

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. Call, write, or email for our brochure, or visit our website. 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 14 years and older.

The Center's grounds are open daily from dawn to dusk. The trails are unpaved nature trails, so please watch where you walk. Please use a trail map to help you find your way. Listen to WFAS 1230 AM for weather-related closings.

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 valid for general admission only, not for special events)

FROM THE DIRECTOR, *Kurt Hundgen*



It's a good time to reflect on the past year at the Center and to look forward to the coming year. 2009 was an exciting year for the Nature Center. Staff and our Board of Directors, with input from membership, developed our new Master Plan. Four capital projects have been identified that we envision will enhance and support future growth of the Center's programs and activities for members.

The new Barnyard Exhibit was our first project. Started in August and just recently completed, this larger exhibit will allow us to expand our collection of domestic animals, which will further elevate our education programming and provide members with a more varied viewing experience. In addition to Billy, the Goat, and our resident flock of Eastern Turkeys, two new species to be exhibited are Tunis Sheep and Nigerian Dwarf Goats. Next spring, we plan to organize a "Members Day" to celebrate the opening of this new exhibit.

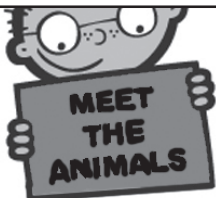
The next project on our docket is Nature's Discovery Zone for Children, the focus of this year's **Annual Giving Campaign**. Designed to engage children in nature exploration and discovery, we feel this project will have an immediate impact on our family membership and the community, and will attract more visitors to the Center.

But we need help to make Nature's Discovery Zone for Children a reality in 2010. I respectfully ask our membership to support this year's Annual Giving Campaign.

To further generate awareness of our Master Plan and the GNC organization, I am pleased to announce that Vicki Seiden Sherman has joined our team as Director of Marketing. Vicki comes to us with a wealth of marketing experience at the local and national levels and fills a much-needed niche in our organization.

For further information and to learn more about our Master Plan, please visit our website at www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

On behalf of the GNC, our best wishes for a happy, healthy 2010.



SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 11:00 AM
and
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2:00 PM

Come for an hour of fun as one of our naturalists shows off some of our favorite animals. For children ages 5 to 12 and their adult companions. Members-\$2, Non-members-\$6 per person.

FEBRUARY VACATION NATURE CAMP for grades K-3

Monday, February 15—Thursday, February 18
9:30 AM to 1:00 PM



Let us give your child an action-packed time during the school vacation. Our naturalists will involve, amuse, stimulate and inform your children with different activities each day, including animal study, nature crafts, nature exploration, and nature games. Morning snack included. Lunch should be sent with child each day. The fee for four days: Members-\$160, Non-members-\$210. Enrollment is limited, and pre-registration and pre-payment are required to hold a place.

We will also be running camp programs during the March/April school vacation and in the summer. Check our website for details.

WEEKDAY DROP-IN PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (NO PRE-REGISTRATION OR PRE-PAYMENT REQUIRED)

Children 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.

January 4, 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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 winter days at the Center with walks, live animals, stories and crafts.

Wednesdays: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

January 6, 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

JANUARY

- 9 SAT 2:00 PM – THE BEAST WITH 1000 EYES**—Winter blahs? We'll "see" about that! Come in out of the cold and join children's author Laura Dower (Monster Squad series), Animal Curator Travis Brady, and a whole crew of critters as we read from Ms. Dower's newest book, The Beast With 1000 Eyes, design goofy monster/animal masks, and invent our own crazy story together! For ages 5 and up. Reservations recommended. Members-\$2, Non-members-\$6 per person.
- 17 SUN 2:00 PM – FINDING AND FEEDING WINTER BIRDS**—Join Senior Naturalist Dean Fausel on a winter walk to learn what birds wintering in our area like to eat and where they find shelter. The walk will include a visit to the Center's birds of prey exhibit and busy bird feeders, as well as a search for our more elusive feathered friends. Included with Museum admission.
- 23 SAT 2:00 – 4:00 PM – CREATIVE INSPIRATIONS FROM NATURE**—A creative writing workshop led by Karen Rippstein, a creative writing teacher who has conducted popular writing programs at Rockefeller State Park Preserve and Westchester Community College. Let the surroundings of the Nature Center be your inspiration to paint words into a poetic rhythm of lyrical language. Recommended for ages 15 and up. Group size is limited to 12, so pre-registration is required. Members-\$10, Non-members-\$15.
- 31 SUN 2:00 PM - FEEDING FUN**—It's mealtime in our live animal museum. Come see what's on the menu. Included with Museum admission.

FEBRUARY

- 6 **SAT 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM – HUDSON RIVER EAGLEFEST**—GNC is partnering with Teatown Lake Reservation and other environmental organizations in a daylong program that celebrates the bald eagles' return to the Hudson River and other waterways of the Hudson Valley. The day includes birds of prey shows, children's activities, environmental exhibits and more. **Activities take place at Croton Point Park**, with a shuttle bus leaving from there and traveling to other eagle viewing sites along the river. For tickets and more information go to www.teatown.org, or call 762-2912, ext. 110. Bring binoculars. Alternate date for severe weather is Sunday, February 7th.
- 7 **SUN 2:00 – 4:00 PM – NATURAL HISTORY EXHIBIT OPENING – TREES: HEROES OF OUR PLANET**—Trees are essential for a healthy ecosystem. Come visit our exhibit and learn fascinating facts about trees and how they benefit the planet. Refreshments served. Included with Museum admission. Sponsored in part by Houlihan-Lawrence and Westchester County Parks.
- 13 **SAT 10:30 AM – WINTER WONDERLAND PUPPET SHOW**—Puppeteer Jill Liflander brings her creative talents to the Nature Center, leading adults and children alike into the world of imagination. Her playful, engaging puppets will have you laughing with delight! Recommended for ages 2-7. Members-\$2, Non-members-\$6.
- 21 **SUN 2:00 PM – LET'S CELEBRATE SNOW**—Catching snowflakes on your tongue, making snow angels, building snowmen, these pleasures are timeless. We invite you to join us at the Nature Center to participate in all of these activities as we celebrate snow! If Mother Nature doesn't cooperate with a blanket of fresh snow, Naturalist Educator Jennifer Sloan will still lead you on an exploration into the world of snowflakes, and you'll have a chance to make a one-of-a-kind snowflake that you can take home. Pre-registration requested. Members-\$2, Non-members-\$6 per person.

MARCH

- 6 **SAT 2:00 – 4:00 PM – CREATIVE INSPIRATIONS FROM NATURE**—A creative writing workshop led by Karen Rippstein, a creative writing teacher who has conducted popular writing programs at Rockefeller State Park Preserve and Westchester Community College. Let the surroundings of the Nature Center be your inspiration to paint words into a poetic rhythm of lyrical language. Recommended for ages 15 and up. Group size is limited to 12, so pre-registration is required. Members-\$10, Non-members-\$15.
- 7 **SUN 11:30 AM - MEMBERS PANCAKE BRUNCH AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**—Pre-paid reservations by February 25. Under 5 years-\$3; all others-\$6. Meeting to elect board members and officers at 12:15 PM.
- 14 **SUN 1:00 - 4:00 PM - MAPLE SUGARING PARTY**—Family fun to celebrate the end of winter and the peak of the maple sugaring season, when the warming daytime temperatures encourage the sap to flow. Featured events include depictions of Native American and Colonial style sugaring sites, candy and ice cream making, and live music. For discounted rate, register and pre-pay by Thursday, March 11. Early registration rates: Members-\$4, Non-members-\$8. Day of event rates: Members-\$6, Non-members \$10 per person.
- 21 **SUN 2:00 PM – ODD CREATURES OF THE DEEP: Slippery, Slimy, Scaly Animals of the Hudson River**—Travel to the bottom of the Hudson River and back with Brittany Burgio, GNC's Living Collections Assistant. Brittany, who previously worked for the Hudson River Research Reserve, which studies the health of the Hudson River, will show off some interesting live animals found right next door in the Hudson - slippery eels, clawing crabs, fantastic fish - as well as mystery creatures that might be found in your own backyard. Come see, and touch, these amazing critters. Members-\$2, Non-members-\$6 per person.



Greenburgh Nature Center
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WINTER 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.

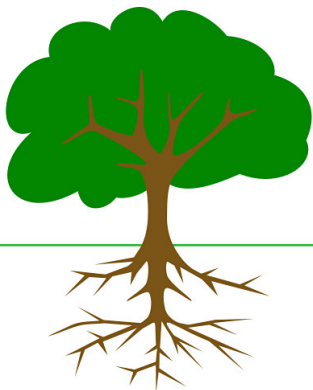


Printed on recycled paper

Natural History Exhibit 2010

February 7 through October 3

TREES: HEROES OF OUR PLANET



Trees prevent soil erosion, filter pollutants from the air, and provide food and shelter for animals. Trees lower the temperature on a warm day, provide raw material for the building of houses and furniture, and are the inspiration for art and poetry. The list of ways in which trees benefit the planet is very long, indeed. Come see our exhibit and learn the anatomy of a tree, the role trees play in a healthy ecosystem, and the many threats that they face from the people they serve so well. The exhibit includes pictures, charts, hands-on displays and more. It is geared for adults and children.

Sponsored in part by Houlihan Lawrence and Westchester County Parks.

Arborphilia

By Jennifer Sloan, Naturalist Educator



Deep in the heart of every adult, I'm sure there is a tree-loving "Lorax"*. Whether you grew up in a big city, the suburbs, or farm-country, you have some memory of a particular tree that meant something special to you. Perhaps you sat in its shade to read, climbed its branches to feel on top of the world, or watched the birds make a home in its canopy. For me, the rather ugly swamp maple that sat in the front yard of my childhood home was an integral part of play. The neighborhood kids would use it as a "base" while playing tag; its roots pushed up the sidewalk, making a perfect ramp to jump our bicycles over. In autumn I would rake its leaves into labyrinth-like patterns to run through.

Recently my parents were asked by their municipality to remove the "hazardous" swamp maple. A new family had moved onto the block and thought the broken sidewalk, caused by the roots, was dangerous for their toddler. No one would have defended the tree based on aesthetic quality, but my parents thought long and hard about the birds, bugs, and squirrels that would be displaced if that tree were chopped down. Woodpeckers absolutely loved it, despite its appearance. Many sparrows had made homes in its hollows. Happily, they decided to fix the sidewalk and fought to keep the tree.

Deep in the heart of a tree, at least one that's healthy and strong, there is heartwood. Heartwood is dead sapwood that has become hardened with natural glues made by the tree. This is where the tree gets the strength to withstand wind, rain, gravity, and the weight of its own canopy. The outermost layer of a tree is the bark, meant to conceal and protect all that lies within. When the bark is peeled off, carved into, cut, or scratched, the tree's immunity to disease becomes compromised. Moisture and rot then can intrude and cause the tree to become hollow. Dead heartwood cells have no defense. When this happens along the GNC's paths, the tree is considered a hazard and must be taken down. I miss the black oak that sat by the Sylvia Stein Nature Trail, and the sassafras that used to shade the western part of our Great Lawn. They were two of my favorites.

For GNC Senior Naturalist Dean Fausel, the flowering dogwoods found on our property are a personal favorite. However in the last 20 years, northern dogwoods have become riddled with fungi and viruses that have wiped out all but a few on our property. Still, the few that remain look strong, and new saplings seem to be growing well. To restore the population of this beautiful, native tree, the Greenburgh Nature Center is initiating a restoration campaign, whereby saplings will be planted by volunteers and participating school groups to establish a nursery, a protected space with ideal growing conditions. Once they reach the appropriate age and hardiness, they will be transplanted throughout our preserve. Dogwoods are not alone in their plight. Many trees have recently succumbed to insect infestations, fungus, and other diseases. The reason you rarely find an elm on any Elm Street is due to Dutch Elm's Disease, and the Asian long-horned beetles have preyed-upon many maples in the United States. Trees may be heroes in their own right, but they need our help too. We should all look within, find that tree-hugger, that inner "Lorax", and do our part to foster our woody counterparts.



To celebrate all they do for us and our planet, our 2010 annual Natural History Exhibit will spotlight trees! Express your arborphilia—come visit our exhibit, *Trees: Heroes of the Planet*, from February through September, and explore our trail system to look for the 100+ species of trees and shrubs found here.

**The Lorax* is a beloved children's book by Dr. Suess that tells the story of an unlikely creature (the Lorax) who comes to the rescue of trees.



The GNC Welcomes Vicki Seiden Sherman, Director of Marketing

The Greenburgh Nature Center's Board of Directors and Staff are pleased to welcome Vicki Seiden Sherman as our Director of Marketing. This new position was created to fill a growing need at the Center to increase awareness and visibility of the GNC. As we move forward with our Master Plan and expanded facilities and programs, marketing will be invaluable to our success.

Ms. Sherman, a resident of Chappaqua, NY, brings many years of experience and leadership in the field of marketing, advertising and promotion. Since 1996, Vicki has been the President of VSS Consulting, providing local, regional and national clients with marketing services ranging from strategic direction, development of advertising plans and ways to increase awareness through promotional materials that she develops.

Prior to that, she worked as Senior Vice President, Director of Account Services for Fresh Perspectives/Clarion, a promotion agency where she handled many national consumer products. Her experience also includes positions with increasing responsibility at Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising and Laurence, Charles, Free & Lawson, both advertising agencies in NYC.

Vicki has served as a Commissioner on the New Castle Town and Parks Recreation Commission, volunteers at the Chappaqua Schools through the PTA and Varsity Swim Team, and is a board member at the Willowbrook Pool and Tennis Club in Mount Kisco. Ms. Sherman has a Bachelor of Science in Communications and Design from Cornell University. She is married and has three children.



Greenburgh Nature Center — Sierra Club Lower Hudson Chapter Winter 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, January 13

Studying the Black Caiman in Guyana: How a Study Had Results Beyond Those Anticipated

Peter Taylor conducted a study on the Black Caiman in Guyana. His talk will focus not only on what has been learned about the ecology of this largest vertebrate animal on the continent, but also about how the indigenous people of the area have learned to live with such an intimidating predator in their midst. Guyana, one of the smaller countries in South America, is one of the world's richest countries in terms of biodiversity, and Mr. Taylor's presentation will also cover the spectacular natural history of the area, including magnificent birds.

Wednesday, February 10

YES In My Backyard! Backyard Biodiversity is for Every Resident

Whether you've got a two-acre lot or an apartment patio garden, you can enrich the opportunity for life to thrive all around you! Learn how we can each contribute to the overall health and beauty of our world as we create a spreading "neural network" of biodiversity in our own backyards. Darrin Duling, Director of the Native Plant Center in Valhalla, will present ideas for creating native gardens that will attract and support insects, birds and animal life on whatever size property you have. Sprainbrook Nursery Proprietor Al Krautter will explain how the use of organic nutrient systems protects our water, soil, and wildlife of all sorts, as well as the health of our children and pets. Bring ideas and questions about your own property's potential biodiversity to discuss with our presenters.

Wednesday, March 10

Tracking Nighttime Bird Migration Through Urban-Rural Corridors

Understanding how birds assess and utilize urban-rural corridors during migration is essential to their conservation, however, little is known about how birds evaluate the obstacles and utilize the resources available during migration, which generally occurs at night. Using Greenburgh Nature Center as one of his research sites, Fordham University Professor Dr. Alan Clark has been conducting research, using night flight call recording data combined with small-scale radar data, to better understand how urban light and noise pollution affect migrating birds. Dr. Clark's talk will touch on both his research and its goal of providing important information to wildlife managers and city planners on how to improve conditions for birds migrating through urban landscapes.