

**Burlington County Park System
Spring 2022 Nature programs**

Wildlife Watch

Observe and explore the diversity of the animal kingdom in our park system! Find out where certain animals take shelter and what tools they use to do so. Grab your binoculars and cameras to see what we may find! **Registration is required.**

March 1 at 11:00 AM, Willingboro Lakes [Register online.](#)

April 21 at 11:00 AM, Delaware River Heritage Trail [Register online.](#)

May 7 at 9:00 AM, Long Bridge Park [Register online.](#)

Winter Waterfowl on the Delaware River

March 5, 1:30 PM Delaware River Heritage Trail

Early March is a great time to observe winter waterfowl that are beginning their migration back to northern breeding grounds. We now have a fantastic vantage point to observe wildlife on the Delaware River! Join County Park Naturalist Jen Bulava and Rancocas Nature Center naturalist Mary Belko for an easy walk on the new Delaware River Heritage Trail in Florence to observe species that are only in our area for a brief period of time. Detailed directions will be provided to registrants. No restrooms available. **Registration is required. [Register here.](#)**

Becoming a Better Birder Series

March 7, 14, 21, 28 Lyceum of History and Natural Sciences and **April 4** Boundary Creek
10:30am-12:00

This five-session course will help you develop or improve your bird identification skills. Four indoor sessions will be held Mondays at the Lyceum of History and Natural Sciences; the fifth session will be held outdoors at Boundary Creek. Topics will include: useful tips to identify birds, songs and calls of common birds, behaviors of bird families, using your smart phone and computer to identify and learn more about birds, tips for using binoculars, and much more. The guest course presenter is Claire Campbell. **There is a strict limit of participants. Registration is required. [Register here](#) for the whole series.**

Tuesday Talk & Friday Forums

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

March 8 at 10:30am and March 11 at 1:30pm, Rancocas Greenway Trail – Riverside section

We will explore a portion of the **brand-new** regional trail section of the Rancocas Greenway Trail that runs from Amico Island to Pennington Park. Along the way we will observe migratory birds along the Rancocas Creek. **Registration is required.**

[Register here for March 8](#)

[Register here for March 11](#)

April 5 and April 8 at 10:00 am, Crystal Lake Park

Observe unique spring ephemeral wildflowers on this guided hike. This hike includes some steep slopes as well as one short flat paved portion. Please wear proper footwear with treads for hiking on uneven, slippery, and root-laden terrain. **Registration is required.**

[Register here for April 5](#)

[Register here for April 8](#)

April 26 and April 29 at 9:00 am, Long Bridge Park

Birds, frogs, and budding trees – spring is here! Take a guided walk to observe all the wonderful signs of spring. Enjoy a great diversity of life in the many habitat types found at Long Bridge Park. **Registration is required.**

[Register here for April 26](#)

[Register here for April 29](#)

May 17 and May 20 at 9:00 am, Smith's Woods section of Smithville Park

Join us for a two mile walk through the woods to observe the incredible array of birds, wildflowers, and other species that call Smithville home. **Registration is required.**

[Register here for May 17](#)

[Register here for May 20](#)

May 31 and June 3 at 9:00 am, Laurel Run Park

Early summer is the perfect time to scan the fields for grassland birds at Laurel Run. Bring binoculars and a hat to observe these birds as well as butterflies, dragonflies, and other species found in the fields at this time. **Registration is required.**

[Register for May 31](#)

[Register for June 3](#)

Species Spotlight

Learn about various species that call Burlington County Parks home! Every other Wednesday, Naturalist Kate will post a new video on our [Nature Programs](#) Page that highlights a local species to better understand their behaviors, natural history and/or significance in the environment.

March 9 – Wood Frogs

March 23 – Blue Jays

April 6 – Spring Beauty

April 20 – Praying Mantis

May 4 – Muskrat

May 18 – Baltimore Oriole

Crepuscular Creatures

Explore our parks while enjoying the sunset! Join Naturalist Kate Forte on a hike to learn about the crepuscular animals that utilize this time of the evening to hunt and gather food. See for yourself which animals are active and why.

March 15 at 6:00 PM, Pennington Park [Register online.](#)

May 10 at 7:00 PM, Boundary Creek Natural Resource Area [Register online.](#)

Woodcock Walk

March 17, 6:30 PM, Boundary Creek Natural Resource Area

During this walk coinciding with sunset and a full moon, learn about the American Woodcock while observing their unusual courtship display performed at dusk. **There is a strict limit of participants. Registration is required. [Register online.](#)**

Communication in Nature Series Part 3: Plants

March 22, 1:00pm Lyceum of History and Natural Sciences

This three-part lecture series expands the topics discussed in the fall outdoor programs relating to animal and plant communication. In Part 3, Naturalist Jen Bulava will focus on communication among plant species. Plants, especially trees, have incredible methods of “talking” using both the

wind and underground networks or the “wood wide web”. Participants will learn about the information plants can exchange and how different species help each other survive. Prior attendance at fall programs not required. **Registration is required.** [Register online.](#)

OR attend the program online (Zoom):

March 22, 7:00pm – Plant Communication, Virtual

A Zoom link will be provided prior to the presentation. Registration is required.

[Register online.](#)

Spring Frog Walk Series

With 32 species of toads, frogs, salamanders, and newts, NJ is a unique amphibian hotspot in the region. Come and learn about your croaking neighbors during the Spring Frog Walk Series with Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) and Burlington County Division of Parks. Dr. Carlos Martínez Rivera, PPA’s Director of Science Conservation, will lead walks into the nearby woods and wetlands. Bring a flashlight with batteries, rubber boots or shoes you don’t mind getting dirty and insect repellent. **Registration required.** [Register online.](#)

[March 24, 6:00 PM, Long Bridge Park](#)

[March 31, 6:00 PM, Smithville Park](#)

Healthy Hike

Did you know that getting out in nature for as little as half an hour a week can help improve your overall mood as well as reduce blood pressure? Come hike along with Naturalist Kate Forte while learning about the varying habitats within the parks.

April 7 at 1:00 PM, Smith’s Woods Section, Smithville Park [Register online.](#)

May 26 at 2:00 PM, Arney’s Mount Park [Register online.](#)

Wetlands Walk

Why are wetlands so important? What makes an area a wetland? Are all wetlands the same? Learn the answers to these questions and more while joining Naturalist Kate on a walk.

April 12 at 1:00 PM, Crystal Lake Park [Register online.](#)

May 7 at 12:30 PM, Rancocas Greenway Trail – Riverside section [Register online.](#)

Harry Potter Marauders Map Adventure

April 19 at 10:00 am and April 30 at 2:00 pm, Smithville Park

Get your wands ready! Follow in Harry, Ron, and Hermione’s footsteps using a special map to find hidden clues around Smithville Park. This program is a fantastic and fun way to learn orienteering with a map! Join us on either April 19 during spring break **OR** Saturday April 30. For ages 8 and up. Some trails not suitable for strollers. Costumes are welcome but not required! Maximum of six people per party. **Registration is required.**

[April 19 Registration](#)

[April 30 Registration](#)

Star Watches

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

April 21, 7:30-10:30 PM, Smithville Park [Register online](#)

May 5, 8:00-11:00 PM, Smithville Park [Register online](#)

Spring Camping with the Rangers

Join our Park Rangers for an overnight camping experience in the park. Go for a sunset hike with the sights and sounds of the seasonal night life in our park followed by a campfire under the moonlight. Bring your own tent and camping gear. Severe weather will postpone the event, registrants will be notified. Special instructions will be emailed to all registrants. Registration is required. Register here

[Long Bridge Park, April 23, 6:30 PM](#)

[Smith's Woods Park, May 6, 6:30 PM](#)

Birding Before Breakfast

April 27 at 8:00 AM, Amico Island Park

Take advantage of the early morning to discover the local birds that live in the parks. Bring a pair of binoculars and join Naturalist Kate on this morning adventure. All levels of birding experience are welcome, so don't be discouraged if you are a beginner! [Register online.](#)

An Introduction to Arney's Mount

April 27 and April 30, 10:00 am, Arney's Mount Park

Join retired USGS geologist Pierre Lacombe on an introductory hike at this brand-new addition to our park system! Arney's Mount is the highest natural point in Burlington County. The mount is an erosional remnant of the former elevated landscape of our county. Pierre will discuss the geology of this area as well as the quarried conglomerate used to build the Arney's Mount Meeting House and most other early buildings in the area. Trails include paved and crushed stone surfaces.

Registration is required.

[April 27 Registration](#)

[April 30 Registration](#)

Intro to Birding

May 3 at 4:00 PM, Smithville Park

Come join Naturalist Kate and learn the fundamentals of birding. We will go over how to properly use binoculars and some basic tools and tips for bird identification while being out in the field. Grab your binoculars and see for yourself how enjoyable birding can be! [Register online.](#)

Burlington Birding Bonanza

May 14, 8:00am, various park locations

Discover and appreciate the diversity of avian life in your own backyard! There's no better time to observe birds than during spring migration. Participants will try to find as many species of birds as possible while traveling between the Kinkora Trail, Arney's Mount Park, and the County Fairgrounds. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. Bring lunch and prepare to spend most of the day. Registration is required. [Register online.](#)

Moonlit Walk

May 18 at 8:00 PM, Willingboro Lakes Park

Join Naturalist Kate Forte on a moonlit walk through the park. Look and listen for signs of nocturnal animals while also gazing at the stars! [Register online.](#)

SERVICE PROJECTS

Park Cleanups

Help keep our environment clean and green! Participate in cleaning up litter that has made its way into the park. Bags, gloves, and grabbers will be provided. Please bring your own water and snacks, if needed. Masks will be required in the registration and supplies area as well as in areas where social

distancing cannot be maintained. Masks will not be provided, please bring your own. If you need community service hours, please register by 4PM the day before the event. To register, email cleancomm@co.burlington.nj.us

March 19, 9:00 AM, Pennington Park

April 9, 9:00 AM, Willingboro Lakes Park

May 14, 9:00 AM, Amico Island Park

Spotted Lanternfly Removal

The Asian planthopper known as the spotted lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive species that could be very devastating to some New Jersey crops and hardwood trees. The egg masses survive winter and hatch into nymphs in the spring. We need your help to limit the number of lanternflies in the county by scraping the egg masses from trees in our parks and in your neighborhoods before they hatch in May.

Join Naturalist Kate throughout various parks to help scrape spotted lanternfly egg masses! Please bring along a scraping card if you have one, or an old plastic gift card/paint scraping tool. We will have a few on hand to give out prior to the program if needed. Specific trail sections will be assigned upon checking in. This program is for ages 10 & up, and you can stay for as long as you would like. Registration required.

[Register for sessions here.](#)

March 19, 10:00 AM, Smithville, OR 12:30 PM, Smith's Woods

March 26, 10:00 AM OR 12:00 PM, Amico Island

April 2, 10:00 AM, Boundary Creek

April 9, 10:00 AM OR 12:30 PM, Pennington Park