



FRIENDS FOR THE ABBOTT MARSHLANDS

*Preservation * Advocacy * Education * Protection*
In Partnership with D&R Greenway Land Trust

Abbott Marshlands - Schedule of Public Events for Winter to Summer 2017

- Canoe/ kayak trips (most months)
- Field trips (most months)
- History Weekend, April 8 & 9
- May – American Wetlands Month
- First Fridays – Story Time – Tulpehaking Nature Center

See www.abbottmarshlands.org for Marshlands information, the calendar, any schedule updates, a map, and marsh access points. See also <http://mercercountyparks.org/facilities/tulpehaking-nature-center>.

Abbott Marshlands programs below include Tulpehaking Nature Center (TNC) listings. The nature center is located at 157 Westcott Ave., Hamilton, NJ, 08610.

Paddling Trips (Others TBA)

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

Mar 23 (Thurs): Canoe/Kayak Crosswicks Creek/ Abbott Marshlands (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10:00am. 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 19 (Wed): On-Water Cleanup at Watson Woods/Abbott Marshlands (Mercer Co). 10am. Meet us at Watson Woods with your kayak or canoe. We'll launch there to pick up trash floating or caught in the reeds or marsh flats in the Watson Creek area. We may be in and out of our boats on the marsh flats. Wear boots and bring gloves. Trash bags will be provided. Bring lunch and beverage. Rain cancels. Co-Leaders: Leona@pineypaddlers.com and Joanne P jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com (C)

May 6 (Sat): Canoe/Kayak the Abbott Marshlands (Burlington/Mercer Cos): 10am. Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of the undermanned Mexican army's 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla. Our tidal trip is 8 miles from Bordentown Beach to Watson Woods/Roebling Park and back. Sombreros are optional! Participants must have their own boats – rentals are not available. Bring lunch, snacks and beverage. Please contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Jun 4(Sun): Canoe/Kayak the Abbott Marshlands (Burlington/Mercer Cos). 10:00am. Our trip with the tide begins on the Crosswicks Creek in Bordentown. We paddle to Roebling Park where we'll have lunch and walk the trails before returning to Bordentown. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at Bordentown Beach, end of Park St. Participants must have their own boats, rentals are not available. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com (C)

Story Times:

TNC - Friday, Feb 3, Mar 3, Apr 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug 4, 10:30 a.m. First Friday Storytime. Free, donations welcome. Gather with your little ones while our educators share a story worthy of the Abbott Marshlands, followed by a craft or activity. We've chosen the best stories of wildlife and history to enjoy inside or outside if the weather is nice! Donations benefit the Friends for the Abbott Marshlands. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton NJ 08610.

Programs and Walks

TNC. Jan. 27 (Fri). 7 - 8:30 p.m. Animal Dance Party. \$5/person or \$20/family. Come out, all you party animals! Wild animals use different movements to play, find food, a mate or just let loose! We will learn all about these "animal dance moves" and enjoy a delicious treat to refuel after this exciting party program! Appropriate for children aged 5-11. Registration Required, please RSVP to 609-888-3218 or natureprograms@mercercounty.org. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton NJ 08610.

TNC January 28 (Sat.). 1:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m., “Birds, Bees, Butterflies and Blooms”, lecture and optional guided walk by Mary Anne Borge, Naturalist and Photographer. What can you do to attract birds to your garden? What are the best plants to entice bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects to make their homes with you? What maintenance techniques are most hospitable for these garden visitors and residents? Naturalist Mary Anne Borge will answer these questions and inspire you with her beautiful photographs to plan for the upcoming growing season. The optional guided walk will follow the presentation. Tulpehaking Nature Center (609 888 3218), 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton.

Space is limited and registration is required for both the lecture and the walk. Register at rmgofmcprograms@gmail.com or by calling the Extension office at 609-989-6830.

Cosponsored by the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Mercer County, Mercer County Park Commission/ Tulpehaking Nature Center, and Friends for the Abbott Marshlands.

February 5 (Sun.). 1-3 p.m. Winter Duck Walk. Meet at Spring Lake Roebing Park. Please dress for cold, windy weather, and bring your binoculars if you have them! (Appropriate for teens and adults). For information and to register: 609 888 3218. Take S. Broad St. to Sewell Ave.; turn onto to Sewell Ave.; drive to the end, turn left and drive down the hill to the parking lot.

TNC. Feb. 11 (Sat). 1-4 p.m. Valentines for Nature Open House. \$5/child. Celebrate your love of nature and for each other. Stop by for a jam-packed afternoon of crafts, stories and refreshments to enjoy with your family. Cozy up for story time by the fireplace, create valentines for those you love and a wildlife friendly “Valentine for Nature” to hang outdoors. Price per child includes activities and a snack. Extra refreshments available for purchase. Registration Required, please RSVP to 609-888-3218 or natureprograms@mercercounty.org. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton NJ 08610

TNC. Feb. 25 (Sat). 10 a.m. - noon. Build a Bee Abode: Your Wild Yard Series. \$5/person or \$20/family. If you grow pumpkins, cherries, or blueberries at home, than thank a native bee! Invite these helpful pollinators to your backyard by attending this workshop and building a bee house using natural materials. Please bring your own hand pruners. Registration Required, please RSVP to 609-888-3218 or natureprograms@mercercounty.org. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton NJ 08610

Feb. 26. (Sun.), Noon – 3 p.m. Last day, 8th Voices for the Abbott Marshlands Photography Exhibit. (609-888-3218). Awards sponsored by Princeton Photography Club, Central Jersey Group – Sierra Club, and Washington Crossing Audubon Society. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton

Mar. 12 (Sun.), At The Essence: Wildlife Reliefs. Art Exhibit Reception – 2-4 p.m. Exhibit runs Mar. 10 – Oct. 29. *At the Essence: Wildlife Reliefs* features the work of artist Susan Hoenig, whose "Wildlife Relief" paintings on burlap merge the essence of land and animal through vibrant color and distinct geometric form. Meet the artist as we welcome this new exhibit to the nature center. FREE, sponsored by Friends for the Abbott Marshlands. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton NJ 08610.

Mar 25 (Sat.). Marsh cleanup, 9 a.m. – noon. Bring gloves if you have them, water to drink; wear long sleeves, long pants. Wear boots if your have them for wet areas. Meet at Spring Lake – Roebing 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 and information: Katie Harrison, AmeriCorps Ambassador, ambassadorwma20@gmail.com. Please register. Co sponsors with Friends: AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador Program, Mercer County Park Commission, D&R Greenway Land Trust.

Birding Series

TNC. Birding 101 Series. Saturday, April 1, 8, 15, and 22. 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Each class \$5/person or \$15 for the series. In this 4-part series, local expert Bill Pitman will help you develop the basic skills and knowledge essential for becoming a great birdwatcher - no field guide necessary! Most time will be spent outdoors; dress accordingly, bring binoculars or borrow ours. Appropriate for teens and adults. Registration required, please RSVP to 609-888-3218 or natureprograms@mercercounty.org. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton NJ 08610

Apr. 8 & 9. (Sat. & Sun.). History Weekend. Details TBA.

Apr. 22. Earth Day – Wild Flower walk, 9:30 a.m. – noon. The woodlands and Crosswicks Creek flood plain have the best diversity of spring flowering plants and ferns in the Abbott Marshlands. Guide: Mary Anne Borge. Meet at Northern Community Park, Bordentown Township, on Groveville Road, between Rts. 130 and 206.

(Contact / info: 732-821-8310). (Cosponsors with Friends: Bordentown Township Environmental Commission).

Apr. 29 (Sat). Bird Walk. 8 a.m. Washington Crossing Audubon. Leader(s) TBA. 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.

May – American Wetlands Month

> **May 12 (Friday). Beaver walk and Twilight Hike, 7:30-9:00 PM.** \$5/person or \$20/family. Leader: Mercer County Naturalist. For kids, but all are invited. Under-age children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Registration required, please RSVP to 609-888-3218 or natureprograms@mercercounty.org. Join our Naturalist in this search for beavers and other wildlife that come out only at night. Bring a flashlight. 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.

> **May. 20 (Sat.). Walk at the Bordentown Bluffs. 9:30 a.m. – noon.** Guide: TBA. Learn about wetlands; there are views of Crosswicks Creek and marshes and swamps of the Abbott Marshlands Mountain Laurel will be in bloom. We'll look for persimmon and American Chestnut. The Bluffs, part of D&R Canal State Park, were once owned by Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon's brother. Part of the trail is hilly. Meet at end of Stanton Ave., Bordentown Twp. (Take US-206 south of I-195; take 1st right after Pointe Breeze apartments. Look for Abbott Marshlands logo; street sign is missing). Contact/ info: 732-821-8310. Co-sponsors: D&R Canal State Park, Bordentown Township Environmental Commission, and Friends for the Abbott Marshlands.

June 3 (Sat.). National Trails Day. TBA

<http://nationaltrailsday.americanhiking.org/host-information/>

June 10 (Sat.). Fishing Day at the Marsh, 10 a.m.-noon. Spring Lake, Roebling Park. Free. Adults and kids alike can fish for free on this special day - no state fishing license required. We'll have expert fisherman on hand to help you hone your technique and a challenge course for kids to practice their casting accuracy. A small number of fishing poles will be available to borrow on a first-come, first served basis. Arrive early! Take S. Broad St. to Sewell Ave.; turn onto to Sewell Ave.; drive to the end, turn left and drive down the hill to the parking lot

TNC. July 15 (Sat) 2-4 p.m. Birds in Art Workshop. \$5/person or \$20/family. Create your own fantasy bird sculpture to soar around the room while learning about resident and migratory birds of New Jersey. In this family art workshop, artist Susan Hoenig will guide parents and kids in the use of a variety of mixed media (including paint, oil pastels, and collaged materials) to create their very own fantastic feathered 3D creations. Registration required: 609-888-3218. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton NJ 08610. This is a coordinating program with *At The Essence: Wildlife Reliefs. Art Exhibit*, paintings by Susan Hoenig, on view at the nature center

TNC. Aug. 19 (Sat). 10-11:30 a.m. Cicada Crawl. \$5/person or \$20/family. Registration required: 609-888-3218 or natureprograms@mercercounty.org. Our naturalist will take you on a search for one of the loudest animals in the world - cicadas! We'll collect their leftover "shells" to examine under microscope, then make some one-of-a-kind cicada art to take home. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton NJ 08610.