



STONY KILL ALMANAC

BY AND ABOUT

Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center

Calendar of Events Inside

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www.dec.ny.gov

Awesome Volunteers by Rose Marie Brilliant, Volunteer Coordinator

Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center and its citizens' support organization, the Stony Kill Foundation, are fortunate to have many enthusiastic, dedicated, and hardworking volunteers. This unique group of people support Stony Kill's programs and services for the public and help maintain the center's grounds and facilities. Here are some of the important jobs that volunteers do:

Outdoor ecology instructors teach ecology lessons to school classes on weekdays October - June (training provided). Lessons include forest and field, pond and farm ecology. In the winter, they help staff with a special farm program for New York City children called "Operation Explore." Volunteer instructors also teach preschool classes and may assist with programs for boy scouts and girl scouts. The **Wacky Weeders** (gardening volunteers) spend Tuesday mornings keeping the Verplanck memorial perennial garden beautiful and assist with new plantings. **Manor House hosts** greet visitors, answer questions about the center, answer phones, etc. on Saturdays while staff is on the trail leading public programs. **Barn guides** welcome weekend visitors to the barn, talk about the livestock and answer questions about habits, care and feeding. **Office assistants** help with clerical tasks: copying, collating, assembling handouts and mailings. **Special events** volunteers assist with our Harvest, Earth Day and Butterfly festivals, leading or helping with crafts, activities, face painting, information booth, food sales and more. **Trail keepers** assist in maintaining the hiking trails, notifying staff of any problems with signs, fallen trees, etc.

Along with our regular Stony Kill volunteers, the center is supported by outside community groups: ARC (adults with developmental disabilities) volunteers join us several times a year to help with mailings, trail cleanup and other tasks. The useful work they do gives them a sense of accomplishment while also benefitting Stony Kill. Volunteers from the Oakwood Friends School join us in the spring and fall to complete their community-service curriculum by helping to shape up the Verplanck memorial garden for the pleasure of Stony Kill's many visitors, including butterflies and hummingbirds. The Verplanck Garden Club maintains our herb garden and wheelchair-accessible raised-bed gardens, decorates the Manor House and provides delicious baked goods for the Holiday Open House event. They also give free tree seedlings and planting instructions to visitors at the Earth Day Celebration, among other projects and activities that beautify and support the center. Boy scouts provide visitor-parking assistance at most of our events--an important and much-appreciated service at Stony Kill.

Do you have some free time, enjoy the outdoors, and working with people? Give Rose Marie a call at 845-831-8780, ext. 306, to find out how you can become a member of Stony Kill's corps of valuable volunteers!

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New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
David A. Paterson, Governor Alexander B. Grannis, Commissioner

SLATE OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS

All programs are approximately 90 minutes long, unless otherwise noted.
We welcome people with disabilities to all of our programs. Call ahead, **845-831-8780, ext 300**, to let us know your specific needs, and we will be happy to accommodate you.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 6 2:00 PM

Back to School Nature Discovery Program

This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and children to spend some "quality time" in the woods together. Take part in a family scavenger hunt, nature games, and more.

Saturday, September 13 2:00 PM

Muller Pond Walk

Join a Stony Kill naturalist for an interpretive tour of our best birding trail, meandering around a forest pond and crossing an open meadow which provides habitat for bobolinks, meadowlarks, and goldfinches.

Saturday, September 20 2:00 PM

Woodland Wander

Join us for a leisurely stroll on our one half mile wheelchair-accessible Woodland Trail as we watch for fall migrant birds, late summer fruits and seeds, fungi and wildlife signs. All ages and abilities are welcome!

Saturday, September 27 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Freedom Trail Hike

Let a naturalist be your guide to the diverse terrain covered on this two-and-a-half mile hike, including rock walls, hills, wetlands, fields and forest. We'll look for signs of wildlife, including deer, woodpeckers, foxes, raccoons and opossums.

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 4 Noon - 5:00 PM

Harvest Festival

Our 30th annual Harvest Festival is co-sponsored by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and Stony Kill Foundation, Inc., our citizens' support group. This year's festival will feature nature-related and environmental exhibits, demonstrations and hands-on family activities, a hayride, open barn, and music by Beacon's "Howland Wolves." Food and refreshments will be available for purchase. Free admission, but donations to the Stony Kill Foundation appreciated!

Saturday, October 11 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Autumn Foliage and Nature Photography Workshop

This workshop, with naturalist-photographer Frank Knight, will focus on learning to compose landscapes and close-up nature subjects to create memorable photographs. You'll also learn how to use simple field guides and keys to add your subjects' names and lore to your nature photos. **BRING:** Your own camera, a memory card or extra 100 or 200 speed film, a polarizing filter and flash unit if you have one; also a bag lunch. *Please call 845-831-8780, ext. 300 to register.*

Saturday, October 18 2:00 PM

Campfire Cooking

One of the pleasures of camping is creating simple but tasty meals over a wood fire. Learn what tools you need to become a wilderness chef, get some recipes, and sample some fresh-cooked delicacies around our campfire.

Saturday, October 25

2:00 PM

Make your Own Mask!

Masks, especially those inspired by animals, have been used by people all over the world in ceremonies to conjure or ward off spirits, or insure success in hunting or warfare. Make your own mask from recycled materials, just in time for Halloween! Register by calling 845-831-8780, ext 304.

Saturday, November 29

2:00 PM

Let's Talk Turkey

Visit our barn and meet the turkeys that made it past Thanksgiving! Learn how domestic turkeys compare to their wild relatives and about the adaptations wild turkeys need to survive the coming winter.

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 1

2:00 PM

Curb Your Fuel Bill

Doing the right thing for the environment has the added benefit of cutting costs. This is especially true now, as oil prices soar and the effects of climate change become more apparent locally, regionally and globally. This hands-on, practical information session on what you can do to reduce oil and electricity consumption every day will save you money and have a positive effect on the planet.

Saturday, November 8

2:00 PM

Go Nuts!

Get acquainted with our native nut-bearing trees: oaks and hickories, beech, and walnut. Learn how to identify them and how these hardwoods are used by people and by wildlife.

Saturday, November 15

2:00 PM

Come Celebrate

"New York Recycles Day"

What does and doesn't go into your recycling container? What should you do with those old cell phones and other used electronic equipment? Join Terry Laibach, DEC Regional Recycling Coordinator, to unravel the mysteries of recycling and composting. Come view different composting techniques and get your recycling and composting questions answered.



Saturday, November 22

2:00 PM

Leave It to Beaver

Join a Stony Kill naturalist on a walk to our active beaver colony and beyond to investigate the signs beaver leave behind and how they get ready for winter.

A Look Ahead to December

Saturday, the 6th

Get Ready for Winter

Saturday, the 13th

Light My Fire

Saturday, the 20th

Welcome Winter!

Saturday, the 27th

Holiday Hike

Read The *Almanac* Online

Help us reduce mailing costs and conserve resources by viewing the *Stony Kill Almanac* online! See www.dec.ny.gov/education/1841.html to view Stony Kill's quarterly newsletter.

To be notified by email when the newsletter is posted online, sign up for our listserve. Go to <http://lists.dec.state.ny.us/mailman/listinfo/stonykillalmanac> and follow the directions. If you currently receive a paper copy in the mail, let us know to remove your name from our mailing list. Thank you for your concern for the environment.

New Online Family Newsletter

DEC Outdoor Discovery

Visit www.dec.ny.gov/public/43355.html to read DEC's new biweekly online outdoor newsletter for families. Each issue introduces readers to a seasonal environmental or nature topic, suggests a related activity and lists family-friendly events at DEC's environmental education centers. Subscribe for free and have the newsletter e-mailed directly to you!

NEW YORK STATE Conservationist

Support Stony Kill Foundation by subscribing to *Conservationist*, New York's premier outdoor and environmental magazine. Half of the subscription price goes directly to support programs at Stony Kill Farm EEC. For renewals, include the word "Renewal" on your order, and provide your name as it appears on your *Conservationist* mailing label.

YES, start/renew a one-year subscription to *Conservationist* for just \$10. I understand that \$5 from each subscription goes directly to support educational programs at Stony Kill Farm EEC.

Make checks payable to: Stony Kill Foundation.

Mail to: Stony Kill Foundation, 79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

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