

# museum bulletin

## The Cure for Cabin Fever: **Go Outside!**

When I was a kid, I loved winter and its fun-filled, snowy days and long, cold nights. I still remember the biting brisk air turning my cheeks rosy red and the fun of playing and exploring in my snow covered neighborhood. My twin brother and I would build snow forts, always leaving an escape door in the back in case we were attacked by a flurry of snowballs, eat icicles that I swear were two feet long, and ride our Flexible Flyer sleds down hills and jumps that we made ourselves – airtime was considered to be the ultimate ride! Sometimes we’d pause for a second to listen to the sound of sleet landing on the frozen top layer of snow or a Barred Owl calling, “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?” But then we’d be off again onto the next icy adventure.

We never had cabin fever because we never stayed inside long enough to catch it! This winter, the Museum is offering plenty of ways your family can avoid it, too. Come build forts, sleigh ride, and explore nature in the season of hibernation at our “Snow Day!” event on February 11th and join us for “Owl Prowls” and Maple Sugar Tours this winter. The trails at the Outdoor Discovery Center are open year round and in the quiet of the winter months they have a special beauty that’s unique to the season. When they’re snow covered, they make a great place for snow-shoeing! And there’s the Wildlife Education Center for those weekend days when it’s just too cold to go outside.

**Don’t let the winter weather keep you inside. Come on out! Come to the Museum! Experience the wonders of winter in the Hudson Valley with us.**

–By Carl Heitmuller

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Look for these symbols to identify where an event will be held...



25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY  
 Public hours: Fri. – Sun, 12pm – 4pm  
 “Meet the Animals” Saturday & Sunday  
 1pm & 2:30pm  
 845.534.7781



120 Muser Drive, Cornwall, NY  
 Across from 174 Angola Road  
 Office hours: Mon. – Fri. 8:30am – 4pm  
 Visitors Center & Grasshopper Grove:  
 Weekends 10am – 4pm Apr. 14 – Nov. 4  
 845.534.5506 x204  
 hhnm.org



**GO OUTSIDE! GO OUTSIDE! GO OUTSIDE! GO OUTSIDE! GO OUTSIDE!**

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Darcie Sirota, Matt Robillard

# A Letter from the Board and Staff

Dear Friends:

With deep gratitude for her leadership and vision, the Board and staff of the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum announce the retirement of our Executive Director, Jackie Grant. Jackie has led the organization's transformation from a small museum to the premier outdoor education center in the Hudson Valley. Over her 17-year tenure, program offerings have grown and flourished, introducing thousands of local children to the wonders of the natural world.

Perhaps Jackie's most significant contribution is the development of Grasshopper Grove, the Hudson Valley's first nature play area. Research shows that one of the primary influences on adult conservation values is frequent unstructured play in nature as children. Recognizing that impact on the Museum's mission, Jackie championed the "natural play space" idea and, with many supporters, brought Grasshopper Grove from conception, funding, and ultimately execution. Since opening in April 2013, thousands of children have enjoyed nature play in Grasshopper Grove.



"Jackie has been a strong champion within our community and region. Her leadership over the past 17 years has been invaluable — she has managed the Museum through significant changes and growth," said Susan Christensen, Chair of the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum.

While it is with sadness that the board and staff bid Jackie farewell, they are determined to stay the course until a new executive director is hired. Jenny Brinker, Director of Education and Community Programs, will serve as the Acting Executive Director in the interim.

"We will continue to provide the highest quality environmental education programs which plant the seeds of stewardship," said Jenny Brinker on behalf of the staff, "Tomorrow's leaders need to be equipped for tomorrow's challenges, and the Museum staff is dedicated to preparing our children for the future. All the staff of the Museum is committed to teaching children about the wonders of science and nature, helping them to become the educated leaders of tomorrow through nature play and exploration."

**FROM ALL OF US TO YOU, JACKIE, HAPPY TRAILS!**

## Spotlight on... MICHELLE MINDICINO Staff



Having been at the Museum almost 8 years, Michelle is a long time staff member. Michelle has a BS in Wildlife Management and has helped in many areas of the Museum, including animal care and education work. Currently, she is most often found tending to the Museums gift shops, looking for new educational toys, books, and games to interest the young visitors. You can also find her presenting "Meet the Animal" programs on weekends, for which the Hognose Snake is definitely a favorite!



# Special Events for Families



## STARLAB: INDOOR PLANETARIUM

Saturday, January 13

Three Sessions: 10am, 11:30am & 1pm

Take a celestial adventure in the magical night sky via the StarLab! Learn how to identify the major constellations and stars while hearing Native American and Greek stories of how they were created. This inflatable planetarium is recommended for adults and children four years and up.

Prepaid registration required. Walk-ins will not be admitted.

Admission: \$12 Adults & Children  
Members: \$8 Adults & Children



## CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH BIRDS OF PREY

Saturday, January 20

6 – 8pm

Using five to seven live birds, the Delaware Valley Raptor Center will introduce you to the fascinating world of raptors. Be enthralled as you experience the majesty of hawks, falcons, owls, and eagles up close, while gaining an understanding of how important these birds are to the balance of nature. Leave the program with a greater respect and appreciation for these magnificent birds!

Prepaid registration recommended. Walk-ins welcome if space allows.

Admission: \$15 Adults & Children  
Members: \$10 Adults & Children

## SNOW DAY AT THE OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER!

Sunday, February 11

11am – 3pm (drop-in any time)

Cooped up and need something to do? Join us for some frosty fun! Explore the woods, play goofy games in the snow, track some critters, go sledding, and make snow crafts. Dress for snow and fun! Event will be held snow or shine!

Admission: \$8 Adults, \$6 Children  
Members: \$6 Adults, \$4 Children



## OWL PROWL!

Saturday, February 17 (WEC) - 7- 9pm

Sunday, February 18 (ODC) – 7- 9pm

Owls have amazed and mystified humans for thousands of years. Each Owl Prowl will begin with an appearance of one of our owl ambassadors, so you can see an owl up close and discover their fascinating adaptations. Learn which species of owls may be found in the area before setting out on a guided after-dark walk, during which an educator will use a calling device to try and coax owls into the area for you to hear!

Prepaid registration required. Walk-ins will not be admitted.

Admission: \$12 Adults & Children 7 - 17  
Members: \$8 Adults & Children 7 - 17



## MAPLE SUGAR TOURS! (SEE PAGE 6)

Saturdays & Sundays,  
February 24 – March 18

## ROOTS TO SHOOTS!

Wednesday, March 7  
6 – 7:30pm

March is the perfect time to plan a garden and a great way to get the kids excited to be outside in the spring. Learn how to make your own compostable flower pots, learn which plants can grow together nicely, and find out how to start a garden even if you don't have any garden beds!

Prepaid registration required. Walk-ins welcome if space allows.

Admission: \$8 Adults, \$6 Children  
Members: \$6 Adults, \$4 Children

**MORE SPECIAL EVENTS FOR FAMILIES PAGE 4**

**REGISTER AT  
HHNM.ORG**

**OR CALL**

**845.534.5506**

**X204**

## SPECIAL EVENTS!

# Special Events for Families

(continued from page 3)

### FIRESIDE FUN!

Saturday, March 24  
7 – 8:30pm



Are you ready for winter to end? Turn off the T.V., bring the family and melt the frost off your nose around our campfire. We will learn about signs of spring, sing silly songs, watch funny skits and eat some campfire treats!

Prepaid registration required. Walk-ins welcome if space allows.

Admission: \$7 Adults, \$5 Children  
Members: \$5 Adults, \$3 Children

### FUNNY BUNNIES!



Saturday, March 31  
Two Sessions:  
10am & 11:30am

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Why do rabbits have so many babies? How do they protect themselves from predators? Learn about the native Eastern Cottontail and then take a walk to search for signs of wild rabbits. Meet a live rabbit and make a bunny craft to take home.

Prepaid registration required. Walk-ins welcome if space allows.

Admission: \$8 Adults, \$6 Children  
Members: \$6 Adults, \$4 Children

# FAMILY FUN Every Weekend!



## WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 12 – 4pm year round

- Live animal exhibits with “Meet the Animal” programs Saturday & Sunday 1 & 2:30pm
- Interactive exhibit: “Birds on the Wing”
- StoryWalk®: Read your way along the trail - spring throughout the summer

Admission: \$3 Adults & Children age 3 & above Members: Free

## SPECIAL CREATURE FEATURE WEEKENDS

### JANUARY 6 - 7: WINTER ADAPTATIONS

The animals at the Wildlife Education Center enjoy heated habitats all winter long. Learn how these and other animals adapt to survive the colder months.



### FEBRUARY 10 - 11: ANIMAL ATTRACTION

Dating in the animal world varies from species to species. Meet an animal that lives at the Wildlife Education Center and learn more about how it finds and chooses a mate in the wild.

### MARCH 10 - 11: THE BIG NIGHT

Every year, a silent migration happens on the first warm, rainy night. Meet nocturnal salamanders of New York and get more information on how you can help the New York Department of Environmental Conservation protect and record their presence.

### APRIL 7 - 8: TROUT TALES

Check out New York’s native Brook Trout babies and adults as we celebrate the opening of trout fishing season with help from Black Rock Forest Consortium. Fish feeding after Meet the Animals.



# SCHOOL BREAK CAMP AT THE OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER



MARCH 26 – 30, 9AM - 3PM, AGES 6 – 9



Looking for some vacation fun? Sign up for the Nature Museum’s spring break camp! Each day campers explore and play in the fields, ponds, and forests. The children’s natural curiosity will be nurtured through a variety of outdoor experiences like log turning, fort building, and searching for signs of spring. After playing outdoors, campers meet one of our resident animals and enjoy age appropriate crafts and games. Dress for the weather. Campers bring a lunch and we provide hot chocolate.

Prepaid registration required.

Non-members: \$48 per day Members: \$42 per day



# Weekend Programs

Join us for a series of interactive and engaging programs about science and nature. Programs may include a presentation, outdoor exploration on our grounds or a variety of other activities.

Unless otherwise noted all programs begin at 10am at the Outdoor Discovery Center. Suggested for adults and families with children over the age of three. Preregistration is not required. Same day admission to the Wildlife Education Center is FREE with Weekend Program fee.

Admission: \$7 adults, \$5 children,  
Members: \$5 adults, \$3 children

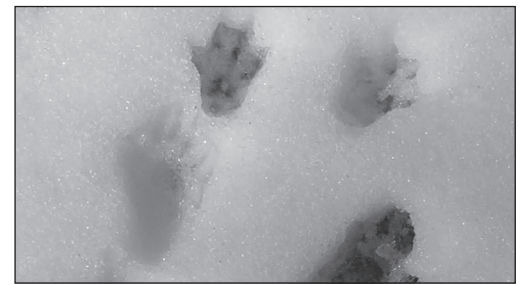


## SUNDAY, JANUARY 7: BRRR! IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

Winter is the most stressful time of year for New York's wildlife. But animals have strategies for survival in winter - hibernation, migration, or toughing it out. Learn all about the physical and behavioral adaptations animals use in the winter!

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 28: ANIMAL TRACKS AND TRACES

Join a naturalist on a wintry walk to discover "secrets in the snow" left by winter active animals. Go on a track "hunt", learn how to identify animal tracks, and create a track shirt. Each person must bring a plain white pre-washed T-shirt.



## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3: SEASONAL SCAVENGER HUNT

Families will receive a set of clues to solve nature riddles along Outdoor Discovery Center trails. Each family will need to work as a team as they hike along the trails, complete the hunt, and receive a small prize.



## SATURDAY, MARCH 17: ST. PATRICK'S DAY SNAKES

Legend says that Ireland has no snakes because St. Patrick chased them into the sea and banished them from the island forever. Museum Educators will separate fact from fiction about this story and everything "snake."



## Programs at Wave Hill Public Garden and Cultural Center



Saturday, February 3:  
Coyotes

Sunday, February 4:  
Owls



# It's MAPLE SUGARING season!

At the Outdoor Discovery Center

Saturdays and Sundays

February 24 & 25;

March 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 & 18

11am - 3pm

Admission:

\$10 Adults, \$8 Children ages 3 - 17

Members:

\$8 Adults, \$6 Children ages 3 - 17

Maple products and hot chocolate available for purchase in our Visitors Center gift shop.

**Please wear boots and dress warmly!**

**Prepaid registration required!**

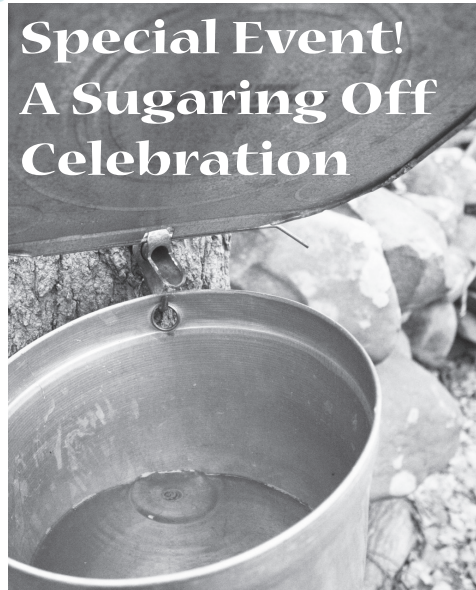
**Walk-ins welcome if space allows**  
[hhnm.org](http://hhnm.org)

As winter ends, it's maple sugaring time! Visit us to see, learn, and, most importantly, TASTE! Learn how to identify and tap sugar maple trees, discover sugaring techniques used by Native Americans, pioneers, and modern-day farmers, see an evaporator in action, and finish by participating in our taste test challenge to see if you can tell the difference between maple-flavored syrup and the real thing.

**Sugar Bush Tours:** 11am, 1pm & 2pm; a one mile moderate hike through field and forest to the Sugar Bush Shack (terrain and weather conditions dependent)

**Maple Lane Tours:** 12pm & 3pm; perfect for little legs, a short walk from the Visitor Center to our Maple Lane Sugar Shack after a tour of the sugar maple stand.

## Special Event! A Sugaring Off Celebration



**Saturday, February 24,  
11am - 3pm**

It's opening day! Come celebrate the beginning of maple sugar season and visit our Sugar Shacks!

Get your tour ticket at the Visitors Center and join us for:

- Special crafts, games, and Native American story telling around the camp fire
- Treats of the sweet season
- Fun recipes for maple syrup

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## Just for Scouts ... Workshops & Programs

**"Scouts Only" Maple Sugar Tours – February 25 & March 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18**  
10 - 11am Visit [hhnm.org](http://hhnm.org) for details. Call 845.534.5506 x211 to book your tour.  
Scouts & Adults: \$6

**CALL EARLY–  
THESE EVENTS SELL OUT FAST!**

## Spring Scout Badge Workshops!

Bring your troop, den or pack for an exciting day of learning and fun on the trails as they earn requirements for awards and badges. Workshops are held at the ODC from 1:45 – 3:45pm.

Scouts: \$15 Adults: Free (1 Adult per 5 Scouts) Prepaid registration required.  
No refunds for no-shows on the day of workshops.



### Cub Scout Workshops

Saturday, April 7  
Tiger "Backyard Jungle"

Sunday, April 8  
Bear "Super Science"

Saturday, April 28  
Wolf "Digging into the Past"

Sunday, April 29

Webelos & Arrow of Light "Earth Rocks!"

### Girl Scout Workshops

Saturday, April 14  
Daisy "Rose Petal"

Sunday, April 15

Brownie "Letterboxer"

Saturday, May 5  
Juniors "Animal Habitats"

Sunday, May 20  
Cadettes "Trees"



## Animals & Nature Together

### ...ANTS!

WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER

Designed for children ages 2 - 4, this program provides an opportunity for children to learn about animals and have fun with their parent/grandparent/caregiver in a structured environment. Crafts, songs, stories, and hands-on exploration provide an enriching introduction to native animals. This one-of-a-kind program helps build an understanding and respect for the animals and plants in the Hudson Highlands. A great way to prepare your child for preschool!

#### WINTER SESSION – 6 WEEKS

January 16 – February 22

\*Snow days made up the next week

Tuesday: January 16 – February 20  
10:00 – 11:00am

Wednesday: January 17 - February 21  
9:30 - 10:30am  
11:00am -12:00pm

Thursday: January 18 – February 22  
10:00 – 11:00am

Price per Adult/Child pair: \$90

Members: \$70

5% sibling discount

#### SPRING SESSION – 8 WEEKS

March 6 – May 3

\* No class March 27 - 29

Tuesday: March 6 – May 1  
10:00 – 11:00am

Wednesday: March 7 – May 2  
9:30 - 10:30am  
11:00am -12:00pm

Thursday: March 8 – May 3  
10:00 – 11:00am

Price per Adult/Child pair: \$120

Members: \$95

5% sibling discount

Your child **MUST** be 2 years of age to enroll. This is a special time for adults and toddlers. Kindly make arrangements for siblings over 9 months. Enrollment for each class is limited to ten adult/child pairs. Register early for your preferred day and time..

Just  
for  
Kids!

## Nature Play Lunch and Afterschool Clubs

#### WINTER SESSIONS

January 3 - March 23; Monday, Wednesday, Friday (no clubs Jan.15, Feb.16 & 19)

#### SPRING SESSION

April 4 – May 23; Monday, Wednesday, Friday (no clubs Apr. 20)

Lunch Club: 11:30am - 1:30pm

Afterschool Club: 3 - 5pm

The Museum will once again offer our popular Nature Play Clubs for 4 & 5 year olds. Extend your child's outdoor playtime for up to three days a week. Playing outdoors is a wonderful way to develop coordination, practice cooperation, and connect to the environment. Plus, the extended hours help children prepare for the full days of kindergarten.

Price ranges from \$12 - \$15 per day depending on number of days a week registered. Drop-ins accepted if space allows and if registered online before 9am the day of the program. Drop-in rate is \$18 per day.

Register online at  
[hnm.org](http://hnm.org) or  
call 845.534.5506 x204

## After School Adventures

OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER

3:45 - 5pm

5-week session

Members: \$75 Not-yet-members: \$90



#### BUG BONANZA! GRADES K – 2

Mondays, April 9 – May 7

The bugs are back! Let's go explore the tiny world of bugs. We'll use sweep nets in the field, dip nets in the pond, kick nets in the stream, shake the trees, and roll the logs of the forest in search of these enormously important little animals that call these places home! Space limited to 10.

#### AIR-CRAFTS GRADES 3 - 5

Tuesdays, April 10 – May 8

Become an engineer and make several "Air-CRAFTS"! Join Educator Carl Heitmuller and build a Slingshot Helicopter, the World's Easiest Kite, Origami Boomerangs, Flying Cups & Rings, and make an Air Powered Rocket that will launch to over 20 feet! It will be a BLAST! Space limited to 10.

## Young Naturalist Preschool at the Outdoor Discovery Center!



#### REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2018-2019

This popular program offers three and four year olds the opportunity to interact with other students and with nature in a hands-on and exciting way. The children learn letters, numbers, colors, and shapes while exploring, experimenting, and discovering the world around them. Young Naturalist Preschool brochure, application form, and sample contract are available at [hnm.org](http://hnm.org).

#### FOUR-YEAR-OLD CLASSES

- Owl Class: Mon thru Fri; 9 – 11:45am
- Deer Class: Mon thru Fri; 12:15 – 3pm
- Dragonfly Class: Mon, Wed, Fri; 12:15 - 3pm

#### THREE-YEAR-OLD CLASSES

- Bluebird Class: Mon, Wed, Fri; 9 - 11:45am
- Turtle Class: Tues & Thurs; 9 - 11:45am
- Frog Class: Tues & Thurs; 12:15 - 3pm

#### Open House:

Thursday, February 8 from 3:30 - 6 pm (snow date: February 9). Members new to the program are encouraged to attend. Teachers will be available to answer questions and distribute application forms.



PO Box 451  
Cornwall, New York  
12518



Museum  
Bulletin ■  
Winter/Spring 2018

**Save the Date!**  
**Hike-A-Thon & Earth Day**  
**Celebration**  
**Saturday, April 21**



## HELP US REACH CORNWALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

### \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE!

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum is seeking Cornwall High School Seniors committed to incorporating environmental stewardship in their future plans to apply for a \$1000 scholarship.

Students may obtain applications from the Cornwall High School guidance office or the Museum website at [hnm.org](http://hnm.org) under "ABOUT US" and then "COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP."

**The Mission of the Museum is to create responsible caretakers of our environment. Through quality educational programs for the public that focus on the unique ecology of the Hudson Valley, the Museum promotes knowledge and appreciation of our natural world and the dynamic role of human interaction in its well-being.**

[hnm.org](http://hnm.org)

## CONTINUE YOUR CARING

### CONNECT KIDS WITH NATURE FOR GENERATIONS!

Generations For Nature, the HHNM Planned Giving Circle, is made up of individuals who have included the Museum as beneficiaries in their estate plans. Their "planned gifts" may take many forms but they have one thing in common: their generosity will enable the Museum to fulfill its mission far into the future.

To join or to learn more, contact the Director of Development, Jessica Oliveri at 845.534.5506 x215

### Wildlife Education Center

25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson  
845.534.7781

Open year round:  
Friday – Sunday from 12-4pm  
Admission: \$3 for ages 3 & up  
Members: Free

### Outdoor Discovery Center

120 Muser Drive, Cornwall  
(entrance across from 174 Angola Rd.)  
845.534.5506 x204

Open mid-April to mid-November  
Saturday – Sunday from 10am-4pm  
· Trails: Free  
· Grasshopper Grove:  
Admission: \$3 for ages 2 & up  
Members: Free

[hnm.org](http://hnm.org)

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