

LEARN ABOUT GARDENING, NATURE, BIRDS, BUGS, FROGS AND MORE AT THE ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Essex County Executive DiVincenzo Invites Children and Families to Expand their Understanding and Appreciation of the Environment

Essex County, NJ – A variety of programs are being offered at the Essex County Environmental Center during the month of February that will teach children and adults about nature and help them gain a greater appreciation and understanding of our environment. Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. invites children and adults to visit the Environmental Center where they can enjoy an enriching recreational experience through nature and conservation activities.

“Our Environmental Center has become the premiere location for environmental education and nature appreciation. With the help of our partner groups, our dynamic schedule of events and activities will captivate all ages,” DiVincenzo said. “Walk in our woods, discover habitats, get pointers on gardening, learn about nature photography and much more. It’s all about nature and it’s all at our Environmental Center,” he added.

Events scheduled for February are as follows:

“**Bug Club**” is for children ages 6 to 10. The Bug Club is devoted to children who want to explore the wonders of insects through field walks, games, stories and crafts. **Cost is \$10 per child per session.** Advance registration, payment and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *Bug Club* meets as follows:

Date: Tuesday, February 12, 2019

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: Essex County Environmental Center

621B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ

“Essex County Beekeepers Society Basic Beekeeping: A 3-Day Short Course” is for adults and children ages 12 and older. This short course is appropriate for new beekeepers as well as those who need a refresher. It is presented by the Essex County Beekeepers Society, with head instructor/coordinator Master Beekeeper Landi Simone. The class will cover everything beginning beekeepers need to know, from purchasing equipment to harvesting honey and the basics of disease and mite management. The third day of class will be a hands-on Field Day in April at various area apiaries. Online registration is available at <https://njba38.wildapricot.org/events>. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **Cost is \$130 for NJBA members and \$155 for non-members**, and includes NJBA membership in a chapter of your choice, class materials, continental breakfast, and afternoon snack. For more information, contact registrar Pat Gamsby at BJORNGLASS@aol.com or 973-960-2997. Email is the preferred means of reaching Pat. Snow date is March 2nd. *Basic Beekeeping* will be held as follows:

Dates: Saturdays, February 16 & 23, 2019

Field Day in April TBA Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: Essex County Environmental Center

Garibaldi Hall, 621A Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ

“Build a Bird House” is for adults and children ages 8 and older who are accompanied by an adult. Build a home that encourages breeding birds and other wildlife to take residence. Putting out a bird house now creates a good chance of having a nesting pair of

songbirds in the garden by spring. **Cost is \$10 per child and \$12 per adult.** Advance registration is required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *Build a Bird House* will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, February 16, 2019 **Time: 11 a.m.**

Place: Essex County Environmental Center

621B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ

“Presidents Day: The Leader I Can Be” is for children ages 5 and up. Participants will explore challenge by choice and team building exercises on the forest trails, and discuss and develop the skills that make a virtuous leader. **Cost is \$20 per child.** Advance registration and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *The Leader I Can Be* will be held as follows:

Date: Monday, February 18, 2019

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: Essex County Environmental Center

621B Eagle Rock Avenue

Roseland, NJ

“Frog Pond Science Club” is for children ages 5 through 9. Uncover and discover ecosystem interactions at the frog pond. Explore with nets, magnifiers and microscopes to investigate what lives at the pond and learn from a naturalist what can be done to protect and conserve the pond inhabitants. **Cost is \$10 per child per session.** Advance registration, payment and minimum

number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *Frog Pond Science Club* will meet as follows:

Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2019 **Time: 4 p.m.**

Place: Essex County Environmental Center

621B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ

“*Birding Field Trip in Troy Meadows*” is presented by New Jersey Audubon. Search the edges of the frozen swamp for wintering birds and early migrants. Be prepared for muddy or icy conditions. Meet at Essex County Environmental Center and carpool to the trail head. **Cost is \$6 for NJA members and \$8 for non-members.** To register, call 908-396-6386. *Birding Field Trip* will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, February 21, 2019 **Time: 8:30 a.m.**

Meeting Site: Essex County Environmental Center

621B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ

“*Bird Club*” is for children ages 5 through 10. Come explore the wooded wetland and see what birds live here. Use binoculars, field guides, and a keen sense of observation to discover and identify all sorts of birds. **Cost is \$10 per child per session.** Advance registration, payment and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *Bird Club* will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, February 21, 2019 **Time: 4 p.m.**

Place: Essex County Environmental Center

621B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ

“Family Walk & Campfire” is for all ages. Join a naturalist for a short walk on the trails and experience forest life at night. After the walk, enjoy a campfire with organic fire-popped popcorn and mint tea. **Cost is \$10 per child and \$12 per adult.** Advance registration and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *Family Walk & Campfire* will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, February 21, 2019 **Time: 6 p.m.**

Place: Essex County Environmental Center

621B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ

“The Healthy Benefits of Honey Bee Therapy or Apitherapy” is for ages 13 and up. Bee therapy, or Apitherapy, is the medical use for the products of the honey bee hive – honey, propolis, pollen, royal jelly, beeswax, bee bread, bee venom, honey bees and drones. This talk, given by Dr. Petrusia Kotlar, DC reveals the art and science of treatment and holistic healing through the honeybee and her products for a global health benefit. The program includes samples of some products of the hive with the highlight of the evening being a honey tasting segment where participants will learn first steps in becoming a "honey connoisseur." **Cost is \$20.** Advance registration and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *The Healthy Benefits of Honey Bee Therapy* will be held as follows:

Date: Friday, February 22, 2019 **Time: 6:30 p.m.**

Place: Essex County Environmental Center

621B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ

“Birding Field Trip in Essex County Hatfield Swamp” is presented by New Jersey Audubon. Take a journey into the frozen swamp to search for winter visitors and early spring migrants that call the heart of western Essex County home. Footing could be icy or muddy depending on the weather. Meet at the West Caldwell Stop & Shop and carpool to the trail head. **Cost is \$6 for NJA members and \$8 for non-members.** To register, call 908-396-6386. *Birding Field Trip* will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, February 23, 2019

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Site: Stop & Shop

875 Bloomfield Avenue

West Caldwell, NJ

“Family Yoga” is for ages 5 and up. At this Family Yoga Class, participants will share and enjoy an adventure of calming breath, fun asanas/poses, and gentle stretches with their nearest and dearest in a friendly, go-with-the-flow atmosphere. **Cost is \$10 per child and \$12 per adult.** Advance registration and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *Family Yoga* will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, February 23, 2019

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Essex County Environmental Center

621B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ

“Horticulture for Seniors” is for senior citizens. Join the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County for this horticulture class especially designed for senior citizens. The topic for February is *The History of Chocolate, the Good, the Bad, and the Delicious*. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **This is a free program.** Advance registration is required one week prior to program. For registration or more information, call Helen at 973-731-0717 or the Master Gardner Helpline at 973-228-2210. *Horticulture for Seniors* will be held as follows:

Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 **Time: 1 p.m.**

Place: Essex County Environmental Center

Garibaldi Hall, 621A Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ

“New Jersey Woodturners” is for adults and children ages 3 and up. Learn to turn and discover the wonders of creating art from found pieces of wood. Topics vary by the month. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **Cost is \$10 per adult and free for NJWA members.** Call Gualberto Malave at 908-310-3557 for details. *New Jersey Woodturners* will meet as follows:

Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 **Time: 7 p.m.**

Place: Essex County Environmental Center

Garibaldi Hall, 621A Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ

Registration is required for all programs at the Essex County Environmental Center, unless otherwise noted.

For more information or to register, please call 973-228-8776.

The Essex County Park System was created in 1895 and is the first county park system established in the United States. The Park System consists of more than 6,000 acres and has 23 parks, five reservations, an environmental center, a zoo, Treetop Adventure Course, ice skating rink, roller skating rink, three public golf courses, golf driving range, two miniature golf courses, four off-leash dog facilities, a castle and the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens.