white, or a mix of all three!

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, May 16.....185186 – 5B

TIME: 10:30am – 12:30pm

FEE: \$10.00 per person

AGE: 16 years – Adult

# CREATIVE EXPRESSION

## Garden Gate Planter

We will create an adorable wooden planter for either silk or real plants.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Thursday, May 21.....181186 – 1D

TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

FEE: \$20.00 per person

AGE: Adult

## Native Plant Pot-Up Workshop

The Horticulturists from Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County and Rutgers Master Gardener volunteers had a blast doing winter sowing. In fact, they had “sow” much fun, they have offered the Ocean County Parks and Recreation some of their overflow so you can learn the beauty of going native this spring! We will provide the soil, plants, and pots. All you have to do is come with willing hands to transplant and learn something new about these native plants as you pot them to take home!

LOCATION: Field Outdoor Classroom, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATES: Saturday, May 23.....186186 – 6F

TIME: 8:30 - 10:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 12 years - Adult

## Decoy Painting Skills

During this program, instructor Kevin Hammell will help you hone your painting skills as you learn how to accurately portray the finer details of a species. **Please bring your own decoy you have carved or a blank and a bagged lunch. Please bring \$45.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Saturday, May 30.....186186 – 6K

TIME: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

## Nature Poetry Writing Workshop

This program is to help writers of all experience levels with writing nature-inspired poetry. Workshop will begin with reading some examples of published poetry along with group discussion of the selected reading, followed by some generative exercises, as well as a free-writing session. The group will reconvene and share a poem they have written at the end of the session if they wish.

This program is primarily a generative workshop critique will not be a focus, though the instructor is happy to provide suggestions and feedback.

LOCATION: Outdoor Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, May 30.....FULL.....185186 – 5C

TIME: 1:00 – 3:30 pm

FEE: \$15.00 per person

AGE: 12 years - Adult

## Intro to Watercolor: Painting Native Flowers

Have you ever wanted to try watercolor but didn't want to commit to several classes? During this one-day workshop, you will create two 4x6-sized paintings of native flowering plants found in South Jersey. This relaxed class, led by Diane Israel, a local artist, will help you hone your beginner watercolor skills while also showcasing our region's beautiful native plants. All painting supplies are included. **Dress for the weather, as this program will be outside. If inclement weather, the program will be moved inside. Please bring \$50.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**

LOCATION: Cloverdale Farm County Park Program Room, Barnegat

DATE: Saturday, June 6.....FULL.....186186 – 6G

TIME: 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: 12 years – Adult



# CREATIVE EXPRESSION

## Native Plant “Make & Take” Container Garden

Dive into native plants of Ocean County and have some fun as you create your family’s own “make and take” container garden. The Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County and the Rutgers Master Gardeners Native Plant Committee will help you create your container garden filled with native plants.

LOCATION: Field Outdoor Classroom, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Sunday, June 7.....186186 – 6H

TIME: 8:30 - 10:00 am

FEE: \$5.00 per team (1 child & 1 adult)

AGE: 4 years - Adult

## Sweet Summertime

Come and make a 3-tiered hanging “Watermelon” sign, using 3 wooden watermelon slice shapes that you will paint and decorate for your home to brighten your summer days!

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Thursday, June 11.....FULL.....181186 – 1E

TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

FEE: \$20.00 per person

AGE: Adult

## Shorebird Decoy: Spotted Sandpiper

Kevin Hammell, a local carver, teaches you the fine art of carving a Spotted Sandpiper through step-by-step instructions. The first day of class will focus on carving. The second day will entail putting the finishing touches on your carving and learning how to paint your shorebird decoy. 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: Saturday, June 13 & 20 .....186186 – 6L

TIME: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

## Spring Pressed Flower Bookmarks

Come by and make some bookmarks containing beautiful, pressed flowers! These are perfect for springtime reading, or you can give them to family and friends. This is also a wonderful opportunity for anyone interested in learning a new hobby. We also give a brief demonstration on how to press your own plants/flowers/leaves for whenever you like.

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, June 13 .....185186 – 5D

TIME: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

FEE: \$10.00 per person

AGE: 10 years – Adult

## Introduction to Card Making

Greeting cards are so thoughtful to send, and such a treat to receive, but today’s store-bought cards have become SO expensive. No matter what your skill level, this workshop will help you create greeting cards that will put a smile not only on your recipients’ faces, but yours as well! We will explore many greeting card options, from embellishments to pop-up and pull-tab creations. **All materials will be provided.**

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

DATE: Monday, June 15.....182186 – 2D

TIME: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

FEE: \$15.00 per person

AGE: 14 years – Adult

## Chilling on the Beach

Nothing says summer like toes in the sand and chilling in your beach chair. This project will create a table-top beach tableau you can enjoy all year long.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Thursday, June 25.....181186 – 1F

TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

FEE: \$20.00 per person

AGE: Adult

# CREATIVE EXPRESSION

## Sunshine & Summertime Nature Art

School is out, and the sun is shining. Let's go for a nature walk in search of beautiful natural objects that catch our eye. We will then place our nature finds on top of cyanotype paper to create silhouette images of those objects after being exposed to sunlight.

LOCATION: Dock, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, June 26.....186186 – 6I

TIME: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person

AGE: 8 years - Adult

## Vintage Style Pressed Flower Portrait

Join us and make a vintage-inspired portrait with pressed flowers. This will make a lovely decoration that you can hang up on your wall and will look beautiful all throughout the year.

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, June 27.....185186 – 5E

TIME: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

FEE: \$10.00 per person

AGE: 10 years – Adult

## 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 own basket.**

## Contemporary Pound Basket With Porcelain Handles Workshop

In the late 1800s, it wasn't uncommon to come to the Jersey shore and see permanent installations of pound nets. These nets were wound around tree saplings pounded into the sand offshore and used to trap fish. The runner-supported pound fish baskets were used to haul 50 pounds of fish off the beaches. During this program, you will be adding a contemporary spin to this traditional basket by including porcelain handles. You will love the modern results! **Pack a bagged lunch. Please bring \$125.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**

LOCATION: Cloverdale Farm County Park Program Room, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, April 17.....186186 – 6M

TIME: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: 15 years – Adult

## Low Profile Basket

Try your hand at a new, unique technique in which you actually weave upside down to create a medium-sized, low-profile basket. This basket is perfect as a bread-basket. **Please have \$50.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**

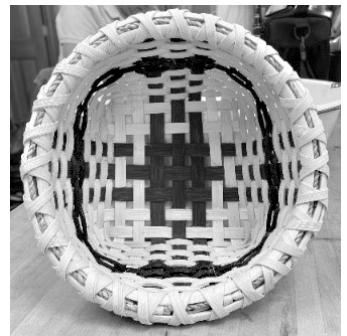
LOCATION: Cloverdale Farm County Park Program Room, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, May 8.....FULL.....186186 – 6N

TIME: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: 15 years – Adult



## Cattail

Join us as we create a 36-inch-long cattail that recreates the natural beauty of the wetlands. **Please have \$30.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**

LOCATION: Cloverdale Farm County Park Program Room, Barnegat

DATE: Friday, June 12.....186186 – 6O

TIME: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: 15 years - 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: April 7 – April 28.....183123 – 3A

SESSION 2: May 1 – May 22.....FULL.....183123 – 3B

SESSION 3: May 26 – June 16.....183123 – 3C

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 Jakes Branch 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, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Tuesdays and Fridays

SESSION 1: April 7 – April 28.....183123 – 3D

SESSION 2: May 1 – May 22.....183123 – 3E

SESSION 3: May 26 – June 16.....183123 – 3F

TIME: 10:00 – 10:45 am

FEE: \$5.00 registration fee per person

AGE: Adult

## Chair Stretch

This new and exciting 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. **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: April 7 – April 28.....183123 – 3G

SESSION 2: May 1 – May 22.....183123 – 3H

SESSION 3: May 26 – June 16.....183123 – 3I

TIME: 1:15 – 1:45 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: April 7 – April 28.....183123 – 3J

SESSION 2: May 1 – May 22.....183123 – 3K

SESSION 3: May 26 – June 16.....183123 – 3L

TIME: 2:00 - 2:45 pm

FEE: \$5.00 registration fee per person

AGE: Adult

# ACTIVE RECREATION

## Third Thursdays at Cedar Bridge: Jog into History

Get your running shoes on for a guided 2.3-mile light jog on the Michael T. Mangum Trail at Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site. Along the way, pick up the history of this Revolutionary War site as you jog along paths blazed on historic 18th century roads. All ability levels are welcome; breaks will be taken as needed. Trail can be uneven and wet in some spots. **Please wear appropriate shoes and clothes for the activity. Bug spray with DEET is recommended.**

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat  
DATE: Thursdays, April 16, May 21, .....189123 – 9A  
TIME: 10:00 - 11:00 am  
FEE: \$7.00 per person

AGE: Adult

## Gentle Yoga

Join us for this class teaching the essentials of yoga. These 6 week-long classes are 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  
DATE: Mondays, May 18- June 29 (No class on 5/25)  
TIME: 5:00 - 6:00 pm.....183123 – 3M  
FEE: \$40.00 per person

AGE: 16 years – Adult

## Yoga after Work

Keep calm and try yoga. These 6 week-long classes are 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  
DATE: Thursdays, May 7 – June 11.....183123 – 3N  
TIME: 5:00 - 6:00 pm  
FEE: \$40.00 per person

AGE: 16 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 4-day clinic. Pickleball is a fun and social 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 Pickleball Rally Class.**

LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 3 & 4, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood  
DATE: Thursdays, April 16- May 7.....183123 – 3O  
TIME: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 3 & 4, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood  
DATE: Tuesdays, April 21 – May 12.....183123 – 3P  
TIME: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 3 & 4 Stanley “Tip” Seaman County Park, Tuckerton  
DATE: Thursdays, May 14 – June 4.....183123 – 3Q  
TIME: 3:00 – 4:30 pm

LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 3 & 4, Ocean County Park, Lakewood  
DATE: Tuesdays, June 9 – June 30.....183123 – 3R  
TIME: 10:00 – 11:30 am

FEE: \$10.00 per person

AGE: Adult



# ACTIVE RECREATION

## Pickleball Rally

This 3-day 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 3 & 4, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood  
DATE: Mondays, April 13 – April 27.....183123 – 3S  
TIME: 1:00 – 2:30 pm  
LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 2-4, Ocean County Park, Lakewood  
DATE: Mondays, May 4 – May 18.....183123 – 3T  
TIME: 3:00 – 4:30 pm  
LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 3 & 4, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood  
DATE: Tuesdays, May 12 – May 26.....183123 – 3U  
TIME: 3:00 – 4:30 pm  
LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 2-4, Ocean County Park, Lakewood  
DATE: Tuesdays, June 9 – June 23.....183123 – 3V  
TIME: 12:00 – 1:30 pm  
LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 2-4, Ocean County Park, Lakewood  
DATE: Wednesdays, June 10 – June 24.....183123 – 3W  
TIME: 2:00 – 3:30 pm  
FEE: \$10.00 per person AGE: Adult

## Advanced Rally

This three-day Advanced Pickleball Rally class is designed for experienced players who want to further hone their skills and play in a more competitive environment. Players should have a strong grasp of the game. Staff will be present to answer rules questions and help officiate games. **Please wear sneakers and bring a drink. You must have taken the Pickleball Rally BEFORE taking this class.**

LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 3 & 4, Ocean County Park, Lakewood  
DATE: Mondays, May 4 - May 18.....FULL.....183123 – 3X  
TIME: 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 3 & 4, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood  
DATE: Tuesdays, May 12 - May 26.....183123 – 3Y  
TIME: 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 1-3 Stanley “Tip” Seaman County Park, Tuckerton  
DATE: Thursdays, May 14- May 28.....183123 – 3Z  
TIME: 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 3 & 4, Ocean County Park, Lakewood  
DATE: Wednesdays, June 10- June 24.....183123 – 4A  
TIME: 4:00 - 5:30 pm  
FEE: \$10.00 per person AGE: Adult

## Sunday Pickleball Social

Come join us on Sunday mornings here at Ocean County Park for some friendly competition and to practice your pickleball skills. This 3-week social will allow you to meet up with other pickleballers and play matches against a variety of opponents. This is a great opportunity for newer players to practice and improve their newly acquired pickleball skills with others with similar experience. Participants should have some experience playing Pickleball and have a working knowledge of the rules and how to keep score. Staff will be available to organize matches and answer questions.

LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 1-4 Ocean County Park, Lakewood  
DATE: Sundays, April 12 -May 3 .....183123 – 4B  
TIME: 9:00 – 11:00 am  
FEE: \$10.00 per person AGE: Adult

# ACTIVE RECREATION

## Archery For Adults

LOCATION: Pottery Barn, Ocean County Park, Lakewood

DATE: Friday, May 15.....FULL.....188466-8A

TIME: 1:00 – 2:30 pm

FEE: \$10.00 per person

AGE: Adult

## Seated Zumba Gold

Do you love music & movement? Zumba Gold is the low-impact version of the dance and fitness program Zumba. While the class is designed for active older adults, all are welcome to join. This seated fitness class is great for those who prefer seated exercise or may have a bit of trouble with the balance needed for dance workouts. The entire class will be done seated. Please wear sneakers and bring some water. **Have a check for \$10.00 made payable to Gabrielle Molino on the first day of class. Gabrielle is a licensed Zumba instructor and has been teaching Zumba for over 10 years.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administrative Office, Toms River

DATE: Fridays, May 22 – May 29.....183123 – 4C

TIME: 11:45 am – 12:30 pm

FEE: \$5.00 registration fee per person

AGE: Adult

## A Walk in the Park “Northern Edition”

Have you been interested in exploring some new parks within the Ocean County Parks system but just don't know where to start? Then this is the class for you. We will meet at a new park every week and explore the unique beauty each one has to offer. We will be walking at a brisk pace to get some cardiovascular benefits for no more than an hour. Walking is a great low-impact exercise that can help manage your weight, relieve stress, and improve your mood.

**Please wear comfortable sneakers or boots and bring a drink.**

**LOCATIONS WHERE WE WILL BE MEETING:**

4/16: Tennis Courts, Beaver Dam County Park, Point Pleasant

4/23: Nature Center, Lake Shenandoah County Park, Lakewood

4/30: Tennis Courts, Ocean County Park, Lakewood

5/7: Pavilion, Patriots County Park, Jackson

5/14: Open Field Waterside, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

5/21: Nature Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River

DATE: Thursdays, April 16 – May 21.....183123 – 4D

TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am

FEE: \$14.00 per person

AGE: Adult

## Beginner's Disc Golf

Disc Golf is played like traditional golf, but instead of clubs and balls, players use specialized flying discs like Frisbee. This class is for people who have never played and are curious about the sport. Ocean County Park hosts a magnificent 18-hole disc golf course amongst the many trees and paths. Players must practice their skills to avoid hazards and score as low as possible. **All equipment will be provided. Please wear sneakers and bring a drink.**

LOCATION: Disc Golf Course, Ocean County Park, Lakewood

DATE: Mondays, June 8 – June 22.....183123 – 4E

TIME: 1:00 – 2:30 pm

FEE: \$10.00 per person

AGE: Adult



# HEALTH & WELLNESS

## Awaken Your Soul with Meditation

If you've ever considered introducing a meditation practice into your life, this is the class for you! You'll learn different styles of meditation and take-home methods to begin at-home practice of your own. Meditation done daily reduces stress, improves memory as well as your ability to focus, improves the quality of sleep and helps you develop the mental discipline needed to avoid unhelpful habits. If you think you don't have the time, let me change your mind! **(Please bring a mat, blankets, and pillows and wear comfortable clothes. Aromatherapy will be provided).**

**Please bring exact cash or check payable to Instructor, Karen English for \$60.00.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Session 1: Tuesdays, April 7 – May 12.....181544 – 1A

DATE: Session 2: Tuesdays, May 19 – June 23.....181544 – 1B

TIME: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

## Crystal Bowls with Reiki & Aromatherapy

Join us for a transformative 90-minute session where we blend the resonant sounds of crystal singing bowls with the healing energies of Reiki and the soothing scents of aromatherapy. This class is designed to guide you into deep relaxation, balance your chakras and elevate your overall well-being.

During this 90-minute session, the two Instructors (Karen English and Kathy Gabrielli) will use crystal bowls to produce harmonic tones. These sounds wash over you as a Reiki practitioner will channel healing energy to promote physical, emotional and spiritual healing. Carefully chosen essential oils will be diffused throughout space to help with stress.

**\*\*Please bring a yoga mat or blanket for comfort and wear comfortable clothing\*\***

**\*\*Please bring exact cash or a check for \$30.00\*\***

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, April 22.....181544 – 1C

DATE: Wednesday, May 13.....181544 – 1D

DATE: Wednesday, June 3.....181544 – 1E

TIME: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

## Natural Cleaning Products with Essential Oils

Clean while supporting your health with essential oils that are antibacterial and anti-fungal. Have fun creating your own non-toxic cleaning products with the use of essential oils and common items in your home. In this hands-on workshop, you will be making a 2-ounce jar of a sink/tile scrub to keep your space clean and a 1-ounce cleaning spray to use in various ways.

**Please bring exact cash or check payable to Instructor – Kathy Gabrielli (Certified Holistic Aromatherapist) for \$25.00.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Monday, April 27 .....181544 – 1F

TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

## Travel Wellness Kit with Essential Oils

Discover how essential oils can help alleviate sunburn pain, protect against germs and ease indigestion while traveling. You will make a 1- ounce skin soothing spray and a personal inhaler both designed for easy use and portability for wellness on the go.

**Please bring exact cash or check payable to Instructor – Kathy Gabrielli (Certified Holistic Aromatherapist) for \$25.00.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, June 17 .....181544 – 1G

TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

# HEALTH & WELLNESS

## Strengthening the Healer Within (Part 2)

Ancient cultures used practices to strengthen their connection with the healer within. During this program, you will learn simple movement, acupressure, and journaling to strengthen your connection with the healer within, and increase self-awareness about what inspires, surprises, and challenges you. Through the self-care practices, you will learn how to balance the flow of energy through your being to promote enhanced health and well-being.

**\*Please bring exact cash or check payable to Licensed Physical Therapist Regina Rosenthal for \$20.00\***

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, April 8 .....181544 – 1H

TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

## Acupressure for Leg and Foot Release

Looking to be outside more with less leg, ankle, and foot problems? This acupressure, stretching, and self-massage program can be helpful for those with leg and foot conditions such as strains, sprains, and plantar fasciitis. In addition to acupressure and self-massage, participants will also learn a stretching exercise for plantar fasciitis.

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

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Monday, May 4 .....181544 – 1H

TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

## Acupressure for Emotional Release and Deep Relaxation

Summer is here, bringing times to unwind, let go, and experience moments of stress relief and deep relaxation. In this program, you will learn simple breath, movement, and acupressure practices for self-care to rebalance your nervous system, boost resilience, and strengthen your ability to manage stress and change.

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

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Monday, June 22 .....181544 – 1J

TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm


FEE: \$5.00 per person registration fee

AGE: Adult

# LIFEGUARDS WANTED



## CERTIFIED LIFEGUARDS Wanted for OCEAN COUNTY PARKS BEACH 2026 A. PAUL KING COUNTY PARK MANAHAWKIN

Competitive Salary \$18.00		Reimbursement for Certifications
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Applicants must be fully certified in  
Advanced Lifesaving, First Aid and CPR  
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: [bcostigan@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:bcostigan@co.ocean.nj.us)  
for information/application

# 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 \$55.00 payable to Ocean Side CPR. LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, April 29 .....181166 – 2A  
DATE: Wednesday, May 27 .....181166 – 2B  
DATE: Wednesday, June 10 .....181166 – 2C  
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 \$80.00 payable to Ocean Side CPR. LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Wednesday, April 15 .....181166 – 2D  
DATE: Wednesday, May 20 .....181166 – 2E  
DATE: Wednesday, June 24 .....181166 – 2F  
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)





# COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE & PADDLE

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 10:00 - 12:00\*

OCEAN COUNTY PARKS & REC. ADMINISTRATION BEACH & BOAT RAMP  
1198 BANDON RD, TOMS RIVER, NJ



Supporting inclusive outdoor recreation and empowering those with physical and movement challenges to explore recreation and sport in our natural waters.



Join this first ever event in Ocean County hosted by Ocean County Parks & Recreation and Ocean Positive showcasing inclusive outdoor aquatic activities AND building community.



\*Register online beginning 3/15 using QR code or website.

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

## 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. Black Legged 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 MONDAY, MARCH 9th FOR PROGRAMS IN THIS ISSUE**

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

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

# Save The Dates!

## Mark Your Calendars

**FORKED RIVER MOUNTAIN  
CLEAN-UP** Sunday, 4/19

**CATTUS ISLAND NATURE FEST** Sunday 4/25  
Cattus Island County Park, Toms River

**GOLF TOURNAMENT** Thursday 5/7  
Ocean County Golf Course at ATLANTIS, Little Egg Harbor Township

**FISHING CONTEST** Saturday 5/2  
Lake Shenandoah County Park, Lakewood

**KIDS' STUFF FLEA MARKET** Sunday 5/17  
Ocean County Park, Lakewood

**KIDS TO PARKS DAY** Saturday 5/16  
Multiple Ocean County Parks Locations

**PAWS IN THE PARKS** Saturday 6/13  
Robert J. Miller Air Park, Berkeley Township

**SUMMER PICNIC PARTY** Thursday 6/25  
John C. Bartlett Jr. County Park at Berkeley Island, Berkeley Township

**TOUCH A TRUCK** Friday 6/26  
Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

**Carousel of Music Begins** Friday 6/26  
See [www.oceancountyparks.org](http://www.oceancountyparks.org) for the complete summer schedule

**BARNEGAT LIGHT CAMPFIRE** Saturday 6/27  
Barnegat Light State Park, Long Beach Island



“LIKE” us on Facebook Follow us on Instagram  
& [www.oceancountyparks.org](http://www.oceancountyparks.org)  
for DAILY UPDATES  
Trail Conditions, Weather Related Closings etc...



**OCEAN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

1198 Bandon Road

Toms River, New Jersey 08753-3138

(732) 506-9090

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

**Mail in Registration is Preferred  
REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED BEGINNING  
MONDAY, MARCH 9th 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**

