

# museum bulletin

## Recent Study Focuses on Grasshopper Grove!

Here at HHNM, we believe in Nature Play – for kids and adults! Time spent in nature makes us calmer, happier, and healthier, no matter our age. For children, engaging in unstructured play in a natural environment has the added benefit of helping them develop collaboration, socialization, gross-motor skills, and appropriate risk-taking.

Also, interviews with environmentalists indicate that their love of nature began with frequent outdoor play in early childhood. Those interviewed had something else in common, too: a caring adult in their lives that encouraged Nature Play.

With that in mind, we designed the Early Childhood Action in Nature (ECAN) project which was funded by a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and implemented in 2015 and 2016. Because HHNM’s mission is to create responsible caretakers of the environment, the hypothesis for the project was that if more parents and teachers value and promote outdoor play, children will spend more time in nature – and will be more likely to grow up to become caretakers of the environment.

Twenty-seven preschools and kindergartens were selected to participate. We provided professional development for the teachers and class visits to Grasshopper Grove, our Nature Play demonstration site, reaching 193 adults and 1,462 children. We also offered Nature Play programs to weekend visitors at Grasshopper Grove.

The grant required us to bring in external evaluators to determine if ECAN was having the desired effect. PEER Associates developed the needed survey and analysis tools for participating educators and public visitors to Grasshopper Grove. According to PEER’s Chris Hardee, “PEER was a good fit because of our experience not only with Nature Play, but with environmental and place-based education initiatives around the country.”

The results are in! PEER’s analysis showed a dramatic shift in the attitudes of educators and parents after participating in ECAN, and an increase in the frequency of Nature Play. In other words, adults at home and school understood the value of Nature Play and were supporting children in more outdoor play, for longer periods.

One parent wrote in their survey, “[I’m] forever grateful to HHNM for bringing us closer to nature and each other, and teaching our children how to be good stewards of the earth.”

“The success of the ECAN project in promoting nature play is inspiring.” says HHNM Executive Director Jackie Grant, “We look forward to sharing our ‘lessons learned’ in professional circles nationally and will continue to build a Nature Play community closer to home.”

To learn more about the ECAN project and its evaluation, visit “Nature Play” at [hnm.org](http://hnm.org).



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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  
 Visitor Center & Grasshopper Grove:  
 Weekends 10am – 4pm Apr. 8 – Nov. 12  
 Phone: 845.534.5506 x204  
[hnm.org](http://hnm.org)

**ON SATURDAY APRIL 8TH, GRASSHOPPER GROVE NATURE PLAY AREA AT THE OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER WILL BEGIN ITS 5TH SEASON. JOIN US!**

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from  
GEORGE MUSER

# Board Member

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum has been the most amazing gift to me since I retired here 25 years ago: volunteers get to pick useful projects and get lots of encouragement and applause!

I was first hooked by the museum's Stillman Barn project. I joined many others working to save this structure from extinction by cabling, cleaning, painting, carpentry, and roofing. Today the barn serves our mission as a summer colony for visiting barn swallows!

Collaboration is a wonderful word which typifies the work I have seen grow and expand over the years at the museum. Many individuals pitch in, seeing something good, and participate to make it happen.

About the same time, there was a museum appeal for a maple sugaring evaporator which took me to Vermont to track down an adapted 55-gallon drum. This was easier than the barn, but how the maple sugaring has grown over the years! Now new families find the museum program on the internet and drive from as far as New York City. Pretty amazing.



George Muser, second from left, and trail-building volunteers.

The Nature Museum is small enough that your individual efforts make a significant difference and are rewarded, but it is not small in scope. The need for environmental leadership in the future is critical to the health of the planet. That is what we teach at the museum. That's a pretty BIG goal to shoot for, I think!

Speaking of the future, this might be a good time to make a pitch for the museum's planned giving program, Generations for Nature. Some dozen of us retired folk have named the museum in our wills to benefit the long-term growth of the museum's mission. No one likes to think about their own mortality, but, if you give to a good cause like the museum, you feel good about it for a really long time.

But there are many ways to make a valuable contribution at any age. I recommend volunteering to do something you are excited about. Try it out! When you help, the effort pays you back many times over. Be a little patient, find out where help is needed and watch things take off!

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## Spotlight on... EUROPEAN STARLINGS AND CLIMATE CHANGE Research



You may notice a number of new bird nesting boxes springing up across the landscape at the Outdoor Discovery Center! The Museum is participating in a research project that will help determine what mechanisms European starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) use to ensure offspring survival in varying environmental conditions. As climates become more erratic, with increasing variability in precipitation and temperature extremes, it is crucial to understand if and how species can adapt. The way in which starling mothers provide advantages to their offspring, in order to overcome environmental constraints, will be explored in this study.

# Earth Day Celebration!



Saturday, April 22nd at the Outdoor Discovery Center

## Eleventh Annual Hike-A-Thon

- Hike for a Purpose! Raise funds for Environmental Education!
- A great outing for families & people of all ages.
- Hikes for all abilities
- 9:00am - Registration
- 9:30am - Welcome and warm-up
- 9:45am - Hit the Trails!
- Rain Date: Sunday, April 23rd
- Register at [hnm.org](http://hnm.org)

## Earth Day Family Fun

11am - 3pm

- The Green Zone: Earth Friendly Activities
- Live Farm Animals
- Hay rides (fee)
- 11:30am "The Lorax" performed by Young Naturalists Preschoolers
- 12:30 & 2pm - Music by John and Jackie Gioia
- Food & Refreshments (for purchase)
- Parking: \$5 per car (suggested donation)
- Rain Date: Sunday, April 23rd

For more information visit [hnm.org](http://hnm.org) or call 845.534.5506 x204



# Native Plant Sale

**Saturday, May 20**

**9am – 1pm**

**Outdoor Discovery Center**

- Get advice from experienced gardeners
- Selection of native plants that attract butterflies, honey bees, and hummingbirds
- Visit [hnm.org](http://hnm.org) for list of plants



## Adult Programs & Adventures



### **"EN PLEIN AIR" PAINT 'N' SIP** Saturday, June 3 3 – 5:30pm (ODC)

Join us for a "Paint 'n' Sip" event in the great outdoors, a style called "en plein air" - French for "in the open air". This will be a fun late afternoon in a communal setting where participants are encouraged to paint, eat, drink, and socialize. Renowned local artist, John Gioia, will guide participants through a step-by-step process, while encouraging individuality. The class includes wine, cheese, painting instruction, and everything you need to create your own masterpiece. No previous art experience is required. **Admission: \$60 Adults Members: \$50**

### **IONA ISLAND HIKE**

**Saturday, June 17 9am – 12 or 1pm**

Join us for a special opportunity to hike Iona Island with "Doc" Bayne, a regionally recognized naturalist and historian. Learn all about this nature preserve that includes evidence of Native Americans, Colonial life and a rich military history. Today it supports wildlife including the majestic Bald Eagle. Wear proper footwear, and bring lunch and water. Meet at the Iona Island parking area. Full directions will be emailed.

**Admission: \$10 Adults Members: \$7 Adults**



### **HIT THE TRAIL: SCHUNNEMUNK MOUNTAIN** Saturday, July 8 9am – 1pm

Hike the highest mountain in Orange County with an experienced guide, Adam Harlec. We'll take the White Trestle Trail to the top of this 1,664 foot summit for some great views of the Hudson Valley. Approximately 4 miles round trip with a 1,200 foot elevation gain. Proper footwear is required and bring lots of water! Full directions will be emailed.

**Admission: \$10 Adults Members: \$7 Adults**

### **IONA MARSH CANOE TRIP**

**Tuesday, August 8 10am – 12:30pm**

Paddle through this marshy maze in Rockland County with Reserve naturalists. Nestled in the Hudson Highlands adjacent to Bear Mountain State Park, this wetland features marsh flowers, snapping turtles, and dramatic views of Dunderberg, Bald, West, and Manitou Mountains. You may catch a glimpse of a blue crab swimming below or a secretive green heron perching above the water. Equipment will be provided. Full directions will be emailed.

**Admission: \$20 Adults,**

**\$15 Children (12-17)**

**Members: \$15 Adults, \$10 Children (12-17)**



### **WILDFLOWERS & WINE** Sunday, August 20 6pm (ODC)

The weather is warm and the wildflowers are in bloom! We'll start our evening adventure in magical Grasshopper Grove then stroll through charming fields full of wildflowers with a glass of wine in one hand and a Newcomb's field guide in the other. Admire rudbeckia while sipping merlot or appreciate the delicate Queen Anne's lace with a pinot grigio.

**Admission: \$20 Adults Members: \$15 Adults**

**Prepaid registration is required unless specified. Register online at [hnm.org](http://hnm.org) or call 845.534.5506 x204**



# 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 and a variety of other activities.

Unless otherwise noted all programs begin at 10am at the Outdoor Discovery Center and are suggested for adults and families with children over the age of five. Pre-registration is not required. Same day admission to the Wildlife Education Center is FREE after paid attendance for a Weekend Program.

Admission: \$8 Adults, \$5 Children    Members: \$5 Adults, \$3 Children

## THREE SISTERS GARDENING SATURDAY, MAY 13

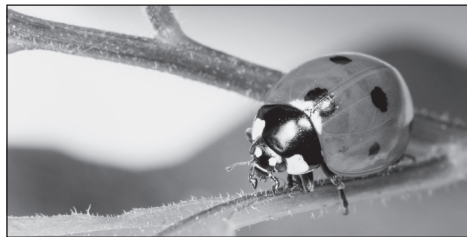
Explore the benefits of companion planting by investigating the historical Native American planting of the Three Sisters Gardens. Learn about how the growth habits and biology of certain plants can complement each other to form a mutually beneficial relationship by planting corn, beans, and squash.

## LADYBUG RELEASE SATURDAY, JUNE 4

Learn about ladybugs and how helpful they are. After a short presentation, we will release ladybugs into the fields and gardens.

## BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER (WEC) SUNDAY, JUNE 18

A "behind-the-scenes" look at what is involved in our daily animal care! See animal enrichment activities and assist the staff in caring for some very cool native animals.



## TURTLES SATURDAY, JULY 15

Can you imagine carrying your house everywhere you go? Come meet some turtles up close and learn how they live and move.

### OFF SITE PROGRAMS Beacon Institute for Rivers & Estuaries – 10am

June 3: Amphibians & Reptiles

### Wave Hill – 7:30pm

June 24: Marvelous Moths

### Storm King Art Center – 1pm

May 21: Ladybugs

June 25: Tree Identification

July 30: Birds

# FAMILY FUN EVERY WEEKEND

## WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER

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

Live animal exhibits with "Meet the Animal" programs  
Saturday & Sunday 1pm & 2:30pm

Interactive exhibit: "Birds on the Wing"

StoryWalk®: Read your way along the trail -  
May 27 throughout the summer

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



## GRASSHOPPER GROVE AT THE OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER

Saturday & Sunday, 10am – 4pm  
April 8 – November 12

Young children enjoy this unique natural play area where they experience adventure and explore outside.

Admission: \$3 Adults & Children age 2 & above  
Members: Free



## SPECIAL NATURE PLAY EVENTS 10am – 12pm

Sunday, May 21

Bug Detectives

Saturday, June 24

Fairy Prince & Princess Party

Saturday, July 29

International Mud Day!

Saturday, August 26

Tree Friends



## SPECIAL CREATURE FEATURE WEEKENDS

May 27 – 28

Rascally Rabbits

June 10 – 11

Incredible Insects

July 15 – 16

Reptile Roundup

August 5 – 6

Amazing Animal Adaptations



# Special Events

## ANNUAL EVENING FROG WALK

Friday May 5 7:30pm (ODC)

Learn to recognize our local frogs by sight and sound, and take a guided wetland walk to test your frog identification skills. Bring a flashlight. **Register at [hnm.org](http://hnm.org).**

**Admission: \$10 Adults, \$7 Children**

**Members: \$8 Adults, \$5 Children**

## CORNWALL COMMUNITY DAY OF PLAY

Saturday, May 20 12 – 4pm (WEC & ODC)

We're celebrating our community by offering FREE ADMISSION for Cornwall residents to the Wildlife Education Center and Grasshopper Grove at the Outdoor Discovery Center! Meet live wild animals at the Wildlife Education Center and romp in our nature play area at Grasshopper Grove.

**Admission: FREE to Cornwall & Cornwall-on-Hudson Residents**

## STORY WALK® OPENING WEEKEND

Saturday, May 27 12pm - 4pm (WEC)

The Museum, in partnership with the Cornwall Public Library and The Grail, invites you to StoryWalk® 2017. Read an illustrated children's story and solve riddles about this special habitat as you stroll along our meadow trail.

- 1:00 and 2:30 meet one of the animals from the book
- 1:30 and 3:00 guided walk along our Story Walk® Trail
- Throughout the afternoon - craft and snack for the kids

**Included with Regular Admission:**

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

## HOW TO BE A HAPPY CAMPER! (FAMILY CAMP OUT)

Friday, June 9, 6pm - Saturday, June 10, 8am (ODC)

Welcome the summer season with a night under the full moon! After dinner, bring your family, tent, and sleeping bags for an evening of nocturnal fun. We'll teach you everything you need to know to tent camp on your own, from campground reservations to starting a fire. As the sun goes down, join us for fun and s'mores around the campfire. A light breakfast snack and coffee will be provided Saturday morning as we break camp.

**Limited space available. Prepaid registration required at [hnm.org](http://hnm.org)**

**Admission: \$20 Adults, \$12 Children 3 & above**

**Members: \$18 Adults, \$9 Children 3 & above**

## FAMILY FISHING DAY

Sunday, June 25

8:30 – 10:30am (ODC)

Join Carl Heitmuller for some tall fishy tales and to learn all about fishing!

Our ponds are home to many different species of fish, including largemouth bass, black crappie, and pumpkinseed sunfish.

The NYS fishing license requirement is waived for adults who participate in this event. We provide the bait; you just bring poles and your sense of adventure! **Register at [hnm.org](http://hnm.org).**

**Admission: \$10 Adults, \$7 Children**

**Members: \$8 Adults, \$5 Children**



## FULL MOON HIKE

Saturday, July 8 8pm (ODC)

Enjoy the moonlit fields and forests on a guided full moon trek. The Full Buck Moon appears during the time when new antlers of buck deer push out from their foreheads in coatings of velvety fur. Join educator, Lisa DiMarzo, to learn more lunar and celestial stories. **Register at [hnm.org](http://hnm.org)**

**Admission: \$10 Adults, \$7 Children**

**Members: \$8 Adults, \$5 Children**

## BUTTERFLY WEEKEND

Saturday, August 12 & Sunday, August 13  
10am - 2pm (ODC)

Flutter in this weekend to discover the beauty of butterflies, moths, and caterpillars.

- 10:30am & 12:30pm - Illustrated presentation about common local butterflies
- 11:30am & 1:30pm - Guided butterfly walks through our fields
- Butterfly tent (one ticket with each paid admission)
- Butterfly, moth, and caterpillar crafts for kids
- Admission to Grasshopper Grove included

**Admission: \$8 Adults, \$6 Children**

**Members: \$6 Adults, \$4 Children**



## 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 to build an understanding and respect for the animals and plants in the Hudson Highlands. A great way to prepare your child for preschool!

### 8-WEEK SESSIONS – CHOOSE FROM 4 OPTIONS

Tuesdays: June 27 - August 22

\*No Class July 4

10:00 - 11:00am

Thursdays: June 29 - August 24

\*No Class July 6

9:30 - 10:30am

11:00am - 12:00pm

Fridays: June 30 - August 25

\*No Class July 7

10:00 - 11:00am

Admission per Adult/Child pair: \$120.00

Members: \$95 (additional sibling 5% discount)

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

845.534.5506 x204

## Just for Kids!



\*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.

## Nature Strollers



A hiking group for families with babies, toddlers, and young children. Join us for a one-hour hike with the tykes led by a Museum educator!

Mondays, April 24 - June 12

(no hike May 30)

9:30am Meet at the ODC Visitors Center

Admission: \$5 per family

Members: Free

## Young Naturalist Preschool



2017 - 18

## Registration Open for 3 & 4 year olds

- Active and nature-based – students use the resources of the Museum, including Grasshopper Grove and the Wildlife Education Center, to develop skills necessary for kindergarten.
- Children learn letters, numbers, colors and shapes while discovering the world around them.
- Outdoor exploration takes place every day

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

7

## SUMMER SCIENCE and NATURE CAMP 2017

### Hike the trails – Build a Fort – Discover Animals



July 3 – August 25: Science and Nature Exploration  
for Kids Ages 4 - 12 Every Week!

Half Day Camp - ages 4 -5; Full Day Camp - ages 5 - 12;  
with one special week for Eco-Rangers for ages 13 - 16.

Campers make magical memories in the outdoors guided by a staff of professional educators! Each week is packed with exploration, games, crafts, and a special off-site adventure.

Register online at  
[hnm.org](http://hnm.org)  
or call 845.534.5506  
x211

## SPRING SCOUT PROGRAMS



1:45 - 3:45pm (ODC)

April 9:

Tiger: Sky's the Limit\*

April 29:

Webelo/Arrow of Light:  
Into the Woods

April 30: Junior: Detective

May 6:

Brownie: Household Elf

May 7:

Bears: Super Science

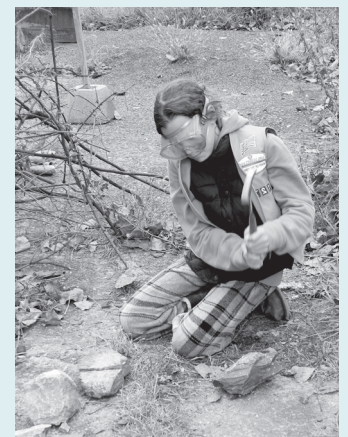
May 21: Daisy: Green Petal

Admission: \$15 per Scout

\*\$30 per Person for Sky's the Limit

Register at [hnm.org](http://hnm.org) or call 845.534.5506 x211

Fall Programs: Sign up for emails at [hnm.org](http://hnm.org)



PO Box 451  
Cornwall, New York  
12518



# Museum Bulletin ■ Spring/Summer 2017

**Help us reach Cornwall  
High School Seniors  
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Go to [hnm.org](http://hnm.org) and click  
on "About Us"**



## 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 Museum's Executive Director, Jackie Grant at 845.534.5506 x203

**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)**

### 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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