



museum bulletin

Birds on the Wing

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Look for these symbols to identify where an event will be held...



25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY
Public hours: Fri. – Sun, 12pm – 4pm
“Meet the Animals” Saturday & Sunday
1pm & 2:30pm
845.534.7781



120 Muser Drive, Cornwall, NY
Across from 174 Angola Road
Office hours: Mon. – Fri. 8:30am – 4pm
Visitor Center & Grasshopper Grove:
Weekends 10am – 4pm Apr. 8 – Nov. 12
Phone: 845.534.5506 x204
hnm.org

From the time I was very small, birds have been an integral part of my life. From my car seat, as we drove along the highways of central Pennsylvania, my mother would point out every Red-Tailed Hawk perched atop light poles and telephone lines. My father would take me out on misty mornings to show me flocks of turkeys gathered in the fields near our home. My grandmother and I rescued a sparrow with a broken leg from underneath the red maple tree in her yard. My grandfather had a parakeet that would sit on his knee every night while we watched Star Trek and ate chocolate-covered peanuts. They were everywhere, inside and out.



As I grew older, I became more scientific in my interest. I relished creeping along the forest floor, searching for the mysterious owner of a certain song. At 19, I began carrying a Sibley field guide to log dates and locations for every species I saw. I began volunteering for bird bandings and wildlife rehabilitators. At 24, I moved across the country to devote my time to learning about, rescuing, and teaching with birds of prey. At 28, I embarked on my journey into the sport of falconry. Now, as Manager of the Museum’s Wildlife Education Center, I spend my days chatting with Edgar Allan Crow while preparing to share my passion for birds with visitors.



In January 2017, a new exhibit, “Birds on the Wing” will open in the Ogden Gallery at the Wildlife Education Center. The exhibit will provide a new level of engagement for visitors featuring interactive elements for kids of all ages. Join us for a bird picnic, don your own set of wings, settle down in a comfy nest, observe bird behavior and see how your wingspan compares to some of the Hudson Valley’s biggest birds.

While you play, find out what makes birds amazing. How do woodpeckers make holes without getting brain damage? Why are hawks so good at hunting? What are birds saying to each other when they make all that noise? Which birds can you expect to see in your back yard?

Learn the answers to these questions and more when you visit the “Birds on the Wing” exhibit opening Saturday, January 28th, 2017. Opening weekend is for the birds, with bird snacks, bird crafts, a free gift for sponsoring one of the resident birds, and special bird-themed **Meet the Animals** programs at **1pm and 2:30pm Saturday and Sunday**.

–By Emily Nestlerode

Join us for the Grand Opening of our newest exhibit, “Birds On The Wing” January 28 and 29 at the Wildlife Education Center (see page 3 for details).

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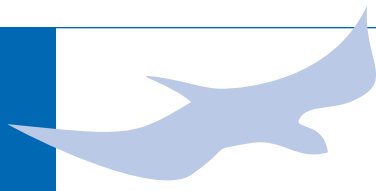
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Lauren Weller



From STEVE BYWATER

Board Member

As a parent of five who all attended preschool at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum, I am proud to now serve on the Board of Trustees.

As I recall, one of my children's first lessons in the classroom for three year olds was the study of what is alive. Rufus, the pumice rock, was offered for an example and they discussed theories and tests: Does he move? Will the plate of food left out for him remain uneaten? It's a wonderful, silly introduction to the scientific method.

As we grow, it remains important to continually reexamine what we think we know. Why do we believe the way we do? What evidence supports our idea? What evidence does not? Is there a better idea that more fully explains the evidence?



©George Potanovic Jr.

Steve Bywater with his daughter Meg. The Bywaters regularly bring their chickens to the Museum's Earth Day Celebration.

When climate change looks to be denied as a national policy, we can apply these critical thinking skills. We can look at atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, rising sea levels, increasing global temperatures and oceanic acidification to recognize a truth: the climate is changing.

Care for critters was a favorite preschool task of my daughter Rose. She insisted that she knew how to do it best, and she loved the animals more than the other students. Her teacher assured her that all the students needed a chance to learn the job, and to love the animals, too. This respect and love for life in all its forms is another great preschool takeaway. Rose' policy for a mouse in the house is still catch and release.

When Mrs. Dixon asked the Owls classes what they wanted to be when they grew up – in the case of my son Rourke, a paleontologist, or in the case of my daughter Meg, a giraffe – some may have answered the President of the United States. No matter what path they choose, choices they make will impact those around them and future generations. With a good basic understanding of critical thinking and respect for life and the environment, they are off on a good start.

The mission of the HHNM "to create responsible caretakers of our environment" extends beyond the preschool, from scouting programs, summer science and nature camp, family events, live wildlife exhibits to adult programs. I hope you'll join me and my family this year at many of these programs and events.

Spotlight on...

PATRICIA BENNETT

Volunteer



Patricia Bennett has been a dedicated volunteer for the Museum since June 2005. She volunteers in various capacities but most often you will see her welcoming face when you visit the Wildlife Education Center. Pat enjoys being around the animals, learning from the staff, and seeing the "delight the children express about the animals." When pressed to choose a favorite animal, it would be a toss-up between Edgar Allan Crow and Blossom A. Opossum for Pat!

Special Events for Families



STARLAB: INDOOR PLANETARIUM

Saturday, January 14
Three Sessions: 10am,
11:30am & 1pm (ODC)

Take a celestial adventure in the magical night sky via the StarLab! Learn how to identify the major constellations and stars while hearing Native American and Greek stories of how they were created. This inflatable planetarium is recommended for adults and children four years and up.

Pre-register online at hhnm.org or call 845.534.5506 x204. Walk-ins will not be admitted.

Admission: \$12 Adults & Children
Members: \$8 Adults & Children

BIRDS ON THE WING EXHIBIT GRAND OPENING

Saturday, January 28 &
Sunday, January 29
12 - 4pm

(Ribbon Cutting January 28 12:15pm)
(WEC)

Explore the fascinating world of birds and expand your knowledge of our local species. Use our state of the art microEye Discovery microscope to study adaptations by getting a close up look at bird feathers, learn to build a nest, play bird games, and get down and birdy about conservation! Opening weekend activities include crafts, refreshments, and Meet the Animal programs about birds at 1pm & 2:30pm.

Admission: \$3 Adults & Children 3 & up
Members: Free

SNOW DAY AT THE OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER!!

Sunday, February 12
11am - 3pm (drop-in any time)

Cooped up and need something to do? Join us for some frosty fun! Explore the woods, play goofy games in the snow, track some critters, go sledding, and make snow crafts. Dress for snow and fun! Event will be held snow or shine!

Admission: \$8 Adults, \$6 Children
Members: \$6 Adults, \$4 Children



OWL PROWL!

Sunday, February 19
7 - 9pm (WEC)

Join Carl Heitmuller for a hoot of an evening. Learn about the species of owls that are native to our region and their incredible adaptations. Then bundle up and head out into the woods to search for these birds of the night. Learn which owl sounds like a horse and which one is concerned with culinary delights! In the past, this popular program has attracted Eastern Screech Owls and Barred Owls!

Pre-register online at hhnm.org or call 845.534.5506 x204. Walk-ins will not be admitted.

Admission: \$12 Adults & Children 7 - 17
Members: \$8 Adults & Children 7 - 17

MAPLE SUGAR TOURS!

(ODC) (see page 6)

Saturdays & Sundays, March 4 - 26

ST. PATRICK'S DAY SNAKES

Friday, March 17
6 - 7:30pm (WEC)

Legend says that Ireland has no snakes because St. Patrick chased them into the sea and banished them from the

island forever. Museum Educators will separate fact from fiction about this story and everything "snake." Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day with some of our favorite snake friends and make a fun craft to take home!

Admission: \$10 Adults, \$8 Children
Members: \$8 Adults, \$6 Children

TROUT WEEKEND

Saturday, April 1 & Sunday, April 2
12 - 4pm (WEC)

Two days of fishy fun to welcome spring:

- Meet the Trout presentations 1pm & 2:30pm
- Brook Trout feedings 1:30pm & 3pm
- Fun activities and stories
- Create a Brook Trout craft to take home

Admission: \$3 Adults & Children 3 & up
Members: Free



GRASSHOPPER GROVE OPENING DAY

Saturday, April 8
10am - 4pm (ODC)

Grasshopper Grove, the Museum's Nature Play Area, opens for the season! Join us for playtime and a scavenger hunt in the Grove.

Admission: \$3 Adults & Children 2 & up
Members: Free



**MORE SPECIAL EVENTS
FOR FAMILIES PAGE 4**

SPECIAL EVENTS!

Special Events for Families

(continued from page 3)

RASCALLY RABBITS!

Saturday, April 15

Two Sessions: 9:30am & 11am (ODC)

Why do rabbits have so many babies? How do they protect themselves? Learn about the native Eastern Cottontail and then take a walk to search for signs of wild rabbits. Meet a live rabbit and make a bunny craft to take home.

Pre-register online at hnm.org or call 845.534.5506 x204. Walk-ins welcome if space allows.

Admission: \$8 Adults, \$6 Children

Members: \$6 Adults, \$4 Children



FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE

Friday, February 10

6 – 7:30pm (ODC)

Enjoy the moonlit fields and forests on a guided snowshoe trek. Review the history of and compare types of snowshoes, then venture outside to explore the sights and sounds of winter under the snow moon. Warm up with hot cocoa and a treat. Bring your own snowshoes. If there is no snow, we will hike instead.

Pre-register online at hnm.org or call 845.534.5506 x204.

Walk-ins welcome if space allows.

Admission: \$8 Adults, \$6 Children ages 10 -17

Members: \$6 Adults, \$4 Children ages 10 - 17



LANDSCAPE PAINT 'N' SIP

Saturday, February 18 3 – 5pm (ODC)

Join us for our first "Paint 'n' Sip" event in the ballroom overlooking the beautiful grounds of the Outdoor Discovery Center. This will be a fun afternoon to relax, laugh, and learn with renowned local artist John Gioia. Class includes wine, cheese, painting instruction, and all you need to create your own masterpiece.

Pre-register online at hnm.org or call 845.534.5506 x204.

Walk-ins will not be admitted.

Admission: \$60 Adults Members: \$50 Adults



SPECIAL LECTURE: WHAT'S A GMO?

Tuesday, February 28 (snow date March 28)

7:30pm at the Cornwall Presbyterian Fellowship Hall

222 Hudson St., Cornwall-on-Hudson

Learn the basics of the science that goes into genetically modified foods, also known as transgenic goods, and how they differ from traditional breeding programs. Discuss foods that can be genetically modified with high rates of applications. This will help participants who may be interested in avoiding GMO crops to be smart shoppers. The goal of this non-biased program is to help consumers gain resources on how to continue their personal education and/or advocate for themselves. Led by Maire Ullrich, Orange County resident and Agriculture Program Leader at Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Admission: \$8 Adults Members: \$5 Adults

SPECIAL LECTURE - "GETTING TO GREEN: SAVING NATURE: A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION"

Tuesday, March 14

7:30pm at the Cornwall Presbyterian Fellowship Hall

222 Hudson St., Cornwall-on-Hudson

Join us to hear Frederic C. Rich discuss his timely book on how the American environmental movement lost its way and how it can get back on track. His work is a rousing call for conservatives to reconnect with their long tradition of support for conservation and for the green movement to adopt the reforms necessary to restore bipartisan support for the environmental agenda. As Rand Wentworth, President, Land Trust Alliance says: "My fellow environmental leaders may not agree with every word, but we ignore this book at our peril. With a career at the highest levels of global capitalism and as a greatly respected environmental leader, Fred Rich is in a unique position to bring the right and left together to find practical solutions to our environmental challenges."

Admission: \$8 Adults Members: \$5 Adults

SCHOOL BREAK CAMP AT THE OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER

APRIL 10 - 14, 9AM - 3PM
AGES 6 - 9

Looking for some vacation fun? Sign up for the Nature Museum's spring break camp! Each day campers explore and play in the fields, ponds, and forests. The children's natural curiosity will be nurtured through a variety of outdoor experiences like log turning, fort building, and searching for signs of spring. After playing outdoors, campers meet one of our resident animals and enjoy age appropriate crafts and games. Dress for the weather. Campers bring a lunch and we provide hot chocolate.

Pre-register for day(s) or full session online at hnm.org or call 845.534.5506 x204.

Non-members: \$48 per day

Members: \$42 per day



Weekend Programs

Join us for a series of interactive and engaging programs about science and nature. Programs may include a presentation, outdoor exploration on our grounds or a variety of other activities.

Unless otherwise noted all programs begin at 10am at the Outdoor Discovery Center. Suggested for adults and families with children over the age of three. Preregistration is not required. Same day admission to the Wildlife Education Center is FREE with Weekend Program fee.

Admission: \$7 adults, \$5 children,
Members: \$5 adults, \$3 children



ANIMAL TRACKS & TRACES SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

We'll search for clues that tell the tale of who lives in the forest and what they do during the winter. Learn to identify common animal tracks and signs, plus make a plaster animal track casting to take home!

NATURE MYTHS & STORIES SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

Let us tell you a story (or two)! This hands-on storytelling by one of our Museum Educators will be accompanied by animal pelts, tracks, and games!

FEAST FOR FEATHERED FRIENDS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Nature normally supplies food for our northern birds during the winter months. However, providing a little extra energy in winter can be helpful ... especially if we want to invite our feathered friends in for a closer look! Learn about our Hudson Valley winter birds and how to attract them to your backyard.

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF ... DISCOVERING WEATHER SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Why does it snow? What causes wind? Bring the family to have some fun uncovering the mystery behind weather!



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Special School Break

Open Hours at the Wildlife Education Center

April 13 & 14, 12 – 4pm

Meet the Animals 1pm & 2:30pm

Admission: \$3 Adults & Children 3 & up

Members: Free



Programs at Wave Hill Public Garden and Cultural Center

Saturday, February 4:
Coyotes

Sunday, February 5:
Owls

Saturday, March 25:
Wildlife History of
New York



It's MAPLE SUGARING season!



At the Outdoor Discovery Center
Saturdays and Sundays
March 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 & 26
11am - 3pm - Tours on the Hour!

Admission: \$10 Adults, \$8 Children ages 3 - 17
Members: \$8 Adults, \$6 Children ages 3 - 17
Maple products and hot chocolate available for
purchase in our Visitors Center gift shop.

Please wear boots and dress warmly!

As winter ends, it's maple sugaring time! Visit us to see, learn, and, most importantly, TASTE! Learn how to identify and tap sugar maple trees, discover sugaring techniques



used by Native Americans, pioneers, and modern-day farmers, see an evaporator in action, and finish by participating in our taste test challenge to see if you can tell the difference between maple-flavored syrup and the real thing.

Sugar Bush Tours: 11am, 1pm & 2pm; a one mile moderate hike through field and forest to the Sugar Shack (terrain and weather conditions dependent)

Maple Lane Tours: 12pm & 3pm; perfect for little legs, a short walk from the farmhouse to our NEW Sugar Shack after a tour of the sugar maple stand

Special Event! A Sugaring Off Celebration Saturday, March 4, 11am - 3pm (ODC)

It's opening day! Come celebrate the beginning of maple sugar season and visit our NEW Sugar Shack!

Get your tour ticket at the Visitors Center and join us for:

- Special crafts, games, and Native American story telling around the camp fire
- Enjoy treats of the sweet season
- Learn some fun recipes for Maple Syrup

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Just for Scouts ... Workshops & Programs

"Scouts Only" Maple Sugar Tours – March 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 & 26 10 - 11am (ODC)
Visit hnm.org for details. Call 845.534.5506 x209 to book your tour.
Scouts & Adults: \$7



Spring Scout Badge Workshops!

Bring your troop, den or pack for an exciting day of learning and fun on the trails as they earn requirements for awards and badges. Workshops are held at the ODC from 1:45 – 3:45pm.
Scouts: \$15 Adults: Free (1 Adult per 5 Scouts) No refunds for no-shows on the day of workshops.
Visit hnm.org for details and call 845.534.5506 x209 to make a reservation.

BOOK EARLY—
THESE EVENTS SELL OUT FAST!



CUB SCOUT WORKSHOPS

Sunday, April 2
Wolf "Air of the Wolf"
Sunday, April 9
StarLab for Tiger
"Sky is the Limit" and
StarLab Experience

StarLab Experience
Scouts & Adults: \$30

Saturday, April 29
Webelos & Arrow of Light
"Into the Woods"
Sunday, May 7
Bear "Super Science"

GIRL SCOUT WORKSHOPS

Saturday, April 1
Brownie "Hiker"
Sunday, April 30
Junior "Detective"
Saturday, May 6
Brownie "Household Elf"
Sunday, May 21
Daisy "Green Petal"

Animals & Nature Together ...ANTS!



WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER

Designed for children ages 2 - 4, this program provides an opportunity for children to learn about animals and have fun with their parent/grandparent/caregiver in a structured environment. Crafts, songs, stories, and hands-on exploration provide an enriching introduction to native animals. This one-of-a-kind program helps build an understanding and respect for the animals and plants in the Hudson Highlands. A great way to prepare your child for preschool!

WINTER SESSION – 6 WEEKS

January 17 – February 24

(snow make-up days the following week)

Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays:
10 – 11am

Pre-register online at hnm.org or call 845.534.5506 x204.

Price per Adult/Child pair: \$90

Members: \$70

5% sibling discount

SPRING SESSION – 8 WEEKS

March 7 – May 5

(no class April 11, 12 & 14)

Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays:
9:30 - 10:30am

Pre-register online at hnm.org or call 845.534.5506 x204.

Price per Adult/Child pair: \$120

Members: \$95

5% sibling discount

*Your child **MUST** be 2 years of age to enroll. This is a special time for adults and toddlers. Kindly make arrangements for siblings over 9 months. Enrollment for each class is limited to ten adult/child pairs; Pre-register early for your preferred day and time.

Just
for
Kids!

Nature Play Lunch and Afterschool Clubs at Grasshopper Grove



WINTER SESSIONS

January 4 - March 17; Monday, Wednesday, Friday (no clubs Jan. 16, Feb. 17 & 20)

SPRING SESSION

March 20 – May 24; Monday, Wednesday, Friday (no clubs Apr. 10 - 14 & 17)

Lunch Club: 11:30am - 1:30pm

Afterschool Club: 3 - 5pm

The Museum will once again offer our popular Nature Play Clubs for 4 & 5 year olds. Extend your child's outdoor playtime for up to three days a week. Playing outdoors is a wonderful way to develop coordination, practice cooperation, and connect to the environment. Plus, the extended hours help children prepare for the full days of kindergarten.

Pre-register online at hnm.org.

Price ranges from \$12 - \$15 per day depending on number of days a week registered. Drop-ins accepted if space allows and if registered online before 9am the day of the program. Drop-in rate is \$18 per day.

After School Adventures at the Outdoor Discovery Center!



Tuesdays: April 18, 25 & May 2, 9, 16;
3:45 – 5pm

Snakes, Snails, and Slimy Things!
Grades K – 2nd

Spring is when the forest comes back to life. Let's get out in search of things that are waking up and starting to crawl or slither around. Join the fun with Carl Heitmuller as we get dirty while we jump, crawl, and run in this weekly adventure.

Pre-register online at hnm.org or call 845.534.5506 x204.

Non-Members: \$75 Members: \$60

**Register online at
hnm.org or
call 845.534.5506 x204**

Young Naturalist Preschool at the Outdoor Discovery Center!



REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2017-2018

This popular program offers three and four year olds the opportunity to interact with other students and with nature in a hands-on and exciting way. The children learn letters, numbers, colors, and shapes while exploring, experimenting, and discovering the world around them. Young Naturalist Preschool brochure, application form, and sample contract are available at hnm.org.

FOUR-YEAR-OLD CLASSES

- Owl Class: Mon thru Fri; 8:45 - 11:30am
- Deer Class: Mon thru Fri; 12 - 2:45pm
- Dragonfly Class: Mon, Wed, Fri; 12:15 - 3pm

THREE-YEAR OLD CLASSES

- Bluebird Class: Mon, Wed, Fri; 9 - 11:45am
- Turtle Class: Tues & Thurs; 9 - 11:45am
- Frog Class: Tues & Thurs; 12:15 - 3pm

Member's Open House:

Thursday, January 19 from 3:30 - 6 pm (snow date: January 26). Members new to the program are encouraged to attend. Teachers will be available to answer questions and distribute application forms.

General Public Open House:

Thursday, March 9 from 3:30 - 6pm (snow date: March 16). Participants new to the programs are encouraged to attend. Teachers will be available to answer questions and distribute application forms.



PO Box 451
Cornwall, New York
12518



Museum Bulletin ■ Winter/Spring 2017

Save the Date!
**Hike-A-Thon & Earth Day
Celebration**
Saturday, April 22



HELP US REACH CORNWALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

\$1000 SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE!

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum is seeking Cornwall High School Seniors committed to incorporating environmental ethics in their future plans to apply for a \$1000 scholarship.

Students may obtain applications from the Cornwall High School guidance office or the Museum website at hnm.org under "ABOUT US" and then "COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP."

The Mission of the Museum is to create responsible caretakers of our environment. Through quality educational programs for the public that focus on the unique ecology of the Hudson Valley, the Museum promotes knowledge and appreciation of our natural world and the dynamic role of human interaction in its well-being.

hnm.org

CONTINUE YOUR CARING

CONNECT KIDS WITH NATURE FOR GENERATIONS!

Generations For Nature, the HHNM Planned Giving Circle, is made up of individuals who have included the Museum as beneficiaries in their estate plans. Their "planned gifts" may take many forms but they have one thing in common: their generosity will enable the Museum to fulfill its mission far into the future.

To join or to learn more, contact the Museum's Executive Director, Jackie Grant at 845.534.5506 x203

Wildlife Education Center

25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson
845.534.7781

Open year round:

Friday – Sunday from 12-4pm

Admission: \$3 for ages 3 & up

Members: Free

Outdoor Discovery Center

120 Muser Drive, Cornwall
(entrance across from 174 Angola Rd.),
845.534.5506 x204

Open mid-Apr. to mid-Nov.

Saturday – Sunday from 10am-4pm

· Trails: Free

· Grasshopper Grove:

Admission \$3 for ages 2 & up

Members – Free

hnm.org

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