

February Festivities at Trailside Nature Center In Mountainside

WATCHUNG RESERVATION - Trailside Nature & Science Center offers special "February Festivities" programs in Mountainside during the Presidents Day holiday weekend, Feb. 13-17. Pre-registration is required for most programs. Call Trailside for space availability. Walk-ins will be accommodated as space permits.

Kicking off the holiday weekend on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m. for adults, ages 18 and older, is "Songs of the Civil War: History and Myth." Lisa Wilkins and Chuck Winch, dressed in period clothing, sing authentic Civil War songs and original compositions to explore how popular songs shaped and reflected the sentiments and events of the time. This program is sponsored in part by the New Jersey Council for Humanities and it will take place in the renovated Masker's Barn located in the Deserted Village of Feltsville. Please meet in the parking lot at Cataract Hollow Road, off Glenside Ave., at 7:15 p.m., where a van will transport participants to the barn. There is no fee for this program; however, donations are appreciated.

On Saturday, Feb. 15, at 10 a.m. families can learn how to build the "Perfect Campfire." Working together, each family will collect tinder and kindling to make a decorative fire starter kit for their home fireplace. Using their new found knowledge, participants will help to light a campfire and enjoy sipping hot cocoa and toasting marshmallows.

At 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, see how 100 percent real maple syrup is made from the sap of a sugar maple tree

during "The Journey of Sap to Syrup." Find out what equipment is needed to collect sap and take part in a taste test to see if you can identify the real thing. This "sap to syrup" program will be repeated on Monday, Feb. 17 at 3:30 p.m.

Later on Saturday, discover how many natural history items your family can find in the winter woods during the "Winter Scavenger Hunt" at 3:30 p.m. Search for animal tracks, acorns, winter grasses and nests. Then enjoy hot chocolate and marshmallows as we compare answers around a warm campfire. A prize will be given to the team with the most points.

Take a short walk outdoors during "Feed the Birds" to look for our feathered friends and find out how they are coping with the cold winter weather. Visit the Bird Viewing Area and help the naturalist fill the feeders. Enjoy watching which birds come to eat and learn to identify them by sight and sound. Find out about the different types of seed used to attract birds and make a wild bird treat to take home.

Highlighting the festivities on Monday, Feb. 17, at 1:30 p.m. is the Wallaby Tales Traveling Zoo. Many mammals have developed amazing characteristics to avoid becoming "lunch." Meet live animals as you find out how they defend themselves from other animals in this educational and entertaining program. This matinee is recommended for ages 4 and older and admission is \$5 per person. Tickets for Wallaby Tales Traveling Zoo go on sale at 1:00 p.m. before the matinee. No strollers in the auditorium, please.

Programs during the weekend February Festivities are recommended for families with children ages 5 and older unless otherwise specified. The fee for "Perfect Campfires" is \$6 per person for residents of Union County and \$7 per person for non-county residents. The fee for "The Journey of Sap to Syrup," "Winter Scavenger Hunt" and "Feed the Birds" is \$5 per person for Union County residents and \$6 per person for out-of-county participants.

For additional information about programs offered during February Festivities or any upcoming programs and special events, please call 908-789-3670 or visit www.ucnj.org/trailside - Trailside Nature and Science Center is located at 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside.



SKUNKWORKS...Travis Gale of Wallaby Tales introduces a skunk to the audience at a matinee last year. Families can enjoy the February Festivities programs at Trailside Nature and Science over the weekend of Feb. 13-17.

Clark 'Ordinary Guy' Intends to Run for State Assembly

Look out New Jersey — coming in 2015 I'm going to run for New Jersey General Assembly. I'm sure no one has ever heard of me, but I think it's about time we bring a new face to the Assembly — Someone with new and fresh ideas.

I'm just an ordinary guy and family man. I think I have a different take on what New Jersey needs and wants for the people of this wonderful state. I'm a Republican (conservative), I'm Pro-Life right to life in New Jersey. I will stand up for your 2nd Amendment rights, Help to pass laws that will actually help prevent crime in New Jersey.

I will do my best for more job growth in our state. New Jersey needs a guy like me, forget the stereotypical politician, that's not me. I'm your every day wake up at 6 a.m. to go to a job and work in a warehouse to

support my family. I know first hand what it takes in this state to survive with a wife a child, and its not easy.

Some people I'm sure will say, hey who the hell is this guy and what does he know about politics. Well actually I don't know a lot about politics at all, but I do know people, normal every hard working folks in New Jersey. I have been in hard times and looked for work in the past. My hands get dirty every day at work. Hey maybe I don't have a snowball's chance in hell to even get votes, but I want the people of New Jersey to at least know that I'm willing to do my best for you.

Let's change New Jersey together and put a fresh new outlook in the general Assembly in 2015.

Mark Grabowski
Clark



Wonders at Trailside...Naturalist Cathleen Bolton leads a group of children on a winter walk to search for squirrel nests, woodpecker holes, buck rubs and other winter wonders in the Watchung Reservation.

Obama Should Get to the Bottom of IRS Abuse of Power

Abuse of power is a serious offense at every level of government. The reason for the uproar over the George Washington Bridge closing is that it was a clear abuse of power. Governor Chris Christie acted immediately when he was presented with evidence showing that some of his staff had been involved. The Governor fired those staff members and took responsibility.

When the IRS was caught abusing its power by going after our fellow citizens illegally, President Obama responded by firing no one and has accepted no responsibility for the

actions within his administration.

Abuse of power is wrong and should be pursued. Yet Governor Christie acted correctly, while President Obama did not. We are still waiting for Lois Lerner to be punished, for others to be found culpable and for a full investigation to take place.

Yes, we should get to the bottom of the abuse of power in Trenton, and yes, we should get to the abuse of power emanating from the Obama White House.

Steve Lonegan
Candidate for Congress (R-NJ-3)



PEACEFUL...Downtown Scotch Plains is all quiet after Sunday night's storm.

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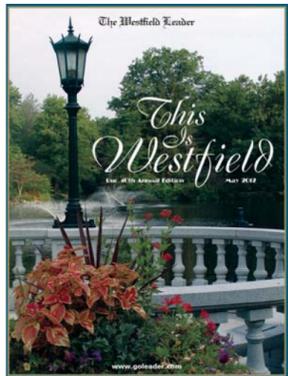
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Entrants Sought

For This is Westfield

The Westfield Leader editorial staff is seeking content and cover ideas from the public for the topic for the 42nd Annual This Is Westfield publication. The special insert is mailed to every home in Westfield in May and features the region's business, education, civic, government and cultural organizations.

Topics should be submitted by Friday, February 28 via Facebook www.facebook.com/leadertimes or on Twitter www.twitter.com/leadertimes. The winning entrant will receive a one-year subscription to The Westfield Leader.

Please see www.goleader.com/tiw to view previous topics.

Register for Summer Fun at Trailside by Lottery

Due to the popularity of Trailside's summer programs, a lottery system will be used beginning Saturday, Feb. 8 and continuing through Friday, Feb. 21, or until all numbers have been drawn. Union County residents may visit Trailside to draw a lottery number from noon to 5 p.m. daily. There are more than 500 numbers.

Proof of residency, such as a driver's license, will be required to draw a number and only one number may be drawn per family/address. Registrants must pick their own lottery ticket for their family, and each registrant's name, address, lottery number and arrival time will be recorded when the lottery number is chosen. The number drawn will indicate the registrant's position on line and time of arrival for registration day, scheduled for Saturday, March 1.

Summer Registration will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 1, for Union County residents who have drawn a lottery ticket. Registrants must bring their ticket with them to register and must be present when their number is called or their position in line will be forfeited. Each ticket holder may only register their child/family.

If a registrant arrives after their number is called, but within their designated registration hour indicated on their lottery ticket, they may register at the end of the one-hour time block. If the registrant misses their one-hour time block entirely, they may return at 3:30 p.m. to register. No exceptions will be made.

Registration for out-of-county residents will begin Monday, March 3, from noon to 4:45 p.m. Lottery tickets will not be required and registration will continue until all programs are filled.

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