

Welcome, Chace! African Serval in Need of a Home Arrives at Wildlife Sanctuary

On January 24, the Wildlife Sanctuary welcomed its newest resident — a 13-year-old African serval we've named Chace. Chace had a terrible history before coming to The Children's Museum. Originally owned by drug dealers in New York, Chace was seized by animal control when his owners were arrested and then later returned to them. By 2007, they had abandoned Chace and the home in which they'd kept him. He was surviving in deplorable living conditions. Upon medical examination, he was found to have Styrofoam in his stomach; he was evidently subsisting partly on furniture due to the lack of food.

Chace spent three years in a wildlife "foster home" when Chuck Dyckman of Dyckman Wildlife Control was put in touch with Cindy King, Wildlife Sanctuary Director at The Children's Museum. A visit was quickly arranged, and Cindy began plans to bring Chace to us once he was given a clean bill of health. Now he'll enjoy the rest of his days in a specially built enclosure with a heated indoor section.

He was named Chace in honor of Farmington veterinarian Paul Chace, DVM. Dr. Chace's practice, Advanced Veterinary Care, provides all of the routine and emergency care for the animals at the Wildlife Sanctuary.

"Dr. Chace has been such an asset to the Sanctuary, we thought naming our newest resident after him would be a nice way to thank him," said King. "We also extend our thanks to Chuck and Cricket Dyckman for their care of Chace and for getting him to us safely."

Chace lived outdoors in New York for the past three years, so he will be very comfortable in his indoor/outdoor enclosure. He will be fed a USDA approved diet of raw meat and, once settled in, will participate in enrichment activities including regular exercise and interaction with Wildlife Sanctuary staff, which will prevent stress and boredom. His outdoor space will be adjacent to those of the other large cats who live here: Rufus, a bobcat, and Little Foot, a Canada lynx.



Chace

Photo by Dan Butterworth



L-R Wildlife Sanctuary Director Cindy King with Chuck and Cricket Dyckman, who were Chace's "foster" family, and Dr. Paul Chace, TCM's Veterinarian.

Photo by Lindsay Stanford

- The serval is one of seven species of small to medium-sized African cats. Its coat is yellowish tan with black spots, bands and stripes, but the pattern of every serval's coat is different.
- Elusive and shy, servals tend to be nocturnal and hunt by sight and sound rather than scent. They are good climbers, too. They make a lot of sounds including snarling, growling, spitting, purring, and a high-pitched cry used to call other servals.
- Except for their short tails, servals do resemble cheetahs. A serval weighs between 29 and 41 pounds and its height at the shoulder is about 23 inches. Males are slightly larger than females.

With Spring Comes New Beginnings

As the new Chair of The Children's Museum's Board of Trustees, I want to wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous year.

It is a time of change and new beginnings, and that goes for The Children's Museum as well. We bid goodbye to Kevin Sullivan, who has done a tremendous job for the past three years as our President and CEO. While the Board searches for a new leader for the Museum, I am delighted to let our supporters and friends know that Don Peterson has rejoined us as Interim Director. Don provided significant leadership before Kevin joined us and stayed on until the spring of last year as Operations Consultant, so we could not have been happier when he accepted the Board's offer to lead us during another time of transition.

Don has brought over three decades of executive management experience in the insurance industry to benefit several community non-profits since his "official" retirement, including the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum in Wethersfield. Don takes the helm of The Children's Museum at a time when our plans for a new building in Elmwood are moving forward, and we are still committed to bringing the best in programming and exhibits to you in our current location. We are excited about our newest four-legged resident of the Wildlife Sanctuary. We are thrilled that we will not only be opening a new exhibit on Mars exploration this spring, but producing our own planetarium show as well, which you will read more about in this publication.

The Children's Museum is on a steady course, full speed ahead, and we welcome you to stay with us on our journey.



Dr. Rick Liftig
Board of Trustees Chair
The Children's Museum

From the Blue Planet to the Red Planet New Exhibit Opens in March



Illustration by Kyra Elliott

Support for the Mars exhibit and programming by The Children's Museum made possible under Grant No. NNX10AK13G with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this show are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

As part of our three-year, NASA Competitive Program for Science Museums and Planetariums grant, The Children's Museum is turning our former Explore Store space into a video timeline of Mars exploration history. In addition, our partners at the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology will be installing a virtual reality Mars experience in the same room. Outside the back doors by the restrooms will be a small greenhouse where we'll conduct experiments with simulated Mars soil.

On March 16, The Children's Museum members are invited to an exclusive first look at the Mars experiences. Between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm, we invite families to try out the timeline, play with the virtual reality equipment, and help us start our greenhouse plantings. This evening is exclusively for The Children's Museum members and will be most appropriate for children who are age eight or older. There is no pre-registration required, but be sure to bring your membership card with you.

Beginning on March 23, we will be planning monthly community Mars evenings with free admission for everyone from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Each month, we'll have different space-related activities and planetarium programs to complement the Mars exhibits. Practice driving a rover, measure the air pressure on other planets, or grow a bean plant like an astronaut. Additional free afternoons will take place on April 27 and May 25.

A Farewell Message

Dear Friends,

It has been a great three years for me here at The Children's Museum. I grew up in West Hartford and some of my best memories are of my experiences here. I loved the Museum as a child, have loved it as an adult, and hope to show my continued support as you move forward. And The Children's Museum will continue to move forward.

I will miss my visits with Little Foot, our Canada lynx, and Loki, our mischievous raccoon, at the Wildlife Sanctuary. I will miss seeing all the kids walk by my window as they come to learn and have fun with science and nature. And it will be hard to leave some of the challenges I took on with the Museum that are still ahead. But I will always be grateful for the opportunity and the time I've spent here.

Sincerely,
Kevin



Kevin Sullivan

A Child's World on April 30

Our annual gala is coming up soon and we've planned a fun evening. Read more on the back cover.

Big Plans for April Vacation

There's Flight Day, Vacation Science Camp, and all our great shows. Get the details inside in the calendar section.

Family Science Sundays

For spring, we'll be having fun with birds (March 20), gardening (April 17), and engineering (May 15).

Get Your Hands on Science

Experiments You Can Do at Home from The Children's Museum



Balancing Games

Stand up. Your center of gravity — it's a bit below your bellybutton if you're a girl, a bit above it if you're a boy — is above your base of support (your feet). If you lean far forward enough, your center of gravity moves far enough away from the base of support and you fall over. Keeping the base of support under the center of gravity is the key to balance. Here are a couple of odd experiments with balance.

Loose Change

Stand with your back against a wall, feet together and facing forward, heels against the wall. Drop a coin on the floor, a few inches in front of your feet. The challenge: pick up the coin without moving your feet.

Can't do it? This is no surprise. When you lean forward, your center of gravity is no longer over your base, and you're going to stumble forward or fall over. Now try the same experiment, but stand in the middle of the room. It works! When you bend over, you keep your balance by shifting your center. As the top half of the body leans forward, other parts move backwards to keep your balance. Watch someone else bend over to pick something up to see why. With your back to the wall, you can't move any part of you backwards to keep your balance.

Eggs-quinox

The equinox is a day with equal amounts of day and night in some parts of the world. There's one in the spring (the vernal equinox) usually March 21, and one in the fall (the autumnal equinox) usually September 21.

A weird myth that still pops up occasionally is that you can only balance a raw egg on its end on an equinox. There's one way to find out.

Try this on a day that is not an equinox. Take a raw egg, find a flat counter, and try balancing the egg on end. It will take a little practice. Not all eggs are the same so try a few different ones. If you do break an egg, clean it up well, or it will get stinky.

Linked to Science From the Museum to the Web

How Stuff Works

The articles on this website include just about everything there is to be curious about. Besides science, animals, and technology, How Stuff Works also covers music, cars, movies and a lot more.

www.howstuffworks.com

Funology

Funology has weird science experiments related to biology, physics and weather. There are also activities based on words, numbers, facts, ideas, and objects you find around the house.

www.funology.com

Brain Pop

Test your knowledge and gain some more using the fun quizzes on BrainPOP.

www.brainpop.com

Sponsor an Animal in the Name of Your Grandchild

A unique and exciting way to honor a loved one and support the animals in the Wildlife Sanctuary

Animal sponsorships have been exclusively offered at our annual gala. This year, we are extending this as a special offer to Grandparent Members of The Children's Museum. When you sponsor an animal, you help provide for its care and feeding in your grandchild's name for one year. This is a wonderful way for you to help the Museum care for our rescued animals while recognizing your grandchild's love of our animals. Your grandchild will receive a photo of his or her animal and will have his or her name displayed on a sign in the Animal Sanctuary for a year, starting this summer.



Photo by Rick Harrington

We thank the following friends who sponsored animals this year:

Oliver Bruhn	Rick Liftig	Alexandra Scheib
Meghan and Jackson Carroll	Worth and Louise Loomis	Jackie and Alex Scheib
Karen and Mike Conway	Sofia Muslim	The Silverman Family
Dawn and Len Diana	Bill Peelle	The Skottegaard Family
Frankie and Bob Goldfarb	The Roche Family	Hope, Pam, Milo and Rowan

FAMILY Science SUNDAYS

A Year of Science Fun Wraps Up With Three Exciting Days This Spring

March 20

Bird Sunday

Just in time for spring migration, learn more about our feathered friends. See a live bald eagle and other birds of prey. See live parrots. Make feeders and nest boxes to take home. Dissect owl pellets. And as a special preview, Jay Kaplan of Roaring Brook Nature Center will lead a free bird walk at West Hartford's Reservoir #6 from 9:30 am to 11:00 am (weather permitting).

Sponsored by



THE
HARTFORD

April 17

Gardening Sunday

Find out how to grow things in your yard this spring. Visitors can paint flower pots and take home seeds to cultivate. Check out what's inside a flower. Learn about composting, planting veggies, and the important role of worms.

May 15

Engineering Sunday

If you come, you will build it! Family Science Sundays conclude by building towers, boats, catapults and taking the ping pong ball challenge. Marvel at the hall of odd contraptions and the power of TCM's trebuchet (weather permitting).

All Family Science Sunday activities are **free** with Museum admission.

Sunday admission hours are 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Family Science Sundays are made possible by a grant from The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.



The Children's Museum's "Mr. Science," Jonah Cohen, demonstrates how liquid nitrogen poured into warm water and soap can cause a "Sudspllosion" during Supercold Sunday in January.

Photo by Lindsay Stanford

Celebrate in Style with Conny the Whale



Birthday parties at The Children's Museum:

Fun for kids, easy for parents!

We offer a great blend of fun and educational activities that will entertain and inspire your children and their special guests. A Museum guide encourages children to explore the fun side of science and nature with our hands-on exhibits. All parties include a special visit from one of our Wildlife Sanctuary critters, a full-dome show in the Travelers Science Dome planetarium, and a private party room to honor your child's special day.

Customize your party to include a science or craft activity for guests to remember their experience. Our "Under the Sea" party will take children "down below" where they will learn about sea life, get to know Conny the Whale, and make an ocean-themed craft. "Fossil Fun" explores the prehistoric age and offers a take-home fossil activity. For our youngest explorers, a "Little Hands" party is sure to excite and entertain. Just for them, we offer an animal craft and related story.

Visit www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org for more information and call us at 860.231.2830 x44 to book your child's party today.

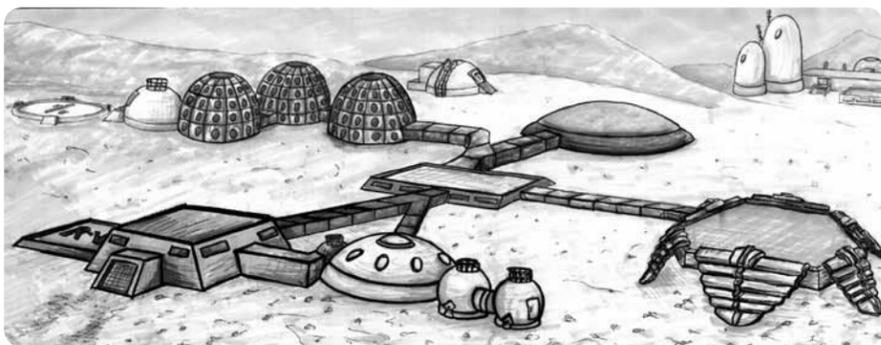


The staff of the Travelers Science Dome is thrilled to announce that its first ever full-dome planetarium show production, *From the Blue Planet to the Red Planet*, is underway.

Thanks to a generous gift from NASA, the planetarium has purchased state-of-the-art computer equipment and software to produce its own planetarium shows. We will soon join the ranks of a small number of planetariums capable of producing their own content. This will allow us to customize our shows specifically to fit the needs of our audiences — the sky's the limit!

From the Blue Planet to the Red Planet is scheduled for release in the fall. Here's a sneak preview: It's the year 2132. Humans have colonized Mars and travel there on research expeditions. Follow Carina, a young woman stationed on Mars, as she lives and works on the red planet. See what it might be like to live in a Martian colony, ride a rover across the planet's surface, and learn about the challenges that humans would face in this new environment.

Stay tuned for updates on our new production!



Storyboard drawing for *From the Blue Planet to the Red Planet*

Illustration by Julia Huntsman

All About Animals

Get to Know Our Friends in the Wildlife Sanctuary

Rose-haired Tarantula

The Wildlife Sanctuary recently acquired a second rose-haired tarantula named Chloe. This spider was surrendered to the Museum when its owner found out that keeping it was actually illegal in Connecticut. No person is allowed to keep any venomous arthropod as a pet in this state. This includes tarantulas and scorpions. Some species of tarantula can be very aggressive and some have very toxic venom.

The Wildlife Sanctuary houses six tarantulas: a Mexican red-knee, a Costa Rican, a king baboon, a Malaysian earth tiger and two rose-haired. There are hundreds of tarantula species living in many parts of the world. Rose-haired tarantulas are the most common spider in the pet trade. One of the rose-haired living at the museum is 13 years old.

Tarantulas are arachnids and belong to the phylum arthropod, which includes arachnids, crustaceans, millipedes, centipedes and insects. They have two main body parts (the cephalothorax and abdomen), eight segmented legs, and two pedipalps — appendages that look like legs that are used for manipulating prey and feeling. The tarantula has an exoskeleton that it molts periodically. Tarantulas are carnivorous; they eat insects and some will even eat small rodents, lizards and toads. All of the spiders at the Museum eat crickets. We order 1,000 crickets every week to feed all of the animals. If you visit the Museum for an evening program you can hear the crickets chirping.



Chloe the rose-haired tarantula

Sky Watchers

A Look at What's Happening in the Night Sky from the Travelers Science Dome

Leo the Lion is one of the most ancient constellations in the night sky. It's most easily visible early in the evening as it rises higher in the east throughout the spring. The primary stars form a sickle, or a backwards question mark shape, followed by a small triangle. The brightest star in Leo is called Regulus, meaning "little king." It looks like a single bluish star, but in a telescope four stars can be seen along the same visual line. The stars are billions of miles from one another, but they seem to shine in the same region of the sky.

Many cultures have stories about Leo. The Sumerians wrote about it and, in Ancient Egypt, the Sun appeared in Leo during the time of the Nile's flood. The Greeks associated the Lion with the stories of Heracles. One of his 12 labors was to kill the Nemean Lion. Later, its shape was placed by the god Zeus among the stars.



There are several deep sky objects found around Leo. In a telescope the galaxies M65, M66, M95, M96, M105, and NGC 3628 are all visible. Together, M65, M66, and NGC 3628 are called the Leo Triplet. The "M" galaxies are some of those catalogued by Charles Messier while "NGC" refers to the New General Catalog of sky objects. Above Leo is a smaller group of stars called Leo Minor, the Smaller Lion. Throughout this spring, look for the planet Saturn below and to the left of Leo in the constellation Virgo.

Nature Explorers

Tips for Exploring in Your Own Backyard from Jay Kaplan
Director, Roaring Brook Nature Center

It happens every spring. I'm driving down the road on a rainy night. I can see something jumping across the pavement. First there is one, then several, and finally they seem to be everywhere. I slow my car to a stop and then I hear them. At first, they sound like quacking ducks. Almost immediately I realize they are wood frogs and they are doing what they have done for millennia — gathering in temporary wetlands known as vernal pools. Another breeding season is about to begin.

Wood frogs do not hibernate, but rather crawl under the leaves and freeze solid like ice cubes when the temperature drops well below freezing. With the warmer rains of early spring, they literally thaw and make their way to the same temporary wetlands used by their ancestors to lay their eggs. By mid-summer, these pools will have dried up. By then the tadpoles will have become tiny froglets and left the security of the pools for life in the forest. Wood frogs, along with several other Connecticut amphibians, do not lay their eggs in ponds where fish can prey upon them. Vernal pools provide a safer environment.

Although the tadpoles may be safe from predatory fish, they do face other dangers. Many vernal pools in Connecticut have been lost to development. Pollution is another concern. Amphibians are often considered "indicator species" that tell us something about the health of our environment. Let us hope we continue to hear the sounds of the spring frogs for many years to come.

Visit both The Children's Museum and Roaring Brook Nature Center this spring to learn more about amphibians.



Photo by Dan Butterworth



Photo by Rick Harrington

Science on the Road for Preschoolers

Imagine sitting cross-legged on the floor eagerly waiting to touch a bearded dragon for the first time or being immersed in "bubble juice" trying to blow the biggest bubble. If you're a preschooler, these could be the moments that turn you onto science forever.

Preschoolers are naturally curious, asking questions and seeking answers. They ask, "Why?" on average every 15 seconds, just to figure out how things work. Their endlessly inquisitive little minds are hard at work trying to understand the world around them. During these formative years children are beginning to practice scientific investigation without preconceived notions about science.

The Children's Museum can help lay a foundation for future learning and scientific understanding by bringing specialized programs to your preschool or daycare. From animals to insects, butterflies to bubbles, magnets to colors, our Museum educators will travel to you, engaging children in hands-on exploration. Our programs are created for children aged three to five. Several are adaptable and appropriate for toddlers, from 18 months to age three. Our Registration Department can help you choose a program that fits your curriculum and schedule. Contact them at 860.231.2830 x44 or e-mail Events@TheChildrensMuseumCT.org. It's never too early to encourage budding young scientists!

Calendar of Events

Science Fun for the Entire Family Spring 2011

To register for the programs you see here (unless otherwise noted), call **860.231.2830 x44** or e-mail Events@TheChildrensMuseumCT.org.

Online registration is also available for many of our events and programs.

Check our website at www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org.

Member prices are for The Children's Museum/Roaring Brook Nature Center members.

All prices are per person.

Sunday, March 20

Bird Sunday

11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Just in time for spring migration, learn more about our feathered friends. See a live bald eagle and other birds of prey. See live parrots. Make feeders and nest boxes to take home. Dissect owl pellets. And as a special preview, Jay Kaplan of Roaring Brook Nature Center will lead a free bird walk at West Hartford's Reservoir #6 from 9:30 am to 11:00 am (weather permitting).

Free with general admission.

Sunday, April 17

Gardening Sunday

11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Find out how to grow things in your yard this spring. Visitors can paint flower pots and take home seeds to cultivate. Check out what's inside a flower. Learn about composting, planting veggies, and the important role of worms.

Free with general admission.

Thursday, April 21

Flight Day

Return of the Raptors

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

The last in our series of special quarterly Flight Days will feature *Talons! A Birds of Prey Experience*. See live, free-flying birds, including hawks, falcons, an African raven, and the world's largest owl. This program is sponsored by Hamilton Sunstrand to coincide with our *Winging It! Adventures in Flight* exhibit.

Free with general admission.

Sunday, May 15

Engineering Sunday

11:00 am to 4:00 pm

If you come, you will build it! Family Science Sundays conclude by building towers, boats, catapults and taking the ping pong ball challenge. Marvel at the hall of odd contraptions, and (weather permitting) the power of TCM's Trebuchet.

Free with general admission.



Talon and Mandarin from
Talons! A Birds of Prey Experience

Preschool April Vacation Program

April 18 to 22

Mudworks

Join us as we investigate mud, soil and worms — all signs that spring is here.

The program is designed for children ages 3½, 4, 5 and 6. Half-day and full-day offerings are available.

Summer Exploration Play-ce

Starting June 27

The Children's Museum Preschool summer program will be offered for eight weeks beginning June 27 through the week of August 15 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. A week of "Pirates and Princesses" will return again by popular demand, so register early.

Call the Preschool at 860.523.7449 for additional information or register online.

Science Heats Up Thursdays This Summer

When the weather gets hot, the coolest days to visit TCM will be on Thursdays. Every week from June 30 through August 24, we'll be having special activities for visitors on Thursdays. Each week will feature its own bonus science: animal guest stars, the Great Egg Drop, scientific art projects, daring dissections, special demos with a connection to one of this summer's biggest movies (hint: it's magical) and much more. Keep checking our website and Facebook page for more info. See you this summer!



Go to www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org to connect with us on **Facebook**.

the children's museum

The Children's Museum's Hours of Admission

Tuesday - Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Sunday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

The Museum is *open* on Monday, April 18.

The Museum is closed on Memorial Day, May 30.

Spend an Afternoon on Mars

March 23 • April 27 • May 25

3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Join us for these free community events focusing on our new Mars exhibit. Each month, we'll have different space-related activities and planetarium programs to complement the Mars exhibits. Practice driving a rover, measure the air pressure on other planets, or grow a bean plant like an astronaut.

Vacation Science Camp

Join us for action-packed days of science investigation, crafts, games, Museum exploration, astronomy activities, up-close animal encounters and more this spring and summer.

Pre-registration is required for all camp programs. To register, call 860.231.2830 x44, e-mail Events@TheChildrensMuseumCT.org, or register online.

April Vacation Week

9:00 am to 4:00 pm • For children in grades 1 to 5 • \$60/day for members, \$70/day for non-members

Monday, April 18 **Buggin' Out**

Get a bugs-eye view of creepy crawlers. Join other budding biologists for insect investigations and learn the importance of these multi-legged creatures. Meet them up close and touch them if you dare.

Tuesday, April 19 **Beakers and Broomsticks**

Spellbound by science? Brew bubbling potions, discover the truth behind legendary creatures, and conjure up secrets of the wizard world. Get caught up in the magic.

Wednesday, April 20 **Growing Up Wild**

Take a walk on the wild side and venture into the amazing world of animals. From babies to adults and fur to feathers, explore how they live, thrive, and survive.

Thursday, April 21 **RoboKids**

Delve into the world of machines, motors, and robots. Use your ingenuity as you manipulate and command various members of the Museum's robot squad. Take control before the robots do!

Friday, April 22 **It's Easy Being Green**

Celebrate Earth Day with eco-tastic explorations. Reinvent recycled wonders, uncover what animals need to survive, and learn how we can preserve and protect our planet. It's never been so much fun going green!

Summer Science Camp

Worried you'll be busy or away and miss out on a special week of fun? No need! Your favorite weeks of programming will be repeated over the summer.

- Week-long programs
- Full or half-day sessions
- For children entering grades 1 to 6 in the fall
- Discount available if registering for multiple weeks

Visit www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org for fees and more information.

Weeks of June 27 and July 25 **Junior Secret Agents**

Explore the tricks of spy trade. Learn what it takes to work the cases, crack the codes, and unravel mysteries. Your mission is top-secret fun!

Weeks of July 5 and August 1 **ChemKids**

Mix a little of this with a little of that and prepare to be WOWED. Use science to make crazy concoctions. Join us and get creative with chemistry.

Weeks of July 11 and August 8 **Critter Keepers**

Get the inside scoop on our Wildlife Sanctuary residents. Assist our staff with everything from designing habitats to preparing meals. This is a must for animal lovers.

Weeks of July 18 and August 15 **Survivor TCM**

Don't worry about being voted off the island this week. Learn tricks animals and humans use to endure the wilderness. Put your survival skills to the test.

Week of August 22 **Assembly Required**

Break out the blueprints and set to work designing bridges, structures, and more. Find out if your creations measure up in a week of exciting engineering investigations.

Spring 2011 Programs

Roaring Brook Nature Center

70 Gracey Road, Canton, CT 06019
860.693.0263 www.roaringbrook.org

Nature Center Hours

Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Trails through Werner's Woods are open daily from dawn until dusk.

All costs are per person unless stated otherwise. Call 860.693.0263 to register for programs.

ROARING BROOK NATURE CENTER



Spring Discovery Days Programs

Four-week programs are offered for preschoolers accompanied by parents, students in kindergarten and kindergarten readiness programs, and students in grades 1 to 3. The cost of each four-week session is \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members. A \$10 discount is extended to families with a second child attending during the same time period.

Nature For Little Ones

For children ages 2½ to 3½ and parents

Thursday morning programs for young children accompanied by parents (or grandparents) will provide an introduction to the world of nature through springtime topics. Children must be at least two years old. Register for one or both four-week sessions.

The program meets 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

Session I: April 7, 14, 28, May 5

Session II: May 12, 19, 26, June 2

Exploring Together

For children ages 3½ to 5 and parents

This series introduces preschool children to seasonal changes in the natural world and gives parent and child an opportunity to learn together. A younger sibling may attend for a \$10 discount and there is no charge for siblings under age 2. Most of this program is held outdoors; please dress accordingly.

The program meets Friday mornings 10:00 am to 11:00 am

or Friday afternoons 1:15 pm to 2:15 pm.

April-May Session: April 8, 15, 29, May 6

May-June Session: May 13, 20, 27, June 3

Programs for Four and Five-Year-Olds

These programs for kindergarten students and children in kindergarten readiness programs (not accompanied by parents) meet Thursdays from 10:00 am to 11:00 am **or** 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm.

Spring Has Sprung

April 7, 14, 28, May 5

In the trees, under rocks and near the pond, signs of spring are everywhere. Discover them with us.

Animals Without Backbones

May 12, 19, 26, June 2

From sow bugs to millipedes, crayfish to stoneflies, invertebrates – animals without backbones – are all around us. Find out how they are helpful and why some are problems.

Programs for Students in Grades 1 to 3

Enrichment programs for elementary school-age youngsters meet Thursdays from 3:45 pm to 5:00 pm.

The Scoop on Dirt

April 7, 14, 28, May 5

We know less about life under our feet than we do about the far side of the Moon. Find out what's really going on under the ground.

The Wonderful World of Insects

May 12, 19, 26, June 2

There are more species of insects than all other animals. Learn the difference between a "beetle" and a "bug" and find out what baby ladybugs look like.

Weekend Programs/Events for All Ages

Weekend Bird Walks

Saturdays: April 30, May 7

Sundays: May 8, 15

7:00 am to 9:00 am

An early morning walk through Werner's Woods provides welcome sights and sounds for beginning birders as well as those with more experience in the field. Bird walks are not geared for younger children. Bring binoculars and dress for wet ground underfoot. \$2 for members, \$3 for non-members. Pre-registration is not required.

Sunday Family Nature Walks

Sundays, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

March 6 Maple Sugaring in Your Own Backyard

**May 8 Annual Mother's Day Wildflower Walk
(Moms admitted free)**

May 22 Butterflies, Dragonflies & Other Unusual Insects

These guided walks are geared for all ages.

\$4 for members, \$6 for non-members.

Children 12 and under: \$2 for members, \$3 for non-members.

Pre-registration is not required.

Evening Vernal Pools/Amphibians Program

Friday, April 8

7:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Learn about the amphibians that inhabit vernal pools as we search for nocturnal wildlife. Pre-registration is required for this program as space is limited. It is not geared for very young children.

\$5 for members, \$7 for non-members.

Owl Prowl

Friday, April 15

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Listen and look for barred owls and other nocturnal creatures along our trails. Pre-registration is required for this program as space is limited. It is not geared for very young children.

\$5 for members, \$7 for non-members.

Native Plant Garden Day

Saturday, June 18

Look for details in our summer newsletter. Please visit our website or call the Nature Center for additional information.

Adventure Story Time

April 4, May 2, and June 6

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Adventure Story Time for children ages 2 to 5 will continue in spring on the first Monday of each month. Adults and children can participate in a shared story with a craft and short walk. Children must be accompanied by adults. There is a charge of \$2 per child with a maximum \$5 per family. Pre-registration is required.

2011 Summer Program

In early March, we'll mail our summer program brochure to all who participated in our 2010 programs, as well as to members who live in neighboring Farmington Valley towns. If you would like to receive a summer program brochure, please call us at 860.693.0263 or e-mail us at RBNC@TheChildrensMuseumCT.org.

Wildlife Ramble

April Vacation Programs for Grades K to 5

Monday, April 18 to Friday, April 22

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Spend vacation mornings looking for wildlife at the Nature Center. We'll peer into vernal pools looking for tadpoles, watch for migrating birds returning from the South, look for early insects, and try to determine how the weather affects wildlife populations.

Daily Rate: \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members.

Sign up for all five days at a discounted rate of \$110 for members, \$120 for non-members.

Family Concerts

Drumming About You

Sunday, March 20

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Start the spring season with the bang of a drum as Bob Bloom returns to our stage for an interactive drumming concert. It's fun for all ages. Advance tickets are available at a cost of \$6 per members, \$7 for non-members. Remaining tickets will be sold at the door for \$8 for members, \$9 for non-members.

Dave Fry

Sunday, April 10

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Zany Dave Fry returns to Roaring Brook for his annual Rollicking Family Concert. Armed with guitar, mandolin, banjo, and rhythm instruments for all, Dave's warmth and energy create the perfect opportunity for families to sing, dance and laugh together. Toddlers, teens, parents and grandparents will have a good time, guaranteed. Advance tickets are available at a cost of \$6 for members, \$7 for non-members. Remaining tickets will be sold at the door prior to the show at a cost of \$8 for members, \$9 for non-members.

Betty Kleiner Lecture

Raptor Program

Sunday, June 5

3:00 pm

Teresa Kramer of Canton Raptor Care will be the featured speaker at the Nature Center's annual Betty Kleiner Memorial Lecture. Her program, "Some Oddities and Unique Characteristics of our New England Raptors," will focus upon the various raptor species indigenous to our fields and forests and demonstrate how we can work together to ensure that birds of prey continue to live in New England. This program is co-sponsored by the Canton Land Conservation Trust. Betty Kleiner was a long-time Nature Center volunteer, and a past president of the Hartford Audubon Society. Admission to this program is free for Nature Center, Land Trust and Hartford Audubon members, \$5 for non-members. Additional information is available by calling the Nature Center at 860.693.0263.

Special Events

Full Moon Cabin Fever Party

Saturday, March 19

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Join us for an evening of good food and fun outdoor and indoor activities at this Friends of Roaring Brook fundraiser for a much-needed new furnace. Activities will include a live auction with WFSB meteorologist Scott Haney and silent auction items. We'll have hot cocoa, s'mores, an owl prowling, stargazing, games, music and much more. This is an adults-only event and advance reservations are required. For more information, or to receive an invitation, please call or e-mail the Nature Center.

Flatbread Company Pizza Night Fundraiser

Tuesday evening, April 5

Bring your friends and family for dinner at Flatbread Company at The Shoppes at Farmington Valley in Canton. A percentage of the pizza sales will support the Nature Center.

Late Spring/Early Summer Native Plant Sale

The Nature Center is planning to hold a native plant sale in mid to late June. Check our website for more information.



the children's museum

950 Trout Brook Drive
West Hartford, CT 06119-1437

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Children's Museum is going green! Please help us by choosing to receive our newsletter and other communications electronically. If you are not receiving e-mail communications from us and are willing to, please send an e-mail to Newsletter@TheChildrensMuseumCT.org. Thank you.

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Where Science and Nature Are Fun

Visit us online at www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org to register for programs, find us on Facebook, see our event and show schedule, learn about our animals and more.

A Child's World The Children's Museum's 15th Annual Gala

The Children's Museum will host its 15th Annual Gala, *A Child's World*, on Saturday evening, April 30, at the beautiful Tumble Brook Country Club. With celebrity co-hosts Laurie Perez and Jim Altman of Fox CT, it promises to be a fun evening to support the Museum's educational programming and exhibits. Enjoy specialty cocktails and delicious food geared toward helping you tap into your inner child, fun science demonstrations, a "meet-and-greet" with some of our animals, as well as silent and live auctions and our popular wine wall. This is an evening you truly do not want to miss! Tickets start at \$150 per person.

For more information or to make your reservation, please call Robin DeBerry at 860.231.2830 x23 or visit the Support TCM section of our website.



Fundraiser to Benefit Roaring Brook Nature Center Flatbread Company at The Shoppes at Farmington Valley, Canton

April 5

5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

The restaurant will donate \$3.50 for each large flatbread and \$1.75 for each small flatbread sold on this night to Roaring Brook Nature Center – dine-in or take-out. Help us make this evening a huge fundraising success by spreading the word to friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

We hope to see you there!



Search or Shop the Internet and Give Back to The Children's Museum

GoodSearch Go to GoodSearch.com and enter The Children's Museum as the organization you want to support. One penny for every search will be given to us without you spending a dime!

GoodShop At GoodShop.com, you can designate TCM as the cause you support, then click over to your favorite store and shop away. There are coupons for over 1,600 top stores and GoodShop will donate a percentage of every sale to us.

Or, add the GoodShop toolbar to your browser and your purchases will earn a donation for us even if you forget to go to GoodShop first.

Volunteer Spotlight



Alexa DeMicco, Ashley Godin, and Nicholas Carroll are students from Lewis Mills High School in Burlington, and are a part of the FAVARH Transition Program. They follow in the footsteps of previous FAVARH student volunteers here and have been volunteering at The Children's Museum since the summer. All three agree that the Museum staff is very welcoming and makes them feel appreciated.

Q: What is your favorite thing about the Museum and why do you like coming here?

Alexa: I like learning about all the exhibits.

Nicholas: I get to help people and I am learning a lot about animals and science.

Ashley: My favorite part is getting to see Loki, the raccoon. I also like getting to use and learn about the exhibits as I work.

Q: What tasks do you do as a volunteer?

Alexa: I clean the windows and surfaces around the Museum and I fold maps.

Nicholas: I fold brochures and wash the fish tanks so the guests can see the fish, and the fish can see the guests.

Ashley: I disinfect surfaces and toys around the Museum so everything is clean and I help with brochure folding.

Q: Do you like volunteering here? How do you as a volunteer help our guests?

Alexa: Yes, very much. I keep things tidy and clean for everyone and I help people get around the Museum.

Nicholas: Yes. I hold the door for people coming in, and I can direct guests to exhibits, the bathrooms, the planetarium, etc.

Ashley: Yes. I help keep the museum clean and pick up toys so it's safe to walk around. Also, by wearing my volunteer badge, guests know I work here and that I can help answer their questions.

Volunteer Opportunity Membership Sales Volunteer

A volunteer in this position will help the Guest Relations staff promote membership to The Children's Museum. This involves handing out information and materials and explaining the benefits of membership to Museum guests. Training will be provided upon acceptance into the volunteer program. This is an ongoing opportunity. If you are interested, or would like more information, please call Jennifer Parker at 860.231.2830 x38.