

## ABOUT THE CENTER



The Greenburgh Nature Center is a 33-acre woodland preserve with trails, pond, gardens, and outdoor animal exhibits, including a birds of prey aviary. Our indoor exhibits include a live animal museum with over 100 specimens, exhibit areas focusing on nature and the environment, a greenhouse with botanical exhibits, and a gift shop.

We offer birthday parties and special programs for groups of all ages on a wide range of environmental topics, either here or at your location. See our Website, [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org), for details. General parking for all activities is in the main lot. Handicapped parking is available in the rear of the Nature Center building. We have volunteer programs for adults and students, age 14 and older.

The Center will be closed on Sunday, July 4. Our grounds are open daily from dawn to dusk. The trails are unpaved nature trails, so please watch where you walk. Visitors walk at their own risk. Please use a trail map to help find your way.

### **Indoor Exhibits and Animal Museum Hours:**

Weekdays (EXCEPT Fridays): 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Weekends: 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### **Admission Fees:**

\$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors/students, \$5 for children 2-12, and FREE for members and children under 2 years.

Discounts for Town of Greenburgh residents with Unicard and Westchester residents with Parks Pass.

(Discounts not valid for special events)

## FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Members,

As some of you may already know, GNC Executive Director (ED) Kurt Hundgen is leaving at the end of June. His nearly three years as ED have flown by, and I know that all of you join me in wishing him well on his next venture. We are currently conducting a comprehensive search for the new ED who will lead the GNC into an exciting future that builds upon our tremendous past.

As summer approaches, the GNC Board and staff are moving ahead with the development of Core Master Plan elements while ensuring that the high quality of programs and events that are central to member and visitor satisfaction are maintained and even enhanced, where possible.

Evidence of our commitment to you and the GNC was witnessed by our recent spring events that included two Dr. Seuss forums on the proposed playground in March and the Musicfest held in mid-May. The community forums were fun events where children came to see The Lorax movie, based upon the book of the same name. The Lorax is the homage to environmental concerns and conservation written by Dr. Seuss. While the children were petting animals and watching the movie, we asked for and received valuable feedback on the playground project from parents. A few children even chimed in with their ideas as well.

The first annual all-day Musicfest was held on a beautiful day. Over 500 people were present to sit on the Manor House Lawn and to listen to various local artists perform their music all day long. It was a brand new event with many experimental aspects. The day was an unmitigated success in every way, and all who came had a great time. Next year's event will be even better, provided Mother Nature is as kind as she was this year. As always, we value the opinions of you, our members, so please contact us with any feedback on this event.

Read through the newsletter, check our calendar of events and visit us online so you will be able to fill your summer with fun activities and events at the GNC. Remember, just taking a walk through our 33 acres is an activity that is always available and good for your physical and mental health.

Enjoy the summer!

Jim Nottingham  
President, GNC Board of Directors

## SPECIAL SUMMER PROGRAMS

### **MEMBER'S FAMILY CAMP-OUT, Saturday, July 10, 5:30 PM to Sunday, July 11, 8:30 AM**

Enjoy a night of nature on the grounds of the Nature Center as we host a family camp-out. You supply your tent and sleeping bag, we'll supply the nature. Join us for an informal barbecue, then explore our moonlit trails with a GNC naturalist in search of owls and other night creatures. Cap off the evening with S'mores by the fire. Camp-out limited to ten families. Reservations required. First come first served. Each tent must include a minimum of one adult. Fee: \$20 per person.

### **SUMMER NATURE CAMP - A few spots still available.**

Eco-Travel Camps, Monday to Friday, 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM  
July 12-16, for children entering grades 4-5  
August 9-13, for children entering grades 6-8

### **GRAPE PICKING AND HONEY HARVEST PARTY** **Sunday, September 12, 2:00 p.m.**

Join us for a fun-filled time harvesting grapes from our vines and honey from our hives. (See full program description on calendar under September Events.)

## WEEKDAY DROP-IN PROGRAMS FOR YOUNGSTERS NO PRE-REGISTRATION OR PRE-PAYMENT REQUIRED

**(PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO DROP-IN CLASSES IN AUGUST)**

Participants should be dressed for outdoor activity for all the classes listed below. Except in extreme conditions, a portion of each class may be spent outdoors.



### **NATURE BUGS, for children 2 - 5 years old**

Nature discovery for youngsters, with a parent or caregiver. Meet a museum animal each week, hear a story, and do a craft or nature game.

**Mondays: 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

**July 5, 12, 19, 26, September 13, 20, 27**

Tuition per class: Members: \$5 adult; \$4 child.

Non-members: \$9 adult; \$7 child.



### **CRITTERS, CRAFTS AND KIDS, for children 1 ½ - 5 years old**

Children and parents or caregivers come for an hour of nature fun. Enjoy wonderful summer days at the Center with walks, live animals, stories and crafts.

**Wednesdays: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**July 7, 14, 21, 28, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

Tuition per class: Members: \$5 adult; \$4 child.

Non-members: \$9 adult; \$7 child.

## CALENDAR OF WEEKEND EVENTS

All paid programs include admission to indoor exhibits and Animal Museum.  
Pre-payment is required to reserve a place.

### JULY

- 10 SAT 5:30 PM – 11 SUN 8:30 AM – MEMBER'S FAMILY CAMP-OUT** – Enjoy a night of nature on the grounds of the Nature Center as we host a family camp-out. You supply your tent and sleeping bag, we'll supply the nature. Join us for an informal barbecue, then explore our moonlit trails with a GNC naturalist in search of owls and other night creatures. Camp-out limited to ten families. Reservations required. First come, first served. Each tent must include a minimum of one adult. Fee: \$20 per person.
- 11 SUN 2:00 PM - WATER OLYMPICS!** – Cool, refreshing and fun...we all love water in the summer, but how much do we know about it? Join Brittany Burgio, Assistant Curator of Living Collections, in a series of fun, interactive experiments and discover more about water and all the amazing things you can do with it. Then stay for a water balloon toss! Recommended for children 6+. Members-\$2, Non-members-\$6 per person.
- 18 SUN 2:00 PM - STORYWALK** – Reading and nature walks...two of our favorite things. Join us for StoryWalk, an innovative program that combines the two. GNC Senior Naturalist John Mancuso will lead you along our woodland trail, and you'll have an opportunity to enjoy a favorite children's storybook along the way. Come see what it's all about. Recommended for children aged 8 and younger. Free. Sponsored by California Pizza Kitchen.
- 24 SAT 2:00 PM - SCIENTIST AT WORK** – It's shocking, it's sensational, it's stupendous – it's science at work. Come assist the Mad Scientist (a.k.a. Curator of Living Collections Travis Brady) in performing wacky experiments, and discover some of the weirder wonders of science. You are guaranteed a good slime. Recommended for ages 6+. Members-\$2, Non-members-\$8 per person.

- 31 SAT 2:30 PM - FLIGHTS OF FANCY** – Butterflies seem to delight everyone. Come walk among the butterflies in our new indoor Butterfly Exhibit and have an informal chat with Travis Brady, Curator of Living Collections, who will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about these “flying flowers.” Included with Museum admission.

## AUGUST

- 7 SAT 10:30 AM – THE LAZY, HAZY PUPPET DAYS OF SUMMER** – Come move, dance and sing with Jill Liflander and her puppet pals! Meet a friendly snuggly cozy bear, dance in a dream with a magical fish, sing ‘tra-la-la’ with beautiful birdies and lots more! Jilly’s puppets are so excited to meet you!!! The program will be held at our outdoor stage area or under our outdoor tent, if it’s raining. Recommended for ages 2-7. Members-\$2, Non-members-\$6.
- 14 SAT 10:30 AM - HOW EASY CAN IT BE? COMPOSTING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY** – There’s gold in those leaves, grass clippings, weeds and kitchen scraps! Come discover the magic of compost with Environmental Projects Coordinator Anne Jaffe Holmes, and learn how easy it can be to turn your yard and food wastes into valuable fertilizer for your garden. Members-free, Non-members-\$6 per person. (A limited number of Earth Machine backyard composters will be available for sale for \$65. Order yours in advance by calling Anne at 813-1812.)
- 22 SUN 2:00 PM – BOLD, BEAUTIFUL, BREATHTAKING BUTTERFLIES** – From chrysalis to butterfly, come learn all about butterflies and what makes them fascinating and important to our world. Join Brittany Burgio, Assistant Curator of Living Collections, amid the live butterflies in our greenhouse, for a tour through the life of a butterfly. Stay and make your own beautiful butterfly craft! Recommended for children 8 and younger. Members-\$2, Non-members \$6 per person.
- 28 SAT 2:00 PM – FEEDING FUN** – Come visit the live animal museum to see what the Center’s critters consider to be a gourmet meal. Included with Museum admission.

## SEPTEMBER

- 5 SUN 11:30 AM – GNC HIGHLIGHTS TOUR** – Take a guided tour of the gardens and grounds, and learn about the treasures on the Nature Center’s 33 acres. Trail maps provided. Free.
- 11 SAT 4:00 PM – HONEY HARVEST PARTY, PART I** – In preparation for Sunday’s demonstration, GNC Beekeeper H. Peet Foster will be opening and harvesting the honey from our beehives at our apiary on the Great Lawn, and welcomes help from interested public. Free.
- 12 SUN 2:00 PM - GRAPE PICKING AND HONEY HARVEST PARTY** – It’s the season to reap the harvest of GNC’s vines and hives. With Senior Naturalist Dean Fausel as your guide, you’ll have a chance to pick grapes in our “demonstration” grape arbor and then help make grape juice using a hand-operated press. The harvest from our hives will be extracted by GNC Beekeeper H. Peet Foster, indoors and away from our active outdoor beehives. There will be a free tasting of a variety of grape and honey-based treats, and fresh-from-the-hive honey will be available for purchase. Members-\$3. Non-members-\$7.
- 19 SUN 2:30 PM – FLIGHTS OF FANCY** – Butterflies seem to delight everyone. Come walk among the butterflies in our new indoor Butterfly Exhibit and have an informal chat with a GNC naturalist, who will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about these “flying flowers.” Included with Museum admission.
- 26 SUN 2:00 PM –FAMILY-FRIENDLY GEOCACHING** – A combination of hide and seek and treasure hunting, geocaching has become an international pastime. We invite you to participate in a family-friendly version of geocaching on the grounds of the Nature Center. We’ll give you the “coordinate locations” on our 33 acres, and then you’re off to do modern day treasure hunting. Geocaching is not a game of finders-keepers; the goal is to find the object and then put it back so that another geocacher can find it. Join us for this fun activity. Best for ages 5 and up. Members free. Non-members \$10 per family.



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## **SUMMER 2010 NEWSLETTER**

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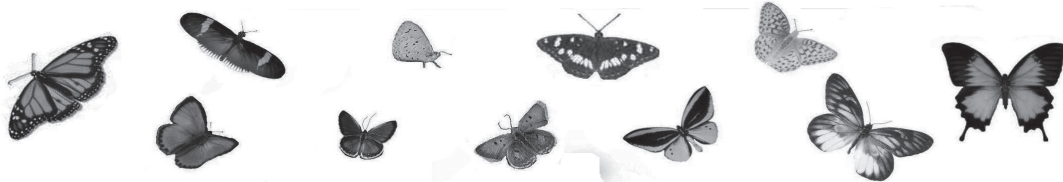
**GET UPDATES ABOUT  
GNC PROGRAMS VIA E-MAIL!**

Send us your e-mail address and  
we'll add you to our e-mail list -  
**Send to: membership**  
**@greenburghnaturecenter.org**

This list will not be used  
for any other purpose.



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### **WALK AMONG LIVE BUTTERFLIES, A New Indoor Exhibit Through September 30**

A visit to our greenhouse has never been like this before. This summer, in addition to colorful and fragrant flowering plants, you'll be greeted by native butterflies when you step into our greenhouse. Flying freely among the greenery, you'll be sure to see Monarchs, Red Admirals, and Swallowtails fluttering from blossom to blossom in search of nourishing nectar, or you may catch sight of them resting in a shady spot to cool off or see them sipping water from a puddle.

While enjoying the beauty of these delicate creatures, you'll have an opportunity to learn about the life cycle of a butterfly—from egg, to caterpillar, to chrysalis, to butterfly—as well as about the unique relationship between specific plants and butterflies.

The exhibit is appropriate for all ages.

Sponsored in part by the Geraldine Stutz Trust, Cablevision, Sprainbrook Nursery, Bartlett Tree Experts, Hitachi America, Central Animal Hospital and HSBC.



## NATURALIST COMINGS AND GOINGS



In April, we bade farewell to friend and co-worker Jennifer Sloan as she left full-time employment at the Nature Center to pursue other career opportunities. Jenn worked at the Center since 2006.

During her tenure, Jenn has made many contributions to the Center, none more notable than establishing the Nature Center's Organic Garden. Under Jenn's watchful eye, and with countless hours of labor and the benefit of a green thumb, the garden has grown to an impressive size and is now an important



element in our educational programming. Jenn has also added her creative touch to our annual Natural History Exhibits. This year's exhibit, *Trees: Heroes of Our Planet*, created by Jenn and Director of Education and Graphics John Mancuso, is currently on display in our Exhibit Room. But it is Jenn's enthusiasm as a naturalist educator that may have been her most enduring contribution to the Center's young visitors. During Jenn's tenure, she touched the lives of thousands of youngsters, sharing her love of nature and the environment in a way that made learning fun and meaningful.

While Jenn currently continues to have an association with the Center, providing assistance with our organic garden, we'll miss seeing her on a daily basis, and wish her a future filled with personal and professional success.

Jenn's departure created a job opening that we filled immediately with the hiring of Greg Wechgelaer. Greg is not a newcomer to the Center. He began working at the Center as a volunteer in spring 2008, was employed as a summer intern in 2008, and then began working as a per diem employee. Our familiarity with Greg made us certain that he would be perfect for the position of naturalist educator. And he is! Welcome Greg, we're happy to have you join the Center as a full-time staff member.



Greenburgh Nature Center — Sierra Club Lower Hudson Chapter  
SUMMER 2010 Environmental Programs



All programs are held at the Nature Center at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served at 7:00 p.m. Presentations are approximately 45 minutes in length with time afterwards for questions and discussion. They are designed for adults and high school students. Programs are free, and handicapped parking is available.

### Wednesday, July 14: Hiking the Road To Ruins

Local hike leader and author David Steiner will show slides and talk about day trips and camping adventures to more than twenty fascinating and unusual landmarks and historical sites in the New York area. David will take you on a virtual hike through history, exploring local iron mines, old military sites, caves and other places rich with stories and mystery. Program will be followed by a book signing for those who intend to "hit the trails."

### Wednesday, September 22: The Environment and Our Health: What's the Connection?

A panel of both conventional and alternative health professionals will discuss their perspectives and experiences relating to environmental impacts on our health and well-being. The panel will include an MD, a chiropractor, a nutritionist, a holistic healer and a psychotherapist.

# Butterfly Basics

by John Mancuso, Director of Education and Graphics



Visitors to the Nature Center this summer will be in for an added bonus: our new Butterfly Exhibit opened June 12<sup>th</sup> and runs through September 30<sup>th</sup>. Visitors will be treated to the spectacle of native butterflies flying freely in our refurbished greenhouse. To get you in the mood for a visit, we thought we'd give you a few *Butterfly Basics*.

Butterflies are insects. Butterflies and moths belong to the order Lepidoptera. Lepidos is Greek for "scales" and ptera means "wing." Like all insects, butterflies have six legs, three body parts, a pair of antennae, compound eyes, and an exoskeleton. The three body parts are the head, thorax and abdomen. A butterfly's body is also covered by tiny sensory hairs.

Butterflies have two pairs of large wings covered with colorful scales in overlapping rows. Lepidoptera are the only insects that have scaly wings. The wings are attached to the butterfly's thorax. Veins support the delicate wings and nourish them with blood.

Butterflies are good fliers. Speed varies among butterfly species. Poisonous varieties are slower than non-poisonous ones. Can you guess why? The fastest butterflies can fly 25 miles per hour or faster. Slow flying butterflies fly about 5 mph. As butterflies age, the color of their wings fade and the wings become ragged.

Butterflies and moths undergo complete metamorphosis, in which they go through four different life stages:

- **Egg** - A butterfly starts its life as an egg, often laid on a leaf.
- **Larva** - The larva (caterpillar) hatches from an egg and eats almost constantly. The caterpillar molts (loses its old skin) many times as it grows. It will increase up to several thousand times in size before pupating.
- **Pupa** - The caterpillar turns into a pupa (chrysalis), a resting stage.
- **Adult** - A butterfly emerges from the chrysalis, completing the cycle.



Although a few species of caterpillars are meat-eaters, most eat leaves. A caterpillar's first meal, however, is its own eggshell. Butterflies sip liquid food using a tube-like proboscis, which is a long, flexible "tongue." This proboscis uncoils to sip food, and coils up again into a spiral when not in use. Most butterflies live on flower nectar, while some sip from rotting fruits. A rare few prefer rotting animal flesh or animal fluids.

Butterflies are found all over the world and in all types of environments: hot and cold, dry and moist, at sea level and high in the mountains. Most butterfly species, however, are found in tropical areas, especially tropical rainforests.



Many butterflies migrate in order to avoid cold weather. Butterfly migration is not well understood. Most, like the Painted Lady, the Red Admiral, and the Common Buckeye, migrate relatively short distances, but a few, like some Monarchs, migrate thousands of miles.

There are about 28,000 butterfly species worldwide.