

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 1:30 PM ANIMAL TRACKING ADVENTURE

The third in a series of wintertime Animal Tracking Adventures at Esopus Bend Nature Preserve, sponsored by the Esopus Creek Conservancy and the John Burroughs Natural History Society. Guided by ECC board member Greg Perantoni, a tracker with 17 years experience, participants will learn how to identify animal tracks and to observe clues to what the animal may have been doing at the time the tracks were made. In the absence of snow cover, the group will search for animal tracks along stream beds. Meet 1:30 p.m. at the Shady Lane entrance to the preserve. There is limited parking at the preserve entrance. For those who wish to carpool to the entrance, parking is available at the Saugerties Plaza on Rte. 9W just south of the Village of Saugerties. Contact the field trip leader, Greg Perantoni (greg.perantoni@yahoo.com) for additional information and/or directions. This ECC Environmental Education walk is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is not required. For additional information about upcoming ECC Nature Walks, please visit www.esopuscreekconservancy.org

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 6 P.M – 8 P.M., WOODCOCK WALK

Celebrate the vernal equinox by viewing one of the great events of the year. Join Christine Guarino (chrissey.guarino@gmail.com) for an evening stroll in the Shawangunk Grasslands to hear and possibly see male woodcocks perform their courting flights. Meet at the refuge entrance on Hoagerburg Rd. (Ulster Cty. Rt. 18)

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM TIVOLI BAYS BIRDING

We will explore the tidal marshes and upland habitat of this DEC property. Careful, respectful observations of Bald Eagle family life will highlight walk but waterfowl and other early migrants can be expected. Meet trip leader Mark DeDea (forsythnature@aol.com or 339-1277) to carpool at Forsyth Nature Center in Kingston at 7:00 am or meet at DEC parking lot on Cruger Island Road (about 100 yards west of where Dutchess County Rt. 103 makes sharp turn toward 9G) at 7:30 am.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 8:00 AM SIGNS OF SPRING NATURE WALK

The Esopus Creek Conservancy is sponsoring a guided nature walk to observe early signs of spring in a variety of ecologically rich habitats in the Town of Saugerties on Sunday, March 25, 2012. We will visit The Great Vly Wildlife Management Area, Esopus Bend Nature Preserve, and possibly the Saugerties Lighthouse Trail on the Hudson River, depending on available time, conditions, and participant interest. Meet 8:00 a.m. in the Saugerties Village Beach parking lot on Rte. 9W, just north of the Esopus Creek Bridge, at the foot of Partition Street in the Village of Saugerties. Participants can carpool and stay for the duration, or drive to each location and leave whenever necessary.

Bring binoculars, field guides, and spotting scopes if you have them, and be prepared for wet, muddy trails, and early spring weather conditions. Light rain often makes for excellent birding and nature observation, but heavy rain will cancel the walk. Children are welcome and encouraged, but please do not bring pets.

Contact the field trip leader, Steve Chorvas (schorvas@verizon.net) for additional information or

directions. This ECC Environmental Education walk is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is not required, but recommended in the event of unforeseen changes or cancellation. For additional information about upcoming ECC Nature Walks and Paddles, please visit www.esopuscreekconservancy.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM VERNAL POOLS AT EBNP

Enter the intimate living world of vernal pools with ecologist Spider Barbour. The Preserve boasts several vernal pools, teeming with biological activity at this time of year. In early spring amphibians wake from hibernation and head straight for wetlands and ponds where they engage in reproductive rituals different from ours, but just as fascinating and entertaining. With luck, the wood frogs will be calling in the pools, and there will be egg masses of spotted salamanders, perhaps larvae of marbled salamanders, and a few surprises. Meet 1:00 p.m. in the Saugerties Village Beach parking lot on Rte. 9W, just north of the Esopus Creek Bridge, at the foot of Partition Street in the Village of Saugerties. We will carpool to the Preserve. Contact schorvas@verizon.net for additional information or directions. This ECC Environmental Education walk is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is not required. For additional information about upcoming ECC Nature Walks, please visit www.esopuscreekconservancy.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM GEOLOGY WALK AT MOHONK PRESERVE

Meet Ray Haberski (rhaberski@earthlink.net) at the upper part of the West Trapps Parking Lot and hike to Undercliff Road. We will loop around to Overcliff Road and end up back at the parking lot. With a 20 minute stop for lunch at a spot overlooking the Catskills. Non Preserve members can purchase Day Passes for the weekend for \$10

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 8:00 AM SPRING IN HIGHLAND

Meet trip leader Matt Corsaro mattcorsaro@yahoo.com or 845-256-9839 at 7:00a.m. at the parking lot for the Hudson Valley Rail Trail off Commercial Avenue in Highland, later traveling to Franny Reese State Park and possibly other locations in the Highland-Esopus area as well to enjoy the emerging spring vegetation, possibly a vernal pool or two, and of course newly arrived and passing though birds.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM CREATIVITY, COMMUNITY, OBSERVATION, AND NATURE AT BURROUGHS SANCTUARY

Let nature be your muse! Bring journals, paints, cameras, collage materials, knitting, pens/pencils/paper, and guitars...anything that helps you in your self-expression or just bring yourself and enjoy some peace. We will spend a few hours exploring the natural beauty and historic surroundings of the John Burroughs Sanctuary where we will both spend some time creating our unique creations inspired by what we see and some time sharing our work (optional of course). We will also spend time reading and reflecting, taking advantage of the wisdom and observations in the writings of our society's

namesake, John Burroughs. Meet organizer Mira Bowin (mira.bowin@gmail.com) at Pond House at the sanctuary, Floyd Ackert Road, West Park.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 8:00 AM – NOON KENNETH WILSON STATE PARK

This park offers a variety of habitats and all are easily accessible. Join trip leader Peter Schoenberger (pds@netstep.net) at the start of neotropical migration. If time allows we may travel to nearby Yankeetown Pond as well. Meet at Forsyth Nature Center in Kingston at 5:30 a.m. to carpool with van or meet at parking lot on Wittenberg Road in the Town of Woodstock at 6:00 a.m. Field party will return to lot at 8:00 a.m. for those who are not early birds to enjoy the remainder of the outing.

SUNDAY, MAY 6, 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM BASHAKILL SPRING MIGRANTS

Meet Tom Crepet (255-0324) at the DEC parking lot (“birder’s lot”) on the east side of the wetlands, just north of Haven Road. The group usually spends some time in this area observing the waves of neotropical migrants before moving to other hot spots. From Rt. 209, 2 miles south of Rt. 17 in Wurtsboro, turn left onto Haven Road and cross the causeway. The driveway to the parking lot is on the left. A lunch is recommended.

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 6:00 AM – NOON WARBLER WALK #1

Meet Lin Fagan (faganlin@verizon.net or 339-2054) and Carol Weber (914 388-1569) at the New Paltz parking lot off Huguenot Street. The group will visit environs near town and travel towards Mohonk to search for neotropical migrants. Feel free to meet in the field or leave early for work.

SATURDAY, MAY 12, ULSTER COUNTY SPRING CENSUS: BIG DAY COUNT

This is the day we all look forward to. Spend the whole day in the field or just a few hours....who knows what may be found. Refer to your copy of Where to Bird in Ulster County or visit www.jbnhs.org for good birding locations. Submit your report in checklist order to Steve Chorvas (schorvas@verizon.net or P.O. Box 214, Saugerties, NY 12477). This information is combined in a regional report published by the New York State Ornithological Association. Please consider making a donation to one of the wonderful environmental causes in our county by making a pledge per species as well (see *The Chirp* for details)

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 6:00 AM - NOON WARBLER WALK #2

See above.