

LEARN ABOUT BIRDS, GARDENING, INSECTS, NATURE, BUGS AND MORE AT THE ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Essex County Executive DiVincenzo Invites Children and Families to Expand their Understanding and Appreciation of the Environment

Essex County, NJ – A variety of programs are being offered at the Essex County Environmental Center during the month of May that will teach children and adults about nature and help them gain a greater appreciation and understanding of our environment. Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. invites children and adults to visit the Environmental Center where they can enjoy an enriching recreational experience through nature and conservation activities.

“Our Environmental Center has become the premiere location for environmental education and nature appreciation. With the help of our partner groups, our dynamic schedule of events and activities will captivate all ages,” DiVincenzo said. “Walk in our woods, discover habitats, get pointers on gardening, learn about nature photography and much more. It’s all about nature and it’s all at our Environmental Center,” he added.

Events scheduled for May are as follows:

“Little Explorers Spring Nature Program” is for children ages 2 to 4 years. This child-caregiver class uses stories, walks and crafts to develop an awareness and appreciation for science and nature for the child as well as the caregiver. Each week, a different nature or science topic is covered. **Cost is \$12 per child/per class.** Advance registration, payment and minimum number of participants required. For information, call 973.228.8776. *Little Explorers Winter Nature Program* will be held as follows:

Age: 3 year olds
Date and Time: Thursdays, May 3 & 17 at 1 p.m.

Ages: 4 & 5 year olds
Dates and Times: Thursdays, May 3 & 17 at 9:45 a.m.

Place: Essex County Environmental Center
621B Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

“Making Charcoal Art at the Campfire” is for adults and children 10 years and older. Participants will gather sticks of different wood varieties and turn them into charcoal pencils in a container placed on the fire. The sticks char without completely combusting due to the lack of oxygen and make an excellent artist charcoal. Each participant will get to make some free choice art and take some charcoal pencils home. **Cost is \$12 per adult and \$10 per child.** Advance registration and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *Making Charcoal Art at the Campfire* will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, May 3, 2018
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
621B Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

“Mother’s Day Annual Plant Sale” is available at two locations and is open to the public. Stop by the Rutgers Master Gardener’s annual plant sale for a wide variety of annuals, perennials, ornamentals, shrubs, small trees, tomatoes and herbs. **Admission is free, but plants will be for sale.** For more details, call the Rutgers Master Gardeners’ Helpline at 973-228-2210 from Monday to Thursday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The *Plant Sale* will be held as follows:

Dates and Times: Friday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens
474 Upper Mountain Avenue
Upper Montclair, NJ

Date: Saturday, May 12, 2018
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
Garibaldi Hall
621A Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

“Bug Club” is for children ages 6 to 10. The Bug Club is devoted to children who want to explore the wonders of insects through field walks, games, stories and crafts. **Cost is \$10 per child per session.** Advance registration, payment and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *Bug Club* will be held as follows:

Date: Tuesday, May 8, 2018
Time: 4 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
621B Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

“4-H Environmental Kids Club” is for children in grades 2 through 9. The environment is filled with things, big and small, that are surprising and helpful. Come once a month to see how much fun it is to learn about the world. The club is ongoing and fosters a long-term relationship with caring adults and club member peers. Members are encouraged to get involved with 4-H county events including fairs and public speaking. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. Advance registration is required. For information, call 973-353-1337 or visit essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/. *4-H Environmental Kids Club* meets as follows:

Date: Tuesday, May 8, 2018
Time: 4 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
Garibaldi Hall
621A Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

“Horticulture for Seniors” is for senior citizens. Join the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County for this horticulture class especially designed for senior citizens. The topic for May is *Merry Month of May*. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **This is a free program.** Advance registration is required one week prior to program. For information, call Helen at 973-731-0717 or the Master Gardner Helpline at 973-228-2210. *Horticulture for Seniors* will be held as follows:

Date: Monday, May 21, 2018
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
Garibaldi Hall
621A Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

“New Jersey Woodturners” is for adults and children ages 3 and up. Learn to turn with the NJ Woodturners Association. Discover the wonders of creating art from found pieces of wood. Topics vary by the month. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **Cost is \$10 per adult and free for NJWA members.** Call Bob Amarant at 908-442-4729 for details. *New Jersey Woodturners* will meet as follows:

Date: Monday, May 21, 2018
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
Garibaldi Hall
621A Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

"4-H Young Gardeners Club" is for children in grades 1 through 10. Have you ever wondered how vegetables and flowers grow? From where spaghetti sauce comes? How you can find a rainbow in a garden? The 4-H Young Gardener's Club can provide the answers to these questions and more. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. Advance registration is required. For information, call 973-353-1337 or visit essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/. The *4-H Young Gardeners Club* will meet as follows:

Date: Tuesday, May 22, 2018
Time: 4 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
Garibaldi Hall
621A Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

"Flowers, Flutters & Fun," an exhibit by Maria "Mané" Robinson, will be on display in the Environmental Center during the months of May and June.

Registration is required for all programs at the Essex County Environmental Center, unless otherwise noted. For more information or to register, please call 973-228-8776.