Ansonia Nature And Recreation Center 10 Deerfield Lane Ansonia, CT 06401 Tel: 203-736-1053 Fax: 203-734-1672 www.AnsoniaNatureCenter.org

Spring 2015 Calendar of Events

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Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center Mission Statement

The mission of the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center is to foster an ethic of environmental stewardship that will connect our communities to the natural world of the Lower Naugatuck River Valley, and balance the demand for recreation with the need for conservation.

APRIL

ANSONIA COMMUNITY ORGANIC GARDENERS: Annual

Meeting - Sat. Apr. 4, 10 am Come to the Nature Center to participate in this annual planning session for growing your own food this spring, summer, and fall. Pre-registration, while not required, is appreciated. For more information, call Pat Evans of ACOG, 203-906-5591





WILDLIFE REHABILITATION OPEN HOUSE

Sat. Apr. 4, 2 pm Dawn Sotir will introduce you to the "job description" of wildlife rehabilitators, what to expect if you become one, and what to do to provide "first aid" to a wild animal

in need. FREE, but please register.

FULL PINK MOON HIKE - Sat. Apr. 4, 7:30 pm Enjoy the sounds of spring with our Nature Center guides



as we lead you around our wetlands to spot some spring amphibians by the light of the moon. For all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult), FEE: \$1.00. Please call to register.

SPRING TERM JUNIOR RANGERS - Registration begins Thurs. Apr. 9 at 3:30 pm.

Calling all kids 11 to 14 years old who love nature! Has your child wanted to work with animals, garden, help maintain our trails, and help with special events? This is the opportunity to help the Nature Center in our 8-week after-school program. Parental permission is required. Class size is limited; this class fills up fast! FREE.

NATURE'S CHILD: Amphibians - Fri. Apr. 10, 10:30 am



Learn about these ancient and fascinating creatures secretly inhabiting our woods and wetlands. Take a hike to discover the Nature Center's slippery critters. Make a take home craft too! TUITION: \$7 per child (\$5.00 for family-level FANCI members and Ansonia residents).

Please pre-register for this class for preschoolers and their adults.

SPRING CLEANING AND PLANTING DAY Sat. Apr. 11, 9 am-noon



We'll supply gloves, plants, and pizza. Scouts, youth groups, student interns - this is a great community service opportunity! Help us beautify our park and get ready for spring. Bring your own garden tools if you want. Please pre-register.

AMPHIBIANS WITH ATTITUDE - Sat. Apr. 11, 2 pm

Do you ever wonder why some salamanders have yellow spots? Come to this family program and discover some of Connecticut's fascinating amphibians. Let's get our feet wet as we explore the Nature Center's vernal pools and get a first hand look at these slimy critters. FREE; please pre-register.

PET LOSS GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP Sundays, Apr. 12, May 10, June 14, 11 am Losing a beloved animal can be tragic and a very



emotional time for humans. There are numerous resources to turn to for the loss of a human loved one, but there are limited resources for when we lose an animal. Susan Wilson has created this support group for those of us who have lost an animal or have one in the process of moving on. Join us for these FREE sessions.

KITE WORKSHOP - Sun. Apr. 12, 2 pm

Join Ranger Martin for this family-friendly workshop. Construct your own kite and design and personalize it any way you want! If we have dry and windy weather, you can launch your creation after the class. MATERIALS FEE: \$7 per kite.

SPRING BREAK NATURE DAYS Mon. Apr. 13-Fri. Apr. 17, 9:30 am-3 pm

For children from 5 to 11 years old who love the outdoors and wildlife, these popular classes will not only be educational but also a chance to explore the 156 acres the park offers. We will visit a variety of habitats such as the park's wetlands, fields, and

woodlands. Great time of the year for amphibian searches too!!! TUITION: \$150 priority students (Ansonia residents and current family-level FANCI members), \$175 all others. (While you're here for Spring Break, why not register for Summer

Nature Days? See "Things to Come" at the end of the Calendar!)

FAMILY ORGANIC GARDEN PROGRAM Fridays, Apr. 17-June 26, 3:30-5 pm

Food Corps and ANC will lead fun, family-friendly activities in our organic garden. Learn about growing a variety of fruits and vegetables. Dress



appropriately; keep in mind you might get water and/or soil on your clothing. Closed-toe shoes, please! FREE with the potential to take home fresh local produce!

SPRING WILDFLOWERS OF CONNECTICUT Sat. Apr. 18, 10 am



Connecticut is blessed with many colorful spring wildflowers. Known as spring ephemerals, these perennial plants emerge quickly in the spring and die back to their

underground parts after a short growth and reproduction phase. Our Powerpoint presentation will highlight several native wildflowers such as wood anemone, Dutchman's

breeches, bloodroot, saxifrage, trillium, trout lily, lady's slipper, wild geranium, squawroot, Jack-in-the-pulpit, May apple, wild ginger and others. Stories and folklore of our native spring wildflowers will be shared. Indoors program with optional hike. Geared for adults and older children. Presenters: Peter and Barbara Rzasa. FREE.

STEPPING STONES MINI EXHIBIT: Healthyville Tues. Apr. 21-Tues. May 5

The Nature Center welcomes Healthyville, a portable exhibit promoting healthy choices. Shop at the Good Foods Market, use a pulse meter, balance food



choices with physical activity, practice brushing and flossing in a big mouth, and more. Healthyville was created by Stepping Stones Museum for Children. Healthyville Mini Exhibit was made possible by GE Capital with additional support by Newman's Own Foundation, People's United Community Foundation and Purdue Pharma.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION - Sat. Apr. 25, 10 am-4 pm



Every day is Earth Day at the Nature Center! We invite everyone to honor Mother Earth with our Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center co-hosting this annual event. Enjoy free hikes, live animals, and much more! Join one of our naturalists for an amphibian walk! Food and snacks!

Local vendors and exhibitors! All are welcome, young and oldbring friends and family.



MAY

WILDERNESS SURVIVAL: Edible and Medicinal Plants Sat. May 2, 2 pm

Backyards, vacant lots, woodlands, and open fields support tons of food and medicines for the natural collector! Join Ranger Jessica, who has a degree in biology, for this in-depth study class. Jess will lead us in identification of wild plants, and we'll taste and smell some along the way. Please pre-register. Class size limited. FREE.

FULL FLOWER MOON HIKE - Sat. May 2, 7 pm



Flowers are starting to bloom in the woodlands along the trails. Join our Nature Center staff for this nighttime fragrance hike. FEE: \$1.00; please call to register.

RAIN BARRELS 'R US - Sun. May 3, 2 pm

Join Alexis Wilcox and Dan Rozanski of Duck Truck Composting in Hamden as they lead you through the process® of how to make your own rain barrel for your house and garden: It only takes a few simple tools and small parts to make a big impact on the environment. Please register for this FREE program.

NATURE'S CHILD: Baby Birds - Fri. May 8, 10:30 am



If we find a baby bird this spring, what should we do? Join one of our Nature Center

naturalists to learn about the life of a baby bird. Hear a short story, make "binoculars," and then take a short scavenger hunt hike. TUITION: See Apr. 10. Please call in advance for this class for preschool children and their adults.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT: Over the Hedge - Fri. May 8, 7 pm This animated film will have the kids laughing out loud! It's the tale of a group of forest friends led by a mischievous raccoon, RJ (voiced by Bruce Willis), as a suburban housing development threatens their forest. Ken Fox of TVGuide.com called the movie "A sly satire of American 'enough is never enough' consumerism and blind progress at the expense of the environment." FREE; you can buy popcorn and lemonade for \$1.00. Please register.

D.E.E.P. C.A.R.E. PROGRAM: Fishing - Sat. May 9, 9 am



This beginners' session is geared for children over 6 years old with their adults. Join Ranger Martin and Russ Zelanin for this pond side class. Equipment is included, but if you have your own, bring it. Meet at the Nature Center building for instructions, then head to the water! FREE. Please preregister; class size is limited.

PET LOSS GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - Sun. May 10, 11 am See Apr. 12 listing for description.

SPRING MIGRANTS OF THE NATURE CENTER Sat. May 16, 8 am

Join avid birder Kathy Gambacini for this early morning walk to find the birds living in or moving through our parklands to nest farther north. This is a prime time for birders. Bring your own binoculars or use ours. Dress for walking outdoors. We'll start with a quick introduction to birds. FREE, but please register in advance.

EXPLORE REDWING POND - Sat. May 16, 2 pm

Join the Nature Center staff for a fun afternoon catching frogs and other inhabitants of Redwing Pond. We'll start with a brief talk on the vertebrates and invertebrates who inhabit the pond and learn how to identify them. Use our collection equipment to help us catch, observe and release these critters. FREE; please pre-register.

JUNE

THE TURNING OF VENUS - Fri. June 5, 7 pm



Gaianne Jenkins, a retired mathematician with an interest in paleoastronomy, will tell us about an ancient calendar used as . late as the Middle Ages that predicts the motions of the moon and some planets. She will focus on the eight phases of Venus and the ancient five seasons of the

year. On the night of this talk Venus will be near maximum Eastern elongation, turning from the phase of the lake to the phase of the earth, and we will be changing from spring to high summer. After the talk, weather permitting, we will view Venus through telescopes; it should appear as a bright half disc. FREE; please pre-register.

CT TRAILS DAY - Sat. June 6, 9 am

Join Nature Center director Alison Rubelmann, an avid hiker and nature buff, for this morning walk. Discover the flora and fauna of our typical New England woodland. This moderate hike will also visit the settlement of the Paugasucks. Bring water and a snack. Please wear sturdy shoes. Suitable for older children and adults. FREE; call to register.

NATURE'S CHILD: Tidal Pools - Fri. June 12, 10:30 am Come to meet some animals from Long Island Sound who are visiting the Nature Center's salt water tank. Snails, crabs, a sea star perhaps, and even a sponge may be on hand to delight you. A craft to take home is planned, and a short story too. TUITION: See Apr. 10 listing. Please pre-register for this class for preschool children and their adults.

OUTER ISLAND FIELD TRIP - Sun. June 7, 8:30 am sharp

Join the staff of ANC on this amazing field trip to Outer Island, one of the Thimble Islands off the coast of Branford, CT. Meet us at 8:30 am at the Thimble Islands Ferry Service for the 9:00 am ferry. Outer Island is a



wildlife refuge and also an ecological preserve and refuge for migratory birds. Its habitats include rocky intertidal zone, marsh, and beach, all typical of Long Island Sound. A docent will teach us about the flora and fauna and the beauty of this unique natural environment. FEE: Round trip ferry fee is \$10 per person. Registration required; trip limited to 14 people.

FANCI ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK SUPPER Wed. June 10, 5:30 pm



Join the Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. to see what new and exciting projects they've been working on. Bring your own table setting and a casserole, salad, dessert, or other dish to share. Election of FANCI officers will take

place at this meeting. Bring ideas for next year's programs and projects. Please register in advance.

NATURE GAMES FOR CHILDREN - Sat. June 13, 2 pm

You Can't See Me!" Come join Ranger Jessica for an afternoon of hiding in the woods, chasing each other through the

Sa fields, and pretending we are the animals that live in Connecticut's forests, while learning about the wonderful wild world around us! We'll top it off with a wilderness scavenger hunt! FREE.

PET LOSS GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - Sun. June 14, 11 am See Apr. 12 listing for description.

"LITTLE FAIRIES, BIG MAGIC" with Cyril May Sat. June 20, 2 pm



This unique fairy tale magic show has both a fairy theme and an environmental message about protecting the wilderness. Cyril the sorcerer-the Merlin of environmental magic-is delighted to perform this show as a way to remind young and old alike that just as we need our homes, so do creatures in the wild. FREE family program. Please call to register.

SUMMER SOLSTICE DRUMMING - Sat. June 20, 7:30 pm



Bring your own drum and join Ranger Dawn Sotir to celebrate the new season and the return of long days and short nights. Please call to register and reserve your place in the circle. FREE. For adults and children 10 and up.

WILDERNESS SURVIVAL: Fire Making - Sat. June 27, 2 pm

How do you start a fire without matches or a lighter? Where do you find good firewood when you're stranded in the wilderness? Join Ranger Jessica to learn how to build fires from things you find outside! We'll visit the cedar tree to collect its bark, gather some dead branches from our pines, and work on creating our very own coals to ignite the blaze! FREE; please call to register.

STRAWBERRY MOON HIKE - Sat. June 27, 8 pm



Join Nature Center rangers for this nighttime exploration of the park's trails as we follow the scents of summer through forest and field environments in this adventure geared for adults and children. Wear sturdy shoes. Enjoy a summer fire too! FEE: \$1.00; please pre-register.

ONGOING PROGRAMS* Sundays: Guided Hikes, 1 pm Thursdays: Yoga for Your Health, 6:30 pm-call Pam, 203-888-4124 • Saturdays: Creature Features, 12 noon

THINGS TO COME (Summer 2015) Moonshine and Firefly Hike • Mud Madness - Family Movie Nights - Puppeteer/Singer Chris Rowlands -AND

SUMMER NATURE DAYS

Mon. Aug. 3-Fri. Aug. 7, Mon. Aug. 10-Fri. Aug. 14, Mon. Aug. 17-Fri. Aug. 21, 9 am-3 pm. Choose one or more weeks! For children from 5 to 11 years old who love the outdoors and wildlife, these popular classes will not only be educational but also a chance to explore the 156 acres the park offers. We will visit a variety of habitats such as the park's wetlands, fields, and woodlands. A great choice for a fun late-summer experience! TUITION: \$150 priority students (Ansonia residents and current family-level FANCI members), \$175 all others.

Be sure to see the Friends' Focus for information on the Playground Revitalization Project!

Please check our website for updates: www.ansonianaturecenter.org





Friends' Focus Spring 2015



Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. (FANCI) The Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. (FANCI) exists to support the staff, the programs, and the vision of the Ansonia Nature Center.



THANK YOU! Monetary donations: Suzanne Andrews, Charles H. Baldwin, Clorox Company Foundation, Lori Gallagher, Susan Hawley, Antoinette Jaskilka, Donna Krukosky, Doris & Paul Leek, Carleton B. Newell, Donna

Presnell, John & Joanna Saffo, Beverly B. Tate, United Way, Amy Volovski, Joseph Welsh. In memory of Robert Steinis: Mary Ann Panelli & Friends at Bozzuto's.

Other donations & services: Aaron & Naomi Allen (dog training event); Michael & Kenny Belardinelli (dog training event); Nick Dellolio (3 tanks & supplies); Emmett O'Brien Technical students (preparing bluebird house kits); Roxana Findley (guinea pig supplies); Sheila Michalsen (cat carrier); Helene Sarracco (bird seed, feeder, microwave oven); Susan & Ian Schroeder (dog training event); Alice Terribile & Jim Neilson (dog training event); Carol Valentin (dog food).

Winter 2015 program presenters: Mike Karolkowski, Ali Rubelmann, and Jeff Rubelmann (Healthy Living Series (Jan. 3, Jan. 11, Mar. 15); Susan Wilson (Pet Loss Grief Support Group, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 1); Northeast Utilities (Eagle Watching at the Shepaug Dam, Feb. 7); Henry Lappen ("A Passion for Birds," Feb. 28); Che Cartafalsa (Spring Equinox Drumming, Mar. 21); Bob Carruthers and the New Haven Astronomical Society (Winter Astronomy, Mar. 28); and of course Nature Center staff members for presenting many programs.

Maple Fest participants and vendors: Ansonia High School Life Skills students, Jaime Aulet (Barefoot Books), Beardsley Zoo, Kenny Belardinelli, Joan Bettencourt, Newton Carroll (Elm City Kettle Corn), CT Maple Syrup Producers Assoc., Tom Cox, Dad's Food Truck, Derby Historical Society, Kari Doering, Patricia Drew, Pat Evans, Richard Feher, Kathy Gambacini, Jessica Goggins, Nil Guillet (Papa's Sugar Shack), Jordan Hamuka, Taylor Hopkins, Greg Karas, Mike Karolkowski, Chrissy Khachane, Elizabeth Krysinski, Doris Leek, Eric Lindgren, Corinne Lydem, Dakota Meiers, Sherry Nerreau, Bonnie Pelaccia, Jean Roslonowski, Pauline Sholtys, Laura Shultz, Drew Shuptar, Anne Smith, Dawn & Tim Sotir (Coon Hollow Farm), Jessica Sulkowski, Mary Tolnai, Jon Torok, James Tully, Jennifer Tully, Jan Wade, Rich Wade, Viola Waldo, Martin Wigglesworth, Susan Wilson, Tyler Yurman.

Birthday party presenters: Pat Evans, Kathy Gambacini, Jordan Hamuka, Michelle Piombino, Dawn Sotir, James Tully.

Winter 2015 Calendar of Events mailing crew: Tom Cox, Elizabeth Krysinski, Donna Lindgren, Corinne Lydem, Norma Jean Moore, Sherry Nerreau, Jan Wade, Rich Wade.

Administrative assistance/clerical work: Kari Doering, Donna Lindgren, Corinne Lydem, Norma Jean Moore, Michelle Piombino, Angelica Santos-Monkrzel, Pauline Sholtys, Rich Wade.

Snow removal, cleaning, & litter patrols: Kenny Belardinelli, Gary Cohen, James Fourtin, Mike Karolkowski, Elizabeth & Christian Krysinski, Steven Schmidt, Martin Wigglesworth, and Tyler Yurman.

Thanks for wonderful volunteer care provided to our scaly, furry, & feathered animals by: Gary Cohen; Marcia Cohen; Kari Doering: Jorge Paiz, A Place Called Hope; Steven Schmidt; Rich Wade; Susan Wilson; Tyler Yurman; & AHS Life Skills students & mentors. Also many, many thanks to Katharine Jackson, DVM, & Bethany Veterinary Hospital (humane animal services); James Micinilio, DVM, & Countryside Veterinary Hospital; & Shary Parker, DVM (support & care of our wildlife and helpful animal ambassadors).

Thanks to the Ansonia Public Works Dept. for keeping our lights on, our snow plowed, our sidewalks shoveled, and much more!



New Members: Melissa & Eric Abbott, Lori Gallagher, Carol Lemmon, Kathryn Mendez, Laura Soleski, Tindill Family, Amy Volovski.

Friends' Membership Form Spring 2015
□ □ New □ Renewal □ I'd like to volunteer
Name:
Address:
City:State:
Zip:Phone:()
E-mail:
 Please send everything to me by e-mail. Please send me a paper copy of the quarterly Calendar, and everything else by e-mail.
 \$15 Individual \$100 Class/Troop \$25 Family \$150 Individual Life \$35 Sponsor \$250 Family Life \$100 Business/Organization
CHECK #
Dues unpaid for a year past renewal date will result in canceled membership.
Checks Payable to: Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. (FANCI) 10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT 06401
Gift Form (no membership included) Spring 2015
Check #: Animal Care Other (please specify)

Name:

City:

State:

Zip:

Checks Payable to: Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. (FANCI), 10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT 06401



General Mailing List Update (Spring 2015)

Help us save trees, reduce landfill, eliminate junk mail and update our mailing list! Please fill in this form and mail it to us at Ansonia Nature & Recreation Center, 10

Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT 06401 to let us know *if you wish to* remain on our mailing list.*

This notice does not apply to FANCI members or active volunteers.

Name:

Address:

() Please KEEP ME ON your mailing list (check label for any corrections needed)

() Please REMOVE my name from your mailing list.

*OR <u>call us</u>: 203-736-1053, or <u>e-mail</u>: ansnaturectr@ansoniact.org (use subject Mailing List). If you'd rather have e-mail notices when we update our calendar and newsletter, let us know that too! Thank you!!!

The Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center meet at the Nature Center on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. All members of FANCI and interested folks are invited to attend.



ANSONIA NATURE AND RECREATION CENTER STAFF Director: Alison Rubelmann; Assistant Director: Wendy Sabol; Rangers: Dawn Sotir, Jessica Sulkowski, Martin Wigglesworth; Custodian: Jami Condon.

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 203-736-1053



Redwing Pond House Preschool

The Redwing Pond House Preschool children have had a wonderful time enjoying the snow this winter, but are happy to see the exciting first signs of Spring! We

are choosing seeds for our children's garden, identifying animal tracks on our daily hikes, and enjoying more time in the fresh air than the frigid temperatures of this winter 'allowed! In February we were fortunate to have Taylor Healey join our teaching staff. Taylor brings a great deal of enthusiasm, fun and adventure to our program and we welcome her!

If you are looking for a wonderful way for your 3-5 year old to spend some time this summer—have them join us for summer camp at the RWPH! We also have limited spaces remaining for our 2015-2016 school year. Please call us at 203-734-7974 if you are interested in hearing more about any of our incredible programs.

As always, you can take a peek at our activities on our Facebook page: 'redwingpondhousepreschool'.

Happy Spring from the RWPH!!

Jacqueline Lema, Director/Head Teacher Redwing Pond House Preschool

The Ansonia Nature & Recreation Center's Playground Revitalization Project

Over the long winter months the staff and FANCI's grant writing committee have met several times to go over a scope of work for the Ansonia Homegrown Playground so that we can proceed with grant applications for 2015. Our committee has also been collaborating with the City of Ansonia's Economic Development Director and Mayor David Cassetti to ensure the playground's longevity for future generations.

The Nature Center staff has also contacted and met with four playground vendors and has received some conceptual designs. These designs will include ADA accommodations, keeping with our natural design, and will accommodate children of all ages. Many of you may remember helping to build the playground or spending many hours with your children and/or grandchildren playing here. We are asking for our community to come together again to help rebuild out Homegrown Playground.

If you would like to be part of our fundraising committee, please send us your name, address, telephone number, email address, and how you can help us achieve our goal.

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PARTY WITH THE ANIMALS and the Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. Five educational birthday party themes to choose from:

AWESOME AMPHIBIANS (SPRING & SUMMER ONLY) BIRD BRAINS INCREDIBLE INSECTS REPTILES RULE MAD FOR MAMMALS

2 hour party includes: 15 minute set up (parent/FANCI)
45 minute educational program (FANCI)
45 minute cake / presents (provided by parent)
15 minute cleanup (parent/FANCI)
Fee for family-level members \$150.00, non-members \$175.00
For more information please call (203) 736-1053.

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Nature Center Wish List: New Shed • Stackable Washer and Dryer • Laminator • Laptop Computer • Large Flat Screen for Powerpoint Presentations • Boardwalk Extension • Suet Feeders • Suet Cakes • Black Oil Sunflower Seeds • Natural History Lecture Series for Adults • Nature Days Scholarships for Ansonia Students • Outdoor Classroom & Viewing Deck • Food Processor • Metal Leaf Rakes • Good Quality Hand Pruners and Loppers • Gift Certificates to Petland, Staples, and Art Supply Stores • and **VOLUNTEERS for** Filling & Monitoring Bird Feeders • Bluebird Box Monitoring • Co-Leading Natural History Walks • Nature Trail Monitoring • Critter Care • Adopt-A-Trail Groups • Exhibit Work • Reception Desk Duty • Nature Shop Cleaning & Sales • Playscape Restoration • Publicity Duties • After School Program Adult Volunteers • **Presenting FANCI Birthday Party Fundraisers**!!!

<u>Redwing Pond House Wish List:</u> We are well supplied with most things right now...but we still need • *Bird Seed* • to help our feathered friends as spring gets under way!

The Friends' Focus is published seasonally by the Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. (FANCI) as an information link between FANCI and its members. Editors: Alison Rubelmann, Pauline Sholtys, Norma Jean Moore. Mailing: Rich Wade.