

TRAVELING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The following is a *sampling* of Naturalist-presented, lecture and discussion based presentations that are appropriate for a variety of audiences. Choose one of our topics *or* suggest one of your own.

Some of the presentations are PowerPoint-based while others are 'artifact' based; many combine both styles.

If you are looking for an 'artifact' based program look for the paw print symbol 🐾.

Presentations which are strictly power point based are indicated by the eyeglasses symbol 🧐.

Presentations which incorporate both artifacts and power point are indicated by a shooting star ✨.

Each presentation can be tailored to your group's specific needs, interests, and time frame. We can provide our own projection screen, projector, and laptop for the presentation; you provide a table and the audience.

A few of our presentations are 'date sensitive' and are only offered during limited periods of the year.

Amazing Adaptations 🐾

In this program, we will explore how wildlife survives in its environment. The concepts of habitat, niche, and adaptation will be covered in an interactive discussion, using animal 'artifacts' to further illustrate these concepts.

Backyard Bears ✨

Bear sightings are increasing throughout the state of New Jersey. Do you know what to do if you see a bear? A PowerPoint-based, lecture

and discussion will help you become educated in bear 'etiquette', You will learn 'the bear necessities' and walk away with a better understanding of bears.

Backyard Birds ✨

Ever wonder about the birds in your backyard? This PowerPoint-based lecture and discussion will help you get acquainted with many of New Jersey's common backyard birds. Join a Naturalist and spend some time learning the fundamentals of backyard bird watching. You will learn basic identification skills, what to feed backyard birds, as well as when and where to place feeders in your yard.

Backyard Invaders ✨

We are being invaded! The world is becoming one, not only in commerce, but ecologically as well. More animals and plants arrive on our shores and have free range because their natural predators are not here. Come learn about a few examples and what impact they are having on our native species.

Basically Bats

The only true flying mammals are often misunderstood and feared rather than appreciated for their prowess as our best natural insect predators. Did you know that a single little brown bat can consume approximately 600 insects per hour? So, pull the plug on your bug zapper and learn some bat biology. Class includes our famous bat quiz and a power point lecture about bat ecology.

The Bees' Knees 🐾

May, June and September *only*

This little animal is one of nature's most important role players. Pollination is important for all living things, and bees have made an art of it. Without them, the species we know as *Homo sapiens* is in big trouble. Join us as we discuss all things that are bee and not to be.

Butterfly Basics 🍷

June and September *only*

What makes a butterfly a butterfly and not a moth? Are all butterflies beautiful? They are thought to be charming little critters that harmlessly flit and float from flower to flower seeking nectar. Is this true? With many interesting physical and behavioral adaptations, these little insects are more complex than you might think.

Cool Critters 🐾

Snakes, and dragons, and bugs, oh my. Let's investigate things that slither, hiss, and hop. During this adventure of show and tell, you will join a Naturalist to learn what makes each animal special and important.

Coyote Cries 🌟

Perhaps you have heard a coyote howling at night or read about coyotes in the area. This PowerPoint-based lecture and discussion will help you sort the myths from the facts. Coyote education is important for anyone living in New Jersey.

Deer Wrangling! 🌟

They are everywhere! Bambi or "hoofed rats"? Why so many? How can I keep them out of my garden? If I hit one with a car, who do I call? Let's sort out the brouhaha as well as learn deer biology. Participants will get to handle deer skulls, bones, antlers, and more.

Healing Power of Plants 🍷

Many common plants have long forgotten uses. Discover which of your backyard plants may have been part of your medicine cabinet 300 years ago. Today scientists are still exploring the intersection of plants, health, medicine, and making some exciting discoveries.

Holy White Nose, Bat Girl! 🌟

A virulent and deadly pathogen called White-Nose Syndrome (WNS)

has killed more than six million bats in the Northeast in the past decade. This PowerPoint-based lecture and discussion will educate you on the status of the NJ Bats as well as create an understanding of what causes WNS.

Introduction to Lichens ✂

The tiny world of lichens includes some of the most fascinating and strikingly beautiful organisms. This presentation will introduce viewers to their marvelous lives and the myriad of species in the back yard and around the world.

Leave it to Beaver 🐾

Can you believe that beavers are the second largest rodents in the entire world? These nocturnal, semi-aquatic critters are known for their amazing ability to construct dams and lodges and alter the environment. Unfortunately, their population has been declining since 1988 due to extensive hunting for their fur. Join a Naturalist and learn why this keystone species, who lives in your backyard, is such a vital part of our ecosystem.

The Legends of Holiday Plants ✨

The holidays are steeped in rich tradition and history. Many of the traditions involve plants that played important roles in ancient legends and rituals, but have evolved into traditions associated with the Christmas season. From evergreens to poinsettias and rosemary to holly, plant lovers will learn about the origins of their uses and their continued use today.

Life as a Fern

How much do you really know about ferns? What is a fern anyway? These ancient plants are unique in the plant kingdom. On this visual journey, learn some basic fern facts including which ferns are native to New Jersey.

Maple Sugaring 🐾

December - March *only*

Maple sugaring and winter go hand in hand. A Naturalist will help participants discover the secrets inside a maple tree. Participants will learn about both the history of maple sugaring beginning with the time of the Native Americans, as well as, the techniques used to make this tasty treat today. Bring your own pancakes or waffles!

Mosses 101 🍃

Just because it's small and green doesn't mean it's a moss! This program is a visual and soothing glimpse into real mosses. We will study their unique characteristics and adaptations using slides and live specimens.

New Jersey Owls 🦉

Come explore the nocturnal world of these fascinating birds of prey. Whether with long or short ears, barred or great horned, these raptors are truly special.

New Jersey Snakes 🐍

New Jersey is home to 22 species of snakes, two of which are venomous. Snake populations have declined over the past 50 years for a number of reasons. Many people fear snakes despite their valuable ecological role. This lecture style, PowerPoint presentation will teach you how to properly identify New Jersey snakes and dispel common myths.

Nocturnal Sounds 🦉

Although humans are usually asleep at night, the New Jersey outdoors is anything but quiet. Listen to sounds from common nocturnal wildlife while learning a few fun facts about each animal.

Off the Coast ☞

The sea turtle is an amazing animal! They can migrate for thousands of miles and have a positive impact on our environment. During this PowerPoint presentation you will learn the adaptations of this creature and why they need your help!

Passports to Penguins ✨

Travel to the bottom of the globe on an adventure of learning! During this hour presentation you will learn a lot about our black and white, waddle-y friends - penguins; information about the many different types of penguins, where they live, what they eat, and much more will be discussed and presented.

Planning a Native Butterfly Garden ☞

Do you love butterflies? Do you like growing beautiful blooming plants in your garden? This PowerPoint-based lecture and discussion will illustrate which native plants attract which native butterflies and moths. *By special request*, handouts can be provided, which include information about which native lepidoptera eat which plants, sources of native plants, and much more.

Plants of the Battlefield ☞ (Discontinued)

Plants played a crucial role in the success of soldiers and surgeons during both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. Learn about the plants that were purposefully grown, found on the battlefield or imported from other parts of the world to use as a means of survival.

Sharks 101 ☞

Sharks are amazing but often times misunderstood animals. This lecture-style PowerPoint presentation will educate you on facts and myths about sharks. You will walk away from this program with a better understanding of sharks and how they play an important role in our ecosystem.

Virtual Rainforest 68

Take a trip to the tropics of the Costa Rican rainforest. Find out what makes a two-toed sloth different from a three-toed sloth, what a three-wattled bell bird mustache look like and many other fascinating facts.

Virtual Safari 68

Travel via arm chair to amazing Tanzania to go on a virtual safari. This program will bring you deep into the wilds of the African 'bush' on game drives to see elephants, lions, gazelles, and many more fascinating animals.

Vital Vernal 68

March - June only

New Jersey has a special ecosystem that supports hundreds of species, yet can only be seen during spring. Vernal pools are unique habitats that only exist when water is prevalent. Come learn about the animals that use, and depend upon, a habitat that can disappear at any moment.

Winter Adaptations

In this program, we will explore how wildlife survives the long winter. The concepts of habitat, niche, and adaptation will be covered in an interactive discussion, using animal 'artifacts' to further illustrate these strategies.