

# 2018 RUSHTON NATURE KEEPERS EVENTS

## Sheep Shearing

**Wednesday, April 18 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm | Plumsock Farm**  
**920 Plumsock Road, Newtown Square**

Join us in a pastoral setting for a sheep shearing demonstration. Children will witness and take part in a sheep shearing and learn about the history of domesticated sheep as farm animals.

## Songbird Banding Open House

**Saturday, April 28 from 6:00 - 10:30 am | Rushton Woods Preserve**

Stop by the region's premier bird banding station at Rushton Woods Preserve anytime between the operating hours of 6-10:30 am (arrive by 9 am) to observe the incredible science of bird banding. See handsome spring warblers and tour the stream where our watersheds expert will have live aquatic invertebrates on display.

## Warbler Walk at Ridley Creek State Park

**Sunday, April 29 from 7:30 - 9:30 am | Ridley Creek State Park**

**The Bridle Trail on Gradyville Road, Newtown Square**

Join birders from Delaware Valley Ornithological Club at Ridley Creek State Park at the height of spring warbler migration to see and hear these living gems in the habitat along the stream. We'll practice spring identification as well as birding by ear.

## Nature Poetry Workshop

**Thursday, May 3 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm | Rushton Farm**

In the merry month of May after the earth has fully awakened, we will look for birds, wildflowers and other wonders. Guided by Villanova Poetry Professor, Cathy Staples, we will create poetry from our observations.

## Potato Planting

**Wednesday, May 9 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm | Rushton Farm**

Get your hands dirty and help the farmers plant potatoes in the fields. Since this farm is sustainable, it provides habitat for myriad living things besides just crops! We'll come across many interesting insects and learn how farm is habitat.

## "Belle's Journey" Book Signing and Art Workshop

**Sunday, May 20 from 2:00 - 4:30 pm**

**Willistown Conservation Trust Office**

Participants will each receive a pre-ordered copy of "Belle's Journey" (\$15 for book), a new chapter book (for ages 7-10) about an osprey born on Martha's Vineyard who makes her first flight to Brazil and back with a satellite transmitter. Ornithologist and author Rob Bierregaard will be there with artist Kate Garchinsky. **Must pre-register with Blake Goll (bhg@wctrust.org) by April 27th to be included on the book order.**

## Stream Walk

**Thursday, June 7 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm | Ashbridge Preserve**

Explore different stretches of the stream at Ashbridge with the Trust's watershed experts while learning about the basics of stream ecology and food webs. We will also wander the enchanting Hawthorn Forest and get up close and personal with macroinvertebrates that call the stream bed home. Wear water shoes!

## Field Trip to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia

**Thursday, June 14 from 12:30 - 2:30 pm**

**Meet at the 19th Street entrance of the Academy, Philadelphia**

We have a special invitation to visit behind the scenes of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, home to one of the world's largest collections of bird specimens. We will observe ornithologists and see the amazing bird collection!

## Family Moth Party

**Friday, June 15 from 7:30 - 10:00 pm**

**Rushton Woods Preserve and Farm**

Enjoy a summer night with the moths! We will survey what species are at Rushton by using special lights against white sheets. Adam Mitchell, Associate Wildlife Biologist of University of DE, and local moth enthusiast Sheryl Johnson will help with moth identification. Fermented refreshments will be provided for the moths, but humans must BYOB. Snacks will be provided.

## Glen Mills School Purple Martin Banding

**Date and Time: TBA | Glen Mills School**

**185 Glen Mills Road, Glen Mills**

Watch the banding of hundreds of Purple Martin chicks at the official Purple Martin colony of PA. Banding these birds is important for their conservation because they are declining. Timing of this event depends on timing of the hatch.

## Meet the Bees and Honey Tasting

**Wednesday, July 11 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm | Rushton Farm**

Join Rushton's beekeeper, Noah Gress, as he harvests honey from Rushton's busy honeybee colony. Children will have the opportunity to extract yummy honey straight from the honeycomb and learn about the importance of honeybees and native bees as pollinators.

## Leaf Pack Walk

**Sunday, July 15 from 12:00 - 5:00 pm | Ashbridge Preserve**

Dive deeper into stream ecology with our Field Study Site Coordinator as we focus on understanding food webs and trophic levels. We'll play games, explore the stream looking for bugs and make "leaf packs", connecting aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

## Wildflowers and Watercolor Workshop

**Thursday, August 2 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Willistown Conservation Trust Office**

Explore the Trust's spectacular wildflower meadow and paint with watercolors in the fresh air! We'll also learn about the importance of native plants for pollinators and what you can do in your own yard to support these insects.

## Discover Rushton Mini Camp

**Wednesday, August 22 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm | Rushton Farm**

Spend a half day at Rushton exploring the woods and fields, monitoring bird boxes, and making bouquets and gnome homes. We'll also work on the Farm harvesting the potatoes you helped plant in May! Snacks will be provided.

## Nighthawk Watch at Haverford College Observatory

**Thursday, August 30 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm**

**Haverford College, Walton Lane, Ardmore**

Watch the skies with expert bird watchers from Birding Club of Delaware County during the Common Nighthawk migration for the official count! These aerial insectivores can be seen in large flocks during migration, but are in steep decline.

## Songbird Banding Open House

**Saturday, September 15 from 6:00 - 10:30 am**

**Rushton Woods Preserve and Farm**

Bring a friend to the banding station anytime between the operating hours from 6 -10:30 am (arrive by 9 am) to observe the inspiring science of bird banding, meet field biologists, see migrant birds up close, and "practice banding skills."

## Harvest Hoopla

**Friday, October 5 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm | Rushton Farm**

It's time for Rushton Nature Keepers to celebrate the harvest at Rushton Farm! Join us for a fun evening of pumpkin carving and a hayride with Farmer Fred.

## Hawk Watch at Rose Tree Park

**Sunday, October 14 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm | Rose Tree Park**

**1671 North Providence Road, Media**

Join expert hawk watchers at the Rose Tree Hawk Watch during the height of the fall migration. You'll learn all about raptor identification and see migrating raptors like Broad-winged Hawks overhead!

## Monster Night

**Tuesday, October 30 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm | Rushton Farm (TBD)**

Observe spooky little stream creatures projected from a microscope onto a screen to MONSTER size! Learn all about which fish are native and which are invasive (the real monsters!). Then get creative designing your own stream bug or fish and making your own "monster" costume!

## Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding

**Friday, November 9 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm | Rushton Farm**

Observe Northern Saw-whet Owl banding at Rushton Farm and experience nature at night. These tiny owls (no bigger than a soda can) travel through PA in the fall in search of ideal overwintering habitat. Learn all about their ecology and conservation from our field scientists and hopefully see an owl up-close!

## Visit to Chester County Food Bank

**Wednesday, November 14 from 4:00 - 5:30 pm**

**Chester County Food Bank | 650 Pennsylvania Drive, Exton**

Join us for a tour of the Chester County Food Bank facility, which serves the hungry and food insecure of our county. We'll learn all about the problem of food insecurity and the process of food donation. Rushton Farm itself donates about 3,000 pounds of fresh produce annually.

## Rushton Junior Naturalist Celebration

**Friday, November 30 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm**

**Rushton Woods Preserve and Farm**

All Rushton Nature Keepers are invited to this special celebration. Those who have attended 2 bird events, 2 farm events, 2 water events, and 1 habitat event as designated by the icons on the schedule (for a total of 7) will be awarded the Rushton Junior Naturalist title.

## Winter Bird Count

**Saturday, December 8 from 9:30 - 11:00 am | Rushton Woods Preserve**

Enjoy a morning of birding at Rushton Woods. We will count birds in the tradition of the National Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC), which is the longest running wildlife survey in the world. We'll also learn how to enter our sightings into eBird.

### Addresses

**Willistown Conservation Trust Office**  
925 Providence Road, Newtown Square

**Rushton Woods Preserve and Farm**  
911 Delchester Road, Newtown Square

**Ashbridge Preserve**  
E. Strasburg Road, West Chester

### Program Key



**Birds and Wildlife**



**Sustainable Farming**



**Watersheds**



**Healthy Habitat**