

# DEEC

DUPONT ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION CENTER at the  
RUSSELL W. PETERSON URBAN  
WILDLIFE REFUGE on the  
WILMINGTON RIVERFRONT

FALL '11 PROGRAMS



Come Share the Adventure

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# DEEC AT A GLANCE



The **Delaware Nature Society (DNS)** operates the DuPont Environmental Education Center (DEEC) in Wilmington, showcasing where the city, river and marsh meet. Located on the edge of the 212-acre Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge adjoining the tidal Christina River, the site is home to many species of amphibians, birds, mammals, fish, reptiles and native plants. The Riverfront Development Corporation of Delaware owns the facility and provides maintenance and security services and an operational budget to DNS for its management and programming. For information on renting DEEC for a private event, please call 302.425.3929 x184 or email [kfahner@centerontheriverfront.com](mailto:kfahner@centerontheriverfront.com). The facility is open to the public year round and features indoor and outdoor exhibits, a 10-acre garden and a quarter-mile boardwalk that extends into the marsh.

At DEEC, DNS provides safe, fun and educational outdoor experiences for all ages and offers programs for school groups, teachers, community and recreation centers, faith-based groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and professional organizations. DNS is also building upon established relationships with Wilmington-area schools and organizations with a wide variety of free and low-cost programs. DNS works to improve the health of the environment and community through citizen science activities, including water quality monitoring and other volunteer supported opportunities.

## About the Delaware Nature Society

DNS, a nonprofit membership organization, fosters understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the natural world through education, preserves ecologically significant areas and advocates stewardship and conservation of natural resources. We welcome new members and encourage you to join today! Membership benefits include: special pricing for DNS programs and events, online program enrollment, Native Plant Sale preview sale days, discounts at retail partners, reciprocal admission to nature centers nationwide and much more!

We wish to thank Lesley Bensinger, John Harrod, Jim White and Rod Hampton for providing the photographs used in preparation of this publication

### Hours

Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge  
Gates open everyday: 6:30 am - Dusk

DuPont Environmental Education Center  
Through November 7:  
Tuesday - Saturday: 11 am - 5 pm  
Sunday: 12 pm - 4 pm

November 8 – March 11, 2012  
Tuesday – Saturday: 10 am – 3 pm  
Sunday: 12 pm - 4 pm

Closed November 24, December 24 & 25, January 1, 2012

### Admission

Free to individuals and families.  
Groups by reservation only.

### Contact Information

DuPont Environmental Education Center  
1400 Delmarva Lane, Wilmington DE, 19801  
Phone: 302-656-1490, Fax: 302-425-4813

## GOT AN IDEA FOR A DEEC PROGRAM?

E-mail [john@delawarenaturesociety.org](mailto:john@delawarenaturesociety.org)

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** Guides, Greeters, Interpreters



On Saturday, April 16, 2011 DNS held an Earth Day Festival at the DuPont Environmental Education Center at the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge on the Wilmington Riverfront. Join us next year on **April 21, 2012.**

# SCHOOL PROGRAMS & TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Specific connections with Delaware Science Content Standards including coding for Standard, Strand, and Statement at each grade level are available by request. Email [Lesley@delawarenaturesociety.org](mailto:Lesley@delawarenaturesociety.org) for additional information.

## School Programs

### Senses

Grades Pre-K – 3, 1.5 hours, \$6/student  
Use your senses to discover Wilmington's wild side. Listen for sounds of nature and wildlife. Look for plants and animals and discover the textures and scents found in our botanic garden. After a hike around the gardens, use your keen senses to participate in a "senses challenge."

### Weather is a Breeze

Grades Pre-K – 3, 1.5 hours, \$6/student  
Become a junior meteorologist as you explore how weather affects plants, animals and humans. Collect weather data using thermometers, identify cloud types and construct a water cycle. Put your knowledge to the test and dress for the weather in the "I'm prepared for precipitation" relay race.

### Exploring Entomology

Grades Pre-K – 3, 2 hours, \$6/student  
Observe insects up close and personal. Examine insect anatomy including the head, abdomen, thorax, antennae, and wings under magnification. Catch and identify insects as you study biodiversity. Learn why humans depend on insects to survive in a game of 'nectar collectors'.

### Water Wise

Grades Pre-K – 3, 2 hours, \$6/student  
Discover the properties of water through scientific experimentation and examine the water cycle first hand. Investigate a tidal pond and wetland, test the permeability of different surfaces, and put water to work in a water powered obstacle course.

### Fantastic Fish

Grades 4 - 5, 2 hours, \$6/student  
Meet the many fish of the Christina River and the marsh at DEEC. Study fish anatomy and use body structures to predict what fish eat, how fast they swim and if they are the hunter or the hunted. Use a spinning cast net, reel in fish traps, and dip with nets to try your luck catching fish.

### Land & Water

Grades 4 - 5, 2 hours, \$6/student  
Look at the land from the perspective of an osprey, raccoon, and snapping turtle. In the marsh, find evidence of water interacting with the land. Investigate how humans affect soil erosion and deposition.

### Forces in Motion

Grades 4 - 5, 2 hours, \$6/student  
Look to the air and in the water and discover forces in motion. Explore the unique adaptations birds have for flight. Discover the effect of load on the movements of a rubber band powered bird. Celebrate the Christina River's rich maritime history and design a boat to compete in a DEEC boat race.

### Wilmington's Wetlands and Watershed

Grades 6 - 8, 2.5 hours, \$7/student  
Think globally, act locally to learn what wetlands and watersheds have to do with the quality of our streams and rivers. Test four water quality parameters, investigate point source and non-point source pollutants, and measure biodiversity along the Christina River and its adjacent wetlands.

### Remnants of Wilmington's Past

Grades 6 - 8, 2.5 hours, \$7/student  
Explore the history and remnants of Wilmington's past in a walk along the Christina River. Imagine Wilmington as it was when the Swedes arrived in the 1700's. Discover evidence of human activity from the colonial, industrial, and post-industrial eras using GPS technology. Strike a pose and create a still picture of historical eras and use archeology to explore how scientists learn about ancient civilizations.

### Climate Change Science

Grades 6 - 8, 2 hours, \$6/student  
Explore what sea level rise would mean for Wilmington's Riverfront and survey the aquatic biodiversity of the marsh to learn what's at stake. Conduct a science experiment that demonstrates the greenhouse effect and examine what you can do to reduce the effects of global climate change.

## Teacher Workshops

Registration and clock hours are available through the Delaware Teacher Center.

### Wilmington's Wild Side

Friday, October 7, 9 am – 3:30 pm  
Explore the rich biodiversity of Wilmington's wetlands. Look for the 200+ species that make the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge home, test water quality and more. Pack a bag lunch or order lunch from a local restaurant.

### Exploring Entomology

Tuesday, October 18, 4:30 – 7:30 pm  
Observe insects up close. Examine insect anatomy, catch and identify insects as you study biodiversity. Learn why humans depend on insects to survive.

### Forces in Motion

Saturday, October 29, 1 – 4 pm  
Explore the unique adaptations birds have for flight, illustrate the difference between potential and kinetic energy, explore the effects of load on movement, and analyze the success of different boat designs and compete in a DEEC boat race.

## Free Field Trip Giveaway!

Enter to win a school field study experience at DEEC for your 3rd – 5th grade class! DuPont Clear into the Future program is sponsoring a free field trip through its educational website focused on the Delaware Estuary: Clear into the Classroom. Official rules and entry form are at [www.clearintotheclassroom.com](http://www.clearintotheclassroom.com). Contest entry period is for September 1, 2011 – December 1, 2011.

# SEASONAL PROGRAMS

## Children Ages 1½- 2½

*Parent participation required (no extra fee)*

### The Marsh Rainbow

Program #: F11-220-DC Max: 15

Wednesday, September 21, 10 - 11 am

Member/Non-Member: \$7/\$11

Leader: Meghan Hawkins

Discover the colors of the rainbow hidden around the marsh in plain sight! Find red-winged blackbirds, goldenrod, and cabbage white butterflies to win a treat. Create a colorful, seedy snack for both you and marsh animals to enjoy.

### One, Two, Three Little Fish

Program #: F11-221-DC Max: 15

Wednesday, November 2, 10 - 11 am

Member/Non-Member: \$7/\$11

Leader: Lesley Bensingers

Count your way around the marsh. Three little fish in the pond, two raccoon tracks in the mud, and one marshy adventure had by all! Listen to a numerical story and enjoy a wild snack.

## Children Ages 3+

*Parent participation invited (no extra fee)*

### Bug Out!

Program #: F11-230-DC Max: 15

Wednesday, October 19, 10 - 11:30 am

Member/Non-Member: \$10/\$16

Leader: Lesley Bensingers

Use nets and magnifying glasses to view insects that swim, fly, and crawl. Search for dragonflies, grasshoppers, butterflies and beetles. You will be buzzing with excitement to explore your backyard with your own bug catching jar to take home.

## Parents & Children Ages 6+

### Girls Only Marsh Adventure

Program #: F11-262-DC Max: 15

Saturday, October 1, 1 - 3:30 pm

Member/Non-Member: \$12/\$18

Leader: Lesley Bensingers

Discover, connect and take action at DEEC! Explore the plants and animals of Wilming-

ton's freshwater tidal marsh, test the water quality of DEEC's pond and personalize your own reusable water bottle to take home. Activities support Girl Scout Wonders of Water Journey, but is fun for all girls with an interest in nature!

### Marsh Insects Day Camp – Kids Only!

Program #: F11-263-DC Max: 15

Friday, October 7, 8 am - 5 pm

Member/Non-Member: \$45/\$65

Leaders: Nancy Carol Willis and Meghan Hawkins

No school? Spend the day outdoors hunting for insects in the marsh and botanical gardens at DEEC. Compare the garden and marsh and predict where the highest biodiversity can be found. Learn insect anatomy and participate in a fun pollination game. Come interested in insects and leave a budding entomologist!

### Boys Only Bio Challenge

Program #: F11-264-DC Max: 15

Saturday, October 8, 1 - 3:30 pm

Member/Non-Member: \$12/\$18

Leader: John Harrod

How many species of the 200 different plants and animals can you find at DEEC? Use insect and dip nets, fish traps, binoculars and plant and animal field guides to beat our high score. All participants of the challenge set a personal goal and receive a prize if they can meet it. Let the challenge begin!

### North Marsh Safari (Ages 8+)

Program #: F11-261-DC Max: 15

Saturday, October 15, 1 - 2:30 pm

Member/Non-Member: \$9/\$15

Leader: Lesley Bensingers

Go on a safari and head into the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge for a wild animal adventure. Use insect, dip, and cast nets to view aquatic organisms. Binoculars help to spy on shy marsh animals. Have a wild time looking for clues mammals leave behind and make plaster casts of their tracks.

### Trek and Treat

Program #: F11-266-DC Max: 15

Saturday, October 29, 1 - 3 pm

Member/Non-Member: \$9/\$15

Leader: Lesley Bensingers

Lace up your sneakers and start the week

right with an hour long hike into the rarely traversed North Marsh. Get a closer look at the Osprey nest, see an active beaver lodge, and try to spy other rarely seen marsh residents. Complete a special trek check list and earn a special treat for your efforts!

### Remnants of Wilmington's Past (Ages 8+)

Program #: F11-267-DC Max: 15

Sunday, November 6, 1 - 3:30 pm

Member/Non-Member: \$7/\$12

Leader: Renee Anderson

Explore the remnants of Wilmington's past on this walk along the Christina River. Imagine Wilmington as it was when the Swedes arrived in the 1700's. Using GPS technology, discover evidence of human activity from the colonial, industrial, and post-industrial eras. Strike a pose and create a still picture of historical eras and use archeology to explore how scientists learn about ancient civilizations.

### Leave it to Beaver

Program #: F11-268-DC Max: 15

Saturday, November 12, 1 - 3 pm

Member/Non-Member: \$7/\$12

Leader: Lesley Bensingers

Learn about the habits of beavers and hike to an active beaver lodge. Discover how these "engineers" construct their lodge and protect their young. Finish the day with a beaver craft.

### Marsh Mammal Day Camp – Kids Only!

Program #: F11-269-DC Max: 15

Friday, November 11, 8 am - 5 pm

Member/Non-Member: \$45/\$65

Leaders: Lesley Bensingers and Nancy Carol Willis

No school? Explore the mammals of DEEC. Look for animal tracks and preserve them with plaster. Touch animal furs and hike through the marsh to look for evidence of beaver, raccoons and white tail deer. Do any other mammals frequent the marsh? We need your help to find out!

### DEEC Treasure Hunters

Program #: F11-270-DC Max: 25

Friday, November 25, 10 am - Noon

Member/Non-Member: \$7/\$12

Leader: Lesley Bensingers

Experience a modern day treasure hunt along

the Christina River! Geocaching is a world-wide game of hiding and seeking a cache of riches using a global positioning system. After a GPS tutorial, awaken your inner pirate to find a series of geocaches hidden along Wilmington's Riverwalk.

### Natural Holiday Crafts

*Program #: F11-271-DC Max: 15*  
*Saturday, December 10, 10:30 am – Noon*  
*Member/Non-Member: \$12/\$18*  
*Leader: Lesley Bensinger*

Happy Holidays! Deck the halls, trim the tree, bring your friends and family and help decorate DEEC for the season! Collect material from the marsh to use in ornaments and greeting cards and create unique holiday crafts for your home. Sing a carol and sip hot chocolate.

### Snow Science

*Program #: W12-261-DC Max: 15*  
*Saturday, January 21, 10:30 am - Noon*  
*Member/Non-Member: \$7/\$12*  
*Leader: Lesley Bensinger*

Enjoy the winter weather and all it brings. Examine snowflakes under a microscope, make a wintery craft and learn how marsh animals live though the snowy Wilmington winter. Use ice and snow to make your own bowl of ice cream. Winter is wonderful!

### DEEC Mammal Detectives

*Program #: W12-262-DC Max: 15*  
*Saturday, February 4, 10:30 am - Noon*  
*Member/Non-Member: \$7/\$12*  
*Leader: Lesley Bensinger*

Are mammals active in the marsh during winter? Discover what the red fox, raccoon, and beaver do for the long winter and look for clues they left behind. Learn what all mammals have in common. Touch animal furs, play a mammal game, look for tracks and more!

## Adults & Teens

### Canoeing the Christina River I

*Program #: F11-200-DC Max: 14*  
*Friday, September 9, Noon – 4 pm*  
*Member/Non-Member: \$30/\$45*  
*Leader: Jim White*

Ride the tide down the Christina River into the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge marsh looking for wildlife such as birds of prey, waterfowl, and aquatic mammals and then further downstream seeing the Riverfront from a new perspective.

### Migrant Shorebirds and Songbirds

*Program #: F11-201-DC Max: 12*  
*Monday, September 26, 8 - 11 am*  
*Member/Non-Member: \$10/\$15*  
*Leader: Sally O'Byrne*

Explore the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge in search of fall migrant birds. Visit the closest mud flat to Wilmington and a small forest island looking for shorebirds such as yellowlegs, dowitchers, snipe, and various "peeps". Dress for the weather and wear good walking shoes.

### RiverWalk & Wine (Ages 21+)

*Program #: F11-202-DC Max: 12*  
*Tuesday, September 27, 5:30 - 8 pm*  
*Member/Non-Member: \$10/\$15*  
*Leader: Sally O'Byrne*  
*Note: Program meets at Veritas Wine & Spirits*

Enjoy an interpretive walk of the Wilmington Riverfront's cultural and natural history with Sally O'Byrne, author of *Wilmington's Waterfront* and Delmarva Ornithological Society council member. Finish at Veritas Wine & Spirits on the Riverfront for a wine tasting.

### Kayaking the Christina River

*Program #: F11-203-DC Max: 13*  
*Friday, September 30, 10 am – 2 pm*  
*Member/Non-Member: \$30/\$45*  
*Leader: John Harrod and Ed Rohrbach*

Kayak along the Christina River and through the heart of marshes' winding guts to find wildlife, like wading Great Blue Herons, diving Ospreys and swimming turtles.

### Painting on the River

*Program #: F11-204-DC Max: 10*  
*Saturdays, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm*  
*October 1, 8, 15, 22*  
*Member/Non-Member: \$120/\$160*  
*Leader: Carol Tippit Woolworth, Delaware College of Art and Design, Artist*

Observe the many facets of nature and industry while painting, plein air, along side the Christiana River with Carol Tippit Woolworth. Explore the beauty of the refuge as it assumes the colors of fall. Oil paints, acrylics and water based media are all acceptable, and all levels of experience are encouraged to attend.

### Recycling Plant Tour

*Program #: F11-205-DC*  
*Tuesday, October 11, 9 am – 2 pm*  
*Member/Non-Member: \$20/\$30*  
*Leader: Sally O'Byrne*

What happens to all of the cans, bottles, and papers that we recycle? Join this first-time trip to the ReCommunity Recycling plant in

Camden, NJ to find out. After the tour, visit the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge where their visitor center recycles waste water onsite and has many environmentally friendly building features. Bring a lunch.

### Canoeing the Christina River II

*Program #: F11-206-DC Max: 13*  
*Sunday, October 16, 1 – 5 pm*  
*Member/Non-Member: \$30/\$45*  
*Leaders: Sally O'Byrne and John Harrod*

Ride the tide on the Christina at the height of fall color. Put in at Churchman's road and ride with the tide upstream, exploring wilderness in the midst of suburbia. When the tide turns, we will turn with it, heading downstream following curves of the natural stream, noting some of the historic changes made by man, and seeing how nature has reclaimed much of it.

### Claude E. Phillips Herbarium & Natural Areas

*Program #: F11-207-DC Max: 13*  
*Thursday, November 10, 9 am – 3 pm*  
*Member/Non-Member: \$22/\$30*  
*Leaders: John Harrod and Jason Beale*

Explore a collection of 150,000 pressed flowering plants, gymnosperms, ferns, mosses, algae and lichens, some from 1799. See the Nuttall's mudflower, a native wetland plant not seen in the wild for 70 years. Stroll the Woodland Trail and then search for Bald Eagles and waterfowl at a local wildlife hotspot. Bring a bag lunch.

### Practical Energy Conservation Tips for Your Home

*Program #: F11-208-DC Max: 40*  
*Tuesday, November 15, 6 – 7:30 pm*  
*Member/Non-Member: \$10/\$15*  
*Leader: Charles Shattuck, Energy Conservationist*

Learn how to identify and reduce drafts and lower your energy bills with practical tips for your home. Walk through the steps you can take to comfort and savings. Questions and photos of your home are encouraged so we may better assess your properties.

### Blackwater Wildlife Tour

*Program #: F11-209-DC Max: 13*  
*Wednesday, December 7, 7:30 am – 4:30 pm*  
*Member/Non-Member: \$22/\$30*  
*Leaders: John Harrod and Jason Beale*

Despite the fall chill, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland is a premier wildlife observation destination on the Eastern Shore. The refuge hosts many Bald Eagles and waterfowl and is one of the best sites on the peninsula to see the endangered Delmarva Fox Squirrel. Pack a bag lunch.

## Seasonal Programs

### Fall Migration Birding

Program #: F11-007-AS Max: 13

Fridays, 8 – 11 am

Oct 28 – DEEC - Joe Sebastiani

Member/Non-Member (Series\*): \$50/\$60

Member/Non-Member (Single): \$12/\$18

\*Note: See website for all other meeting locations

Explore birding hotspots during fall migration. Start in mid-September with a blizzard of warblers, vireos, flycatchers, raptors and other songbirds migrating south. End the series in November when the sparrows are migrating through and other birds are setting up winter territories.

### Reducing Your Carbon Footprint in Garden Soil

Program #: F11-210-DC Max: 50

Wednesday, Dec 14, 6 – 7:30 pm

Member/Non-Member: \$10/\$15

Speaker: Dale Hendricks, Owner, Green Light Plants

Can you grow beauty, wildlife habitat and food while helping to off-set climate change and improving soil fertility? Yes! Building on sustainability concepts and habitat-friendly landscapes, Dale Hendricks will offer a gardener's perspective of the carbon cycle in soil, which is not only valuable for soil structure but also in sequestering carbon. This program is in partnership with the Delaware Center for Horticulture.

### Dragons and Damsels of Delmarva

Program #: W12-201-DC Max: 40

Wednesday, January 11, 6 – 7:30 pm

Member/Non-Member: \$10/\$15

Leader: Hal White, UD Professor and author

Join Hal White, lifelong odonate enthusiast and expert, as he skillfully and entertainingly

shares the unique and interesting natural history of Delmarva's Dragonflies and Damselflies. Lecture followed by a book signing.

## Parents Night Out!

### For Children Only: Ages 5-12

Program #: F11-250-DC

September 16, Marsh Migrants

Program #: F11-251-DC

October 21, Wildflower Romp

Program #: F11-252-DC

November 18, Nocturnal Animals

Program #: F11-253-DC

December 16, Winter Wildlife

Member/Non-Member: \$15/20 per evening

Leader: Laurie Curl

Set mom and dad loose to have dinner along Wilmington's Riverfront while you stay at the DEEC and have all the fun with games, a scavenger hunt and an evening hike. Dinner provided. Parents receive a coupon towards a meal at Timothy's Riverfront Grill.

## All Family Members

### Monarchs and other Marsh Migrants

Program #: F11-280-DC Max: 15

Saturday, September 24, 1 - 3 pm

Member/Non-Member: \$7/\$12

Leader: Nancy DeLong

Witness the marvelous monarchs and other marsh migrants as they embark on their long journeys south. Try to net monarchs and other butterflies. Become a citizen scientist by tagging monarchs as part of a research project tracking their migration.

### Fall Family Cruise

Program #: F11-281-DC Max: 35

Wednesday, Sept 28, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

### Animals of the Marsh

Learn about the native animals inhabiting Wilmington's own tidal marsh. See live animals and taxidermy, touch real animal furs. Register your group for both Animals of the Marsh at your site and any field program on page 7 for \$8 per student!

### Nature in your Neighborhood

Investigate your neighborhood in a whole new way. Explore the animals and plants that also call Wilmington home. Examine a robin's nest, feel

Member/Non-Member: \$25/\$38

Leader: Lesley Bensinger

Note: Program meets at Dravo Plaza on the Wilmington Riverfront

Take a scenic cruise to see Wilmington's Rivers: The Brandywine, Christina and Delaware, and enjoy a fun and lively interpretation of the rich cultural, industrial, and natural history from the entertaining pontoon boat captain.

## Homeschool Program Series

\$6 per student

Thursdays, 1:30 – 3 pm

Program #: A11-H01-DC,

Fantastic Fish, September 22

Program #: A11-H02-DC, Marsh

Insects, October 13

Program #: A11-H03-DC,

Marsh Mammals, November 3

Program # A11-H04-DC, Nature

Photography, December 1

Explore the marsh through this series of field studies organized for home-schooled students. To register for one or all four programs, call (302) 656-1490. Program descriptions on page 7.



This summer DEEC was part of the City of Wilmington's **Green Jobs Program**. Underserved youth visited once a week for six weeks and completed restoration projects in the marsh including tree planting, invasive plant removal, and trail clearing.

feathers, and touch a raccoon fur.

Learn how animals survive city living. Register your group for both Nature in Your Neighborhood at your site and any field program on page 7 for \$8 per student!



**Choose an outreach program and let DEEC come to you!** Enjoy presentations for your group and activities at your site. Programs are 30 minutes at \$3/student or 1 hour at \$6/student, plus a \$35 travel fee. Travel fee waived for locations in the City of Wilmington.

# PROGRAMS for YOUR GROUP

*For community centers, professional organizations and clubs, faith-based groups, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and any other group. Programs can be scheduled for day or evening hours on weekdays or weekends, are 1.5 hours in length and cost \$6 per person unless otherwise noted. Advance reservation is required. Programs have a minimum charge for 12 participants. Smaller groups accepted but must pay for 12 participants. To reserve a program or find out about other opportunities at DEEC email [Lesley@delawarenaturesociety.org](mailto:Lesley@delawarenaturesociety.org) or call 302-656-1490, ext. 157.*

## **What's in the Water?**

Explore what's in the marsh water! Use nets to catch aquatic animals in the tidal pond and examine them with magnifying lenses and microscopes in the lab. Discover how animals and plants in the marsh depend on each other and construct your own food chain to take home.

## **Fantastic Fish**

Meet the many fish of the Christina River and the marsh at DEEC. Use a spinning cast net, reel in fish traps, and dip with nets to try your luck catching fish. Examine a variety of fish to learn what they eat and how they live.

## **Marsh Mammals**

Hunt for animal tracks and other evidence that the furry residents of the marsh leave behind. Learn how they survive in the marsh and touch real animal furs. Use clues to identify the animals that visit the pond when no one is looking.

## **Eco-Explorers**

How do you affect the environment? Search for signs of human activity in the marsh and test the quality of the water as you look for evidence of our impact on nature. Learn about wildlife and what you can do to protect the animals and plants that call DEEC home.

## **Marshy Adventures**

Explore the biodiversity of the marsh habitat. Look for marsh residents in air, on land, in soil, and in water. Examine plants and animals using nets and magnifiers. Learn about marsh food chains, the water cycle, and why the Christina River is important to Northern Delaware.

## **Nature Journaling**

Use digital cameras, draw pictures, and record your observations as you hike through the marsh ecosystem of the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge. Identify plants and animals found in the marsh and make a record of your experiences in a nature journal of your own to take home.

## **Nature Photography**

Capture the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge through the lens of a digital camera. Learn photography skills and how to compose outstanding photos where the city, river and marsh meet. Print and decorate a frame for your favorite photo. 2 hours, \$8/student

## **Marsh Insects**

Hunt for insects found in the air, land and water at DEEC. Collect and observe insects up close, learn insect anatomy, assemble a marsh food web puzzle, and discover some of the important jobs insects have in nature.

## **Marsh Amphibians**

Explore the marsh for frogs, toads and salamanders. Listen to the frogs' chorus, use nets to catch live amphibians and view them up close, and find eggs and tadpoles in the pond. Spring only.

## **Backyard Habitat Gardening Tour**

Stroll through the DEEC botanic garden and see how beautiful native plants provide for wildlife in Delaware. Discover how you can easily turn your property into a welcoming home for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. 1 hour, \$6 per person

## **DEEC at a Glance Tour**

Discover the DuPont Environmental Education Center, Delaware Nature Society, and the many unique features of the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge. Following the tour, explore the site on your own with a more careful eye. 30 minutes, \$3 per person

## **Building and Boardwalk Exploration Tour**

Listen to the history of the marsh, see plants currently in bloom, and look for animals that are active in the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge. Bring binoculars or share ours to catch glimpses of great blue herons, bald eagles, and much, much more from our boardwalk and building! 1 hour, \$6 per person



**DuPont Clear into the Future** funded a week-long summer marsh experience at DEEC for 23 underserved youth from Delaware Futures that included restoration projects, explorations into ecology and careers of environmental resources.

# FREE & LOW-COST Programs, Events & Activities for All Ages

**NOTE:** For some free programs, registration is required. Call 656-1490 or email [dnsinfo@delawarenaturesociety.org](mailto:dnsinfo@delawarenaturesociety.org) and provide your name and number of people attending and a telephone number.

## Monarch Migration Celebration

Sat, Sept 17, Noon – 2 pm  
Free, No pre-reg. required

Celebrate one of nature's wonders ... the great Monarch butterfly migration! Encounter live butterflies, take butterfly walks, and help us tag and release Monarchs for migration research.

## For DNS Members Only:

### Lights-Out! Wilmington Walk

Saturday, October 8, 7:30 – 9:30 am  
ING Bldg, 800 Delaware Ave, Wilm.  
Free, Pre-registration required.  
Leaders: Bill Stewart and Joe Sebastiani

Join us to check city streets in Wilmington for songbirds that have struck buildings overnight during their migration. Data is collected on these surveys for the Lights Out Wilmington project, which strives to reduce building strike deaths in the city. To learn more, visit [www.lightsoutwilm.com](http://www.lightsoutwilm.com). Look for the Peregrine Falcons that nest downtown.

## Harvest Moon Festival / Farm to Fork

Saturday & Sunday Oct 1 & 2  
at Coverdale Farm Preserve

## Big Sit Birding Competition

Sunday, October 9, 4 am – 7 pm  
Leader: Jim White, Free

Join the birding competition/party! Compete in the international Big Sit competition hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest and count the bird species seen in a day from our 17-foot diameter circle.

## Wildlife Open House

Saturday, November 19, 11 am – 2 pm  
Free, No pre-registration required

Meet live animals that are found in our marsh and throughout Delaware. Take guided walk through the refuge with our naturalists.

## Delaware's Coastal Zone Act: An Evolving Legacy

Saturday, January 14, 12 pm – 3 pm  
Free, Pre-registration required

Enjoy an autobiographical film of Delaware's Governor Russell W. Peterson, a rebel with a conscience, committed to protecting the delicate coastline and open spaces that define our state. After the film, stroll the boardwalk on a naturalist-led walk.

## Recurring Programs for Families & Individuals

*Note:* For Group programs, see page 7, visit our website or call 656-1490.



### Netting in the Marsh

Tuesdays - Sundays: 2 pm  
\$3 per person. No pre-registration

Explore the marsh using nets and more! See how many animals and insects you can catch and identify.

### Nature Walks

Through November 7, Tuesdays - Sundays: 3 pm.  
After November 7, Tuesdays - Sundays: 1 pm.  
Free, No pre-reg. required.

Discover flora and fauna while exploring the boardwalk with a naturalist. Sunday nature walks start with family story time!

### Discovery Cart

Explore a cart filled with books, pictures, animal artifacts, and much more! Themes change monthly, so come and visit often! Available during building hours.

## CONSERVATION CORNER

*Want to help the environment but not sure what to do? Come to these free events to find out how you can help!*

### Environmental Book Club

Thursday, September 22, 6 – 7:30 pm  
Free, No pre-registration required.

Join us for a lively discussion of selected books relating to our natural world. The current book selections are Mark Kurlansky's *Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World* and *World Without Fish*. To learn more, E-mail Brenna Goggin at [brenna@delawarenaturesociety.org](mailto:brenna@delawarenaturesociety.org) or call 302-239-2334.

### World Water Monitoring Day

Saturday, September 24, 11 am - 1 pm  
Free, No pre-registration required

Our local waterways are wildlife habitats, provide us drinking water, and are wonderful places to recreate. Explore and test the health of the waters surrounding DEEC as part of World Water Monitoring Day and in celebration of National Estuaries Day. Join thousands of people from over 85 countries testing the health of local waters – results will be entered into an international database.

### When the Water Rises

Wednesday, September 28, 6:30 pm – 8 pm  
Free, pre-registration required

As a coastal state, Delaware could experience significant impacts on infrastructure, wildlife habitat, and tourism. Join us for a panel discussion with the National Wildlife Federation, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Widener Law Clinic and Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to learn how the State is preparing for sea-level rise and what you can do at home.