

STONY KILL ALMANAC

BY AND ABOUT

Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center

Calendar of Events Inside

email: skfarm@gw.dec.state.ny.uswww.dec.ny.gov

The Hudson River Almanac - An Online Community Nature Journal

Do you enjoy spending time outdoors in the Hudson River Valley? Do you want to share what you've observed along the river and find out what others have been seeing? Then check out *The Hudson River Almanac* and join a network of naturalists! In 2009, *The Hudson River Almanac* will celebrate its 15th anniversary. It began in 1994 as a compilation of annual observations from nature lovers along the length of the Hudson River, from the Adirondacks to New York Harbor. From 1994 to 2001 *The Hudson River Almanac* was compiled and published annually as a bound book. Today, it is available as an online weekly newsletter. Learn more by visiting *The Hudson River Almanac* at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/25608.html on DEC's website. You will find links to subscribe, to contribute, and to view archived issues. A recent edition of *The Hudson River Almanac* includes the following entry:

10/12 - Bergen County, NJ, HRM 18-11: Karol Ishizeki and I walked the Shore Trail of the Palisades, from the NY-NJ state line back to Manhattan, crossing over into the city on the George Washington Bridge. It was gorgeous. The temperature ranged from pleasantly cool to breezily balmy and the sky was cloudless. The trees were mostly green with only splashes of fall colors. We encountered lovely fall flowers, including a five-petaled purple flower with the adorable name of Herb Robert that we successfully identified with Newcomb's Wildflower Guide. We saw a handsome copperhead snake that we would like to think had recently shed its skin since its markings were so clear. We spotted many migrating passerines, two ravens, a pileated woodpecker and, on two occasions, views of an osprey flying by with a freshly caught fish in its talons. We walked all day and for a couple of hours after sundown by the light of the nearly full moon. —Scott Jackson Wiley.

DEC's website is a great resource for outdoor enthusiasts across the state. In addition to *The Hudson River Almanac*, newsletters and program information from all four of our environmental education centers are posted for online access. You'll also find *Outdoor Discovery*, DEC's online family newsletter. From the website, you can sign up for notification when new newsletters are available. *Conservationist* magazine and *Conservationist for Kids* are available too.

Fact sheets about New York's flora and fauna can be found on the DEC website as well. It's well worth taking some time to explore the website, whether you're an amateur naturalist, a student, or just curious about the natural world out your back door. Start your exploration at www.dec.ny.gov and open the door to a wealth of information and ideas for connecting with nature.

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

Printed on recycled paper. Please recycle this copy.

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.

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 6 2:00 PM

Get Ready for Winter

Explore the world of winter survival in Stony Kill's woods and hunt for clues to winter wildlife activity with a Stony Kill naturalist.

Saturday, December 13 2:00 PM

Light My Fire

Learn how to start a fire using a variety of methods—ancient, traditional and modern—even under adverse weather conditions. Bring marshmallows for roasting!

Saturday, December 20 2:00 PM

Welcome Winter!

Join us in a celebration of the winter solstice. Learn about the astronomical, cultural, and ecological significance of this turning point in the natural year and make your own sundial to take home!

Saturday, December 27 2:00 PM

Holiday Hike

Burn off some of those holiday calories with an invigorating hike on one of Stony Kill's more challenging trails.

Tuesday, December 30 Noon - 4:00 PM

Holiday Open House

Bring the whole family for a festive day at Stony Kill! Learn how DEC Bureau of Wildlife staff track and locate coyotes. Join a Stony Kill naturalist for an animal tracks walk. Make your own wildlife track cast or holiday craft to take home. Visit the animals in the barn. Listen to live holiday music in the Manor House and enjoy the refreshments and decorations by the Verplanck Garden Club.

JANUARY

Saturday, January 3 2:00 PM

Animals in Winter

Where does native wildlife go in winter, and how do they survive? Enjoy a visit with our cows, sheep, chickens and pigs and compare what they eat and how they stay warm with native creatures of the forest and fields.

Saturday, January 10 2:00 PM

FeederWatch

Learn the ins and outs of birdfeeding, including what kinds of food and feeders attract which bird species. Also, find out how you can add your own observations of birds at your feeders to the citizen science effort called Project FeederWatch.

Saturday, January 17 2:00 PM
Park Cleanup and Conservation Day in Beacon

In the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., take part in a community conservation day in Beacon (location to be announced), followed by a visit to Stony Kill and a family craft inspired by Dr. King's famous "I have a dream ..." speech.

Saturday, January 24 2:00 PM
Winter Wildlife Tracks and Traces

Join a Stony Kill naturalist and become a "track detective." Find out which animals are active in the winter and hunt for evidence of their presence in the woods at Stony Kill. We'll make our own tracks with snowshoes (available for loan, free of charge, for the program), snow conditions permitting. PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED: call 845-831-8780, ext. 300.

Saturday, January 31 2:00 PM
The Truth About Groundhogs

What are groundhogs *really* doing on February 2? Can bears survive all winter without food? Who are the true hibernators? Join us for family-friendly fun as we learn about the myths and realities of hibernation.

December 18-January 16

Martin Luther King, Jr., FOOD DRIVE to Benefit Salvation Army in Beacon, NY

Stony Kill will be accepting donations of canned goods, dried beans, cereals, macaroni, personal hygiene products—please, NO GLASS. Please bring to the Manor House. THANK YOU.

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 7 2:00 PM

Winter Wildlife Tracks and Traces

(see description for January 24)

PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED: call 845-831-8780, ext. 300.

Saturday, February 14 2:00 PM

Valentine's Day Hike

Learn which native wild animals are beginning their courtship, mating, and nesting seasons now, and join us on a walk along our wooded trails to look for signs of their activities.

Saturday, February 21 2:00 PM

Barking up the Wrong Tree?

Find out how to recognize trees without their leaves, using bark, twig and bud characteristics.

Saturday, February 28 2:00 PM

Bluebird Bonanza

Get ready to welcome our state bird back with your own bluebird nest box kit and discover how "bluebird trails" like ours at Stony Kill have helped to restore populations of this colorful songbird.



Bluebird

A Look at What's Coming Up in March

Saturday, March 7-Survival Skills Seminar
Saturday, March 14-Winter Wildlife Tracks and Traces

Saturday, March 21-Spring is Here!
Saturday, March 28-Mind your Beeswax!

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.

Start a subscription: For Me As a Gift Both
Total check amount enclosed: _____

My information: **(please print)**

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

Send a gift subscription to: **(Please print)**

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Bureau of Environmental Education
STONY KILL FARM ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

