

## FRIENDS FOR THE ABBOTT MARSHLANDS

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Preservation \* Advocacy \* Education \* Protection

In Partnership with D&R Greenway Land Trust

***Abbott Marshlands: February – June 2016 Events***

* Canoe trips (most months)
* Field trips (most months)
* Exhibits at the Tulpehaking Nature Center: *The Quiet Months: An Exploration of Winter*, through April 3rd. This will be followed by an exhibit featuring Trees. The 8th Voices for the Abbott Marshlands photography exhibit opens on Oct. 21.

**See** [www.abbott](http://www.abbott)marshlands.org for Marshlands information, thecalendar, any schedule updates, and marsh access point**s.** See also http://mercercountyparks.org/facilities/tulpehaking-nature-center.

**Paddling Trips** *Abbott Marshlands canoe/kayak trips are provided by the New Jersey Sierra Club. Trips are based on tide conditions.*

 **Mar 19 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak Crosswicks Creek/ Abbott Marshlands (Burlington/Mercer Cos).** 10:30am.Our 8-mile round trip with the tide begins on the Crosswicks Creek in Bordentown. We’ll see returning waterfowl.  Bring lunch and beverage.  Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St.   Experienced cold weather/water paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

**Apr 16 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Abbott Marshlands (Burlington/Mercer Cos).** 9:30am.Our trip with the tide begins on the Crosswicks Creek in Bordentown.  We paddle to Roebling Park where we’ll have lunch, tour the Tulpehaking Nature Center and walk the trails before returning to Bordentown. Bring lunch and beverage.  Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St.  Rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation.  George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com .

**May 7 (Sat):  Canoe/Kayak Cleanup on the Crosswicks Creek/Abbott Marshlands (Burlington Co). 12pm – 3pm**.Support the Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program and our spring cleanup with the Bordentown Yacht Club. The cleanup begins at low tide and takes place in the wetlands area above the RiverLINE bridge.  These marsh flats have a lot of trash so we are in and out of our boats.  Wear boots and bring gloves.  Garbage bags are provided. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St.  Rentals are not available. Bring water, snacks and lunch.  Contact leaders to register for the cleanup.  Leona & George F 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

**June 16 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak Crosswicks Creek (Burlington/Mercer Co).** 10:30am.Our 12+ mile trip with the tide begins on the Crosswicks Creek in Bordentown.  We paddle to Anchor Thread Park where we have lunch and then return to Bordentown.  Bring lunch and beverage.  Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St.  Rental boats are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation.  George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)

Other trips, TBA

**Field Trips and other programs.**

**Also included are Tulpehaking Nature Center programs (TNC). The nature center is located at 157 Westcott Ave., Hamilton. Note that registration is required for some programs.**

**TNC. Photography exhibit. To Apr 3.** *The Quiet Months: An Exploration of Winter* features the work of regional photographers who are intrigued by nature in winter. They find beauty and mystery as they explore winter landscapes. The exhibit illustrates the many moods of frozen water while considering the properties of water and how plants and animals face the hardships of winter. Tulpehaking Nature Center. 157 Westcott Ave., Hamilton, NJ. For information: 609-888-3218.

**Feb 7 (Sun):** **Walk. Focus on Wintering Ducks. 1-3 PM**.  **Leader: Jenn Rogers, Mercer County Naturalist**. Meet at Spring Lake - Roebling Park (end of Sewell Ave., Hamilton). For information: (609) 303-0700 x 226. (Mercer County Parks, cosponsors Friends for the Abbott Marshlands, and Washington Crossing Audubon).

**TNC. Feb 11 (Thurs): Wildlife in the Bedroom. 7 - 9 p.m.** $5/person. For adults. Registration required at 609-303-0706.Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton. In the world of wildlife, it takes much more than a well-wrapped box of chocolates to get the ladies’ attention. Join Naturalists Jenn Rogers and Kelly Rypkema for this presentation on the bizarre and fascinating mating behaviors of wildlife. Wild aerial displays and role reversals are not taboo for discussion this night. For adults.

 **TNC. Feb 13 (Sat): Lenape Life: A Program Series (continued). 10:30 a.m. – 12 Noon.** $5/person or $20/family. Registration required at 609-303-0706.Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton. Learn about the tools and techniques of the Lenape in this series of presentations through storytelling, real artifacts, games, and activities.

**TNC. Feb 21 (Sun): Wildlife SOS. 1-2:30 PM.** $5/person or $20/family. Registration required at 609-303-0706.Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton. Through discussion about native wildlife, learn what to do if you find injured, orphaned or displaced wildlife near your home. Appropriate for teens and adults.

**Mar (TBA)** – **Light rail trip.** Details to be announced. *This D&R Canal Watch program is co-sponsored by the Friends for the Abbott Marshlands and D&R Greenway Land Trust.*

**TNC. Feb 28 (Sun): Birding Basics. 2 - 4 p.m.** $5/person. Registration required at 609-303-0706.Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton.

**Mar 12 (Sat): Lenape Life: Last in a series. 10:30-noon**. $5/person or $20/family. Registration required at 609-303-0706.Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton. Bill Guthrie presents tools and techniques of the Lenape way of life, using storytelling, real artifacts, games and activities.

**Mar 18 (Fri): Beaver Walk, 6:30-8:00 PM.** **Leader: Joe Schmeltz, Naturalist**. For kids, but all are invited. Under-age children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Bring a flashlight. Contact / information: 732-821-8310. Meet at Spring Lake - Roebling Park (end of Sewell Ave., Hamilton). Free. (Cosponsors with Friends: Washington Crossing Audubon, Mercer County Parks, D&R Greenway Land Trust).

**Mar 19 (Sat):** **Marsh cleanup, 9 AM – noon.** Bring gloves if you have them, water to drink; wear long sleeves, long pants. Meet at Spring Lake – Roebling Park, Hamilton, NJ. Take South Broad St. to Sewell Ave., at traffic light turn onto Sewell Ave.; at the end of Sewell, turn left and drive down hill to parking lot. Contact: Alison McCarthy, Watershed Area 20 AmericCorps Ambassador, 609-273-9434. Please register. Cosponsors: Friends for the Abbott Marshlands, AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador Program, D&R Greenway Land Trust.

**TNC. Mar 20 (Sun): Sunday Science Lab, 2 - 4 p.m**. $5/person or $20/family. Conquer winter boredom by exploring the properties of ice and snow through fun, hands-on science experiments led by teacher naturalist, Christy. Can ice get hot? Do volcanoes erupt during winter? Find out the answers to these questions and more! To register, please call 609-888-3218 or email natureprograms@mercercounty.org. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton.

**TNC. Apr 1 (Fri): First Friday Story Time, 10:30 am**. Free, donations welcome. Each month, gather your little ones to hear one of our educators share a storybook tale worthy of the Abbott Marshlands, followed by a related craft or activity. Donations benefit Friends for Mercer County Parks. For information: 609-888-3218. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton.

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**Apr. 9/ 10. History Weekend**

**Apr 9 (Sat): D&R Canal Lock 1 & Tow Path Trail (9:30-11:30 am).** **Guides: D&R Canal Lock 1 area– Barbara Ross, followed by a walk to the eagle nest - Clyde Quin.** (Please note that there are no guarantees to see an eagle, but the nest has been active). Meet at the north-bound parking lot of the I-295 scenic overlook, just north of Bordentown. Wear walking shoes and dress for the weather. Check the Marsh website ([www.abbottmarshlands.org](http://www.abbottmarshlands.org)) for cancelation due to inclement weather (by 9 PM Friday evening). For information: 609-924-2683. Sponsored by Friends for the Abbott Marshlands, D&R Canal Watch, D&R Canal State Park, & D&R Greenway Land Trust.

**Apr 9 (Sat): Walk at Point Breeze, home of Joseph Bonaparte, 1-3 PM.  Leader: Dr. Richard Veit, archaeologis**t, **Monmouth University**. Contact /information 732-821-8310. Meet at Divine Word Missionaries, 101 Park St, Bordentown. Cosponsors with Friends: Bordentown City Environmental Commission, D&R Greenway Land Trust.

**Apr 10 (Sun): Bow Hill Mansion – 2:30-4 PM** (477 Jeremiah Ave. off Lalor St**.** Hamilton). Guide: Roman Kuzyk. (Take Lalor St. in Hamilton to 477 Jeremiah Ave.; drive to end of Jeremiah to Ukranian American Cultural Center). Built in 1790; National Register of Historic Places; and home of Annette Savage, Joseph Bonaparte’s mistress. Tour at 2:45; some original architectural details are visible. Reading at 3:15 PM from an original novella, ‘The Rooms’, by writer, playwright, and U.S. 1 arts editor Dan Aubrey. The work is based on the life of Annette Savage, Joseph Bonaparte’s mistress, and her time in the rooms of Bow Hill Mansion. (Contact/ information: 732-821-8310).

**[Apr 10 (Sun): Watson House (1708)** – This year the Watson House will not be part of history weekend because of a mold remediation problem. ]

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**TNC. Apr 9: Story-Gami, 10:30 a.m. – noon.** $5/person or $20/family**.** Join us for a fun morning of origami and storytelling all folded into one! Our storyteller will lead you and your child on an adventure through Native American stories that develop with each fold of paper, then help you make an origami creature to take home. To register, please call 609-888-3218 or email natureprograms@mercercounty.org

Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton.

**TNC. Apr 16 (Sat):** **Rain Barrel Workshop: Your Wild Yard Series,** 1 - 3 p.m. $5/person + $40 material fee per barrel**.** Registration deadline April 9. This series focuses on stewardship projects for the eco-friendly homeowner. Led by our local Americorps Watershed Ambassador, participants will build their own rain barrel and learn how to install them. Make sure you have room in your car to transport the barrel home! To register, please call 609-888-3218 or email natureprograms@mercercounty.org. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton.

**TNC. Apr 22 (Fri): Rooted: A Celebration of Trees. Exhibit reception and opening, 6-8 pm.** Rooted is a juried exhibition of visual art celebrating trees and their connection to plant, animal and human life. To register, call 609-888-3218 or email natureprograms@mercercounty.org. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Ave. Hamilton.

**TNC Apr 24 (Sun): Spring Health Walk at the Abbott Marshlands, 1:30-4 PM. Leader: Charlie Fisher.** Spring into health this April by getting outside to enjoy a casual nature walk along the trails of the Abbott Marshlands at Spring Lake. There will be migrating songbirds and evidence for beaver as well as many signs of spring. (Following the walk there will be opportunity to visit the Tulpehaking Nature Center; 3:30- 4pm). Provided as part of the NJ Dept. of Health’s Minority and Multicultural Health Month. All are welcome to participate. Free. Meet at Spring Lake, Roebling Park. Hamilton NJ. From S. Broad St., turn onto Sewell Ave. Drive to the end, turn left and drive down the hill to the parking lot. Contact/ information: Kelly Rypkema, RSVP 609-888-3218. Sponsors: New Covenant UMC, Friends for the Abbott Marshlands.

**Apr 30 (Sat): Bird walk - Washington Crossing Audubon. 8:00-11:30 am**. Leaders: Brad Merritt, John Maret, and Andrew Bobe. Meet at Spring Lake - Roebling Park (end of Sewell Ave., Hamilton). Contact / information**,** 609-737-0070. Washington Crossing Audubon. (Cosponsors: Friends, Mercer County Parks, D&R Greenway Land Trust).

**TNC. Apr 30 (Sat): Family Bird Excursion. 10 am – noon.** $5/person or $20/family

Join our Teacher Naturalist and her son for a morning of family-style birding. Children will participate in a “Bird Spotting Challenge” while parents enjoy the calls, songs and sights of our spring migration. Binoculars are available for adults and children. To register, please call 609-888-3218 or email natureprograms@mercercounty.org. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton.

**May - American Wetlands Month**

There are significant benefits that the wetlands of the Abbott Marshlands provide. These include: improving water quality by filtering pollutants and rainwater runoff; helping recharge groundwater; reducing flooding and storm damage; and providing critical habitat for plants and wildlife. Fifty percent of all North American bird species feed or nest in wetlands. Here are some ways you can celebrate the Abbott Marshlands:

**1. Learn about wetlands.** This is a great month to learn what is unique about the Abbott Marshlands. Visit the marsh website: [www.abbottmarshlands.org](http://www.abbottmarshlands.org) and visit the Tupehaking Nature Center (157 Westcott Ave.) (http://mercercountyparks.org/facilities/tulpehaking-nature-center). Learn to identify some of the common wetland species.

**2. Explore the Abbott Marshlands.** Take one of the guided nature walks or walk some of the trails on your own. There are trail maps for Roebling Park, Northern Community Park, the Bordentown Bluffs, and the D&R Canal State Park Tow Path Trail; see: [www.abbottmarshlands.org](http://www.abbottmarshlands.org). Among the kinds of wetlands that you can easily find are: tidal freshwater marsh (Watson Woods area of Roebling Park), ponds (Spring Lake, Roebling Park; Northern Community Park), marsh / swamp (Roebling Park, Northern Community Park), rivers (Crosswicks Creek from the Bordentown Bluffs; Delaware River from the Bordentown Beach or I-295 scenic overlook). Find evidence for beaver; see turtles.

**3. Take action to protect and restore wetlands.** Support and promote the Abbott Marshlands by informing your community and family members about the vital roles of wetlands. "Adopt” a part of the marsh wetland and learn the plants and animals found there. Contact your congress representatives; ask them to support strong wetland protection. Pick up trash.

**May 1 (Sun): Watson Woods Cleanup.** 10 a.m. - noon & noon - 2 p.m. Watson Woods Entrance of Roebling Park. Park near the Watson House/ TNC, 157 Westcott Ave., Hamilton. Free. Beautify the bluff at Roebling Park with a spring litter pick. Volunteers will be provided with gloves and bags. *Email stewardship@mercercounty.org to register groups of 6 or more.* To register, please call 609-888-3218 or email natureprograms@mercercounty.org.

**TNC. May 1 (Sun): Rooted – the Performance Salon – 2-4 pm.** $5/person suggested donation, benefitting Friends for the Abbott Marshlands. Join us for an afternoon of short stories, poems and song! This winter, we challenged writers and musicians to compose creative works about trees, inspired by questions from you, our visitors. Enjoy the fruits of their labor in this celebration of Arbor Day, community, and the creative spirit! To register, please call 609-888-3218 or email natureprograms@mercercounty.org. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Ave. Hamilton. For information: 609-888-3218.

**TNC. May 6. (Fri): First Friday Story Time, 10:30 am**. Free, donations welcome. Each month, gather your little ones to hear one of our educators share a storybook tale worthy of the Abbott Marshlands, followed by a related craft or activity. Donations benefit Friends for Mercer County Parks. For information: 609-888-3218. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton.

**May 7 (Sat): Photography Workshop for Youth. 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon.** $5/person or $20/family. Registration required at 609-303-0706. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton. Learn how to take interesting photos outdoors. Prepare for the 8th Voices for the Abbott Marshlands photography exhibit. Bring your camera – cell phone, or other, that you know how to use. Guides will be photographers.

**TNC. May 12 (Thurs), 6-8 pm & May 14 (Sat) 1-3 pm: Emerald Ash Borer (Eab): Your Wild Yard Series**. Free. This series focuses on stewardship projects for the eco-friendly homeowner. In this workshop learn about the EAB invasion, how to identify their host tree, the ash, and how to protect your yard. Led by County Stewardship Coordinator, Emily Rogalsky. For information and to register, call 609-888-3218 or email natureprograms@mercercounty.org. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Ave. Hamilton.

**May 14 (Sat): Wild Flowers. 9:30-11:30. Northern Community Park.** **Leader: Mary Anne Borge, naturalist Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve**. Discover the diverse array of spring flowering plants on the Crosswicks Creek floodplain, including Indian Cucumber Root, Pinxter Flower Azalea, and Mayapple, as well as ferns, such as Cinnamon Fern.  Photographers welcome. Free. Meet at Bordentown Township’s Northern Community Park on Groveville Road, between Rts. 130 and 206. (Contact / info: 732-821-8310). (Cosponsors with Friends: Bordentown Township Environmental Commission, D&R Greenway Land Trust).

**TNC. May 14 & 21: Stream Team: Volunteer Training, 9 am – noon.** Your Local Americorps Watershed Ambassador will teach you how to measure the health of your local stream. This two-part series includes both visual and biological assessment of streams. Graduates will be eligible to join the Abbott Marshlands Stream Team. Please bring footwear to wear into the stream. To register, please call 609-888-3218 or email natureprograms@mercercounty.org. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Ave. Hamilton.

**May 21 (Sat): Critters for Kids. All are welcome. 1:30-3:30 PM. Leader Ned Gilmore, Curator of Vertebrates, Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University.** Turtles and other animals will be featured. Meet at Spring Lake - Roebling Park (end of Sewell Ave., Hamilton). Contact / information, 732-821-8310. (Cosponsors with Friends: Washington Crossing Audubon, Mercer County Parks, D&R Greenway Land Trust).

**June 18 (Sat): Walk for photographers; all are welcome. 9:30-11:30 am.** Leader: TBA.Bordentown Bluffs, part of D&R Canal State Park. Free. Remnants of Joseph Bonaparte’s carriage trails (1830s). Views of Crosswicks Creek; mountain laurel, rhododendron; stately trees; clay bed (tide will be low). Meet at end of Stanton Ave., Bordentown Twp. (Take US-206 south of I-195; take 1st right after Pointe Breeze apartments). (Contact/ info: 732-821-8310). D&R Canal State Park, Bordentown Township Environmental Commission, and Friends for the Abbott Marshlands.

8th Voices for the Abbott Marshlands Photography Show – entries due Sept. 16. See [www.abbottmarshlands.org](http://www.abbottmarshlands.org) for information.

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The Tulpehaking Nature Center is open: Fridays and Saturdays - 10 am – 4 pm; Sundays - noon-4, and by appointment. For information call Kelly Rypkema, manager, at 609-888-3218.