



Founded 1959

# museum bulletin

## Why did the Turtle Cross the Road?

At last spring's Earth and Water Festival folks stopped by the Museum's information table to take brochures and admire our box turtle. Many of the visitors recalled seeing turtles crossing the road or digging in their yards. In late spring these are typical turtle behaviors.



Turtles are among the most ancient of reptiles, having been on earth more than 200 million years. Scientists believe the turtle's shell gave it an advantage over other reptiles that died out. A turtle shell is comprised of bone plates covered by scutes made of keratin. The shell provides excellent protection against predators. Unfortunately, the turtle's shell doesn't protect it against cars or habitat destruction and fragmentation, all of which have led to a significant decline in New York turtle populations.

Turtles are homebodies. Their strong navigation instincts can put them in harm's way especially if a road crosses their home range, dividing hibernation sites from nesting sites. As female turtles search for ideal nesting soil, you may see them on roads in late May and early June. Here are some ways to keep roaming turtles safe at this time of year:

- Remain aware that turtles may be on the roads in May and June.
- If you see a turtle on the road do not put yourself or others at risk by attempting to pull over in an unsafe location.
- If you can do so safely, pull over and carefully move a turtle in the direction it was heading and off to the side of the road. Please do not relocate turtles to an area you think is "a better place". Relocated turtles will keep searching for home and have a low survival rate.
- If the turtle is a snapping turtle, beware. This species is aggressive, quick and has a long reach with that extendable neck. For these reasons we do not recommend you attempt to handle a snapping turtle!

The peak nesting season for turtles is June. If you find a female laying eggs in your yard, keep animals and people away from the area until she is done nesting. Turtle hatchlings emerge in late August through October. If you see a hatchling in peril you can move it to a nearby sheltered location. Taking a turtle home is disastrous for the turtle. Captive animals no longer breed and contribute to the survival of their species. The status of many New York turtle species is "Threatened" or "Special Concern" and keeping a native turtle as a pet is illegal in New York.

The Museum is presenting turtle and snapping turtle programs this summer. We hope you can join us to learn more about these fascinating reptiles.

-by Lisa Mechaley

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



**Wildlife Education Center**

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



**Outdoor Discovery Center**

120 Muser Drive, Cornwall, NY  
 Across from 174 Angola Road  
 Office hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:30am - 4pm  
 Visitor Center & Grasshopper Grove:  
 Weekends 10am - 4pm April 18 - Nov. 15  
 Phone: 845.534.5506 x204  
 www.hhnm.org

**Come to our Turtle Programs on June 7 and August 1.  
 See page 5 for information.**

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# from the JOHN S. BLISS, CHAIR EMERITUS Outgoing Chair

Dear Members and Supporters:

In the Fall 2011 edition of the HHNM Member's Bulletin, my predecessor as Chair -- David Redden -- wrote:

"Over the last few years the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum has experienced something of a renaissance. Excellent programs and a staff of talented, dedicated educators have transformed a community nature center into the leader in nature education experiences in the Hudson Valley."

These words rang true then and, I am

delighted to say, continue to ring true today. As I complete my third year as Chair and prepare to hand the reins to Susan Christensen, the leadership role of the Museum is clearer than ever. The signal event of recent years was the Earth Day 2012 opening of Grasshopper Grove at the Museum -- the first nature play area in the Hudson Valley. As we wrote at the time: "who can forget hundreds of school children streaming through the rustic gate, most of them seeming to make straight for the dirt pile?" Grasshopper Grove has lived up to its promise and is now a lynchpin in the Museum's education programs.

Equally important, it is a beacon for the future. Late last year, the Museum received a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to fund the Early Childhood in Nature (ECAN) project. It will help people who work with young children -- professionals or family members -- to learn the value of unstructured nature play. The Museum will provide education programs to about a dozen preschools each year, combining unstructured play in Grasshopper Grove and teachers' workshops. The grant covers all costs for participating schools, so the Museum will be leading more than a score of schools and hundreds of teachers into the future!

Museum members and donors can also be proud of its fiscal stewardship. We ended the 2014-15 fiscal year in the black for the 9th consecutive year, a period during which we have grown our budget by more than 50% -- and bigger budgets mean more service to more kids of all ages -- in more places. For example, we teach the entire third and fourth grades of the Newburgh school system, the 5th largest in the state. We conduct programs with strategic partners in Orange, Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester counties. We offer well-attended adult programs in Cornwall-on-Hudson.

So, I'm very happy that David Redden's words ring true today. With a great staff and solid Board of Trustees, I'm sure they will continue to do so in the future.



Irv Flinn and John Bliss at the Museum's NYC Benefit 2015 honoring Lynn Peebles and Doug Land (right)

## Spotlight SUSAN W. CHRISTENSEN on... board



Susan Christensen was introduced to HHNM when her children were very young and she brought them to meet the animals -- almost thirty years ago. Ten years ago, after moving to Mountainville, she joined the Museum's Board of Trustees. She has served as Vice-Chair and Treasurer as well as being very active in the planning and execution of fund-raising events for the Museum. Susan is a graduate of Vassar College and has served in a leadership capacity on a number of not-for-profit boards. She has loved the outdoors since her days as a camper and camp counselor in the Adirondacks. Susan and her husband Hank have three grown children and two grandsons.

# Earth Day Celebration!



Saturday, April 25th at the Outdoor Discovery Center

## Ninth Annual Hike-A-Thon

- Hike for a Purpose! Raise funds for Environmental Education!
- A great outing for families & people of all ages.
- Selection of hikes for all abilities.
- 9:30am - Check-in & warm up.
- 9:45am - Hit the Trails!
- Rain Date: Sunday, April 26
- Register at [www.hhnm.org](http://www.hhnm.org)

## Earth Day Family Fun

- 11am - 3pm
- The Green Zone: Earth Friendly Activities & Prizes
- Live Farm Animals
- Music: John & Jackie Gioia - 12:30 and 2pm
- Hay rides (additional fee)
- 11:30am "The Lorax" performed by the Young Naturalists
- Food & Refreshments
- Rain Date: Sunday, April 26
- Parking: \$5 per car (suggested donation)



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Call 845.534.5506 x204 for more information.



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# Native Plant Sale



**Saturday, May 16**

**9am – 1pm**

**Outdoor  
Discovery Center**



- Get advice from experienced gardeners
- Enjoy Free Workshops
- 10am – Identifying Invasive Plants
- 11:30am – Creating Islands of Native Plants
- 10am – 1pm – Ongoing Children's Workshop: Garden Friends
- Selection of native plants selected to attract butterflies, honey bees & hummingbirds
- Go to [hnm.org](http://hnm.org) for list of plants



# Adult Programs & Adventures

## **HYPERTUFA PLANTER WORKSHOP**

SATURDAY, MAY 2 10:00AM  
OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER



Hypertufa is an artificial stone recipe that is easy to make and replicates real Tufa rock which is a very porous sandstone. Create two small planters. We will provide small plastic pots as forms. You may also bring your own small wicker baskets, cardboard milk containers or plastic pots to use as forms.

**Admission: \$25 Members: \$20**  
Prepaid registration required



## **TWO FREE PROGRAMS ON MAY 16 DURING THE NATIVE PLANT SALE**



**10AM - IDENTIFYING INVASIVE PLANTS**

A short illustrated presentation by Kali Bird will be followed by a 1 mile walk to identify and discuss invasive plant species and what can be done about them. Kali Bird, local educator and ecologist, with a passion for conserving New York's natural areas, serves on the steering committee for the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management and is the Founder of Hike New York.

**11:30AM - CREATING ISLANDS OF NATIVE PLANTS**

Join Master Gardener Karen Ertl to learn how to create "islands" of native plants. These islands are havens for butterflies, bees, and other native fauna.

## **BIRDING AND BREAKFAST WITH THE BAKERS**



SATURDAY, MAY 30 8:30AM  
OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER

The Outdoor Discovery Center has a spectacular variety of spring birds. Learn the basics of this engaging hobby from avid birding enthusiasts Sharon and David Baker. Join us for a birding presentation highlighted by David's fantastic photography. Then venture out in search of some of the more than 50 species that have been sited on the Museum's property. After the hike, enjoy a hot or cold beverage and a donut. Bring Binoculars!

**Admission: \$7 Members: \$5**



## **CANOE TRIP IN CONSTITUTION MARSH**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 4:30PM - 6:30PM

Join us on a canoe trip through the winding channels of Constitution Marsh near Cold Spring, one of the five remaining tidal marshes of the Hudson River. Guided by an Audubon naturalist, we will search for hidden wildlife and enjoy the beautiful scenery. After the trip you may want to dine at one of Cold Spring's restaurants. Complete directions will be emailed.

**Admission: \$30 Members: \$25**  
Prepaid registration required

**REGISTER ONLINE AT [HNM.ORG](http://HNM.ORG) OR CALL 845.534.5506 X204**

# Weekend Programs

JOIN MUSEUM EDUCATORS FOR A SERIES OF INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS. LEARN NEW THINGS! HIKE THE TRAILS!  
FOR ADULTS WITH OR WITHOUT CHILDREN AGES FIVE AND UP.

10AM AT THE OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER EXCEPT AS NOTED.

ADMISSION: \$7 ADULTS, \$5 CHILDREN — MEMBERS: \$5 ADULTS \$3 CHILDREN  
PREPAID REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED EXCEPT AS NOTED.



## SUNDAY, MAY 3 TOTALLY TOADS

Learn about toad habits and habitats. Take a short hike to seek these amphibians of the forest. Make a "toad abode" to take home.

## SUNDAY, MAY 10 MOTHER'S DAY NATURE HIKE

A Mother's Day walk for moms and anyone with a mom! Start your morning in the fresh air and sunshine on a wonderful guided woodland walk to seek the sights and sounds of spring wildlife.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 7 TURTLES TALES

Learn all about these special reptiles and then search for them on a guided walk. Kids will like the turtle craft. Bring your binoculars.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 13 AT THE WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER THE BUZZ ON BEES



Celebrate Pollinator Week with us! A short illustrated presentation will describe bees and bee behavior. Learn why bees are so important to us and to the ecosystem. Then take a "guided tour" of our honey bee observation hive and a walk in the meadow to observe honey bees and native bees at work.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 14 LET'S GO FISHIN'! 8:30 – 10:30AM

Note: Pre-paid registration required. Bring your fishing rod and join Museum educator Carl Heitmuller. Learn safety and casting techniques of rod and reel and then fish our Goose pond.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 20 LITTLE GRASSHOPPERS

Come join us in Grasshopper Grove for a special surprise nature program. Then



enjoy free play in Grasshopper Grove. Note: Admission: \$3 -- Members: Free

## SUNDAY, JULY 5 INSECTS

Get the scoop on bugs in a fun and informative program. Go on a bug hunt, and make an observation jar.

## SUNDAY, JULY 12 HUMMINGBIRDS

Learn all about these flying jewels. Then take a walk to identify plants that attract them and perhaps catch a glimpse of a hummingbird feeding! Take home a nectar plant for your garden!

## SUNDAY, JULY 19 SUMMER WILDFLOWERS

Join us on a hike through our fields to enjoy nature's colorful summer array of wildflowers.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 1 SNAPPING TURTLES

Snappers are our most common turtle and our official New York State Reptile. They have an interesting natural history. Meet a live snapping turtle and take a walk to our wetlands to observe snapper habitat.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 8 BEAUTIFUL, BENEFICIAL BATS

Bats may have a creepy reputation but they are important in controlling stink bugs and other summer insects! Learn all about native bats and survival challenges they face. Make a bat house to take home.

Note: Pre-registration required. \$25 fee per bat house. Register online or call 845.534.5506 x204.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 AT THE WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER SENSATIONAL SNAKES!



Meet several live snakes from the Museum's collection and learn about their life cycles, habits and habitats. Make a fun snake craft to take home.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 FIREFLY LIGHT SHOW FROM 6:30 - 8:30PM

Have you ever marveled at the magic of fireflies flashing on a hot summer night? Learn how and why they create such a show? Make an observation jar to take home.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 29 FULL MOON HIKE FROM 7PM - 9PM

Come enjoy the trails under the light of the Sturgeon Moon. The hike starts before sunset and we will watch the moonrise over our open fields.

## FAMILY FUN EVERY WEEKEND

AT THE OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER  
April 18 - November 15 – Weekends 10am – 4pm



• Play in Grasshopper Grove. Nature Play fun at its best. Admission: \$3 – Members: Free

• Hike the Trails Free. Use a Trail Quest Guidebook and learn about nature and history in a fun interactive way! Enjoyable for ages 5 to adult. Trail Quest Guidebooks \$5

AT THE WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday – 12pm – 4pm



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

Interactive exhibit: "Marvelous Moths!"

Story Walk: Read your way along the trail  
May 23 through the summer  
Admission: \$3 – Members: Free

# Special Events

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

Learn to recognize our local frogs by sight and sound, and then take a guided twilight wetland walk to test your frog identification skills. Bring a flashlight.

**Note: Program is weather dependent. If in question, call 845.534.5506 for weather message.**

Admission: Adults \$7, Children \$5

Members: Adults \$5, Children \$3

## ANNUAL EVENING FROG WALK

FRIDAY MAY 8  
 (RAIN DATE: MAY 15)  
 7:30PM



## STORY WALK OPENING WEEKEND

SATURDAY, MAY 23 AND SUNDAY, MAY 24

12PM TO 4PM WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER

The Museum, in partnership with the Cornwall Public Library and The Grail, invites you to Story Walk 2015.

Read a wonderfully illustrated children's nature story 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 of \$3 Museum members: free



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## FAMILY CAMP OUT

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 6PM THROUGH

SATURDAY, MAY 30 AT 8AM

OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER (RAIN DATE: MAY 30-MAY 31)

Welcome the summer season with a night under the stars! Bring your family, tent and sleeping bags for an evening of nocturnal fun. Begin your overnight adventure by setting up your campsite. Camping veterans will be on hand to help. 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.

Admission: \$20 per person, \$12 children under 5

Members Price: \$18 per person, \$9 children under 5

**Note: Limited space available. Prepaid registration required to reserve your camp-site.**



## BUTTERFLY & CATERPILLAR WEEKEND

SATURDAY, JUNE 27 AND SUNDAY, JUNE 28

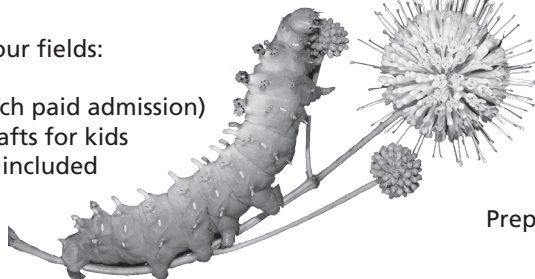
10AM-3PM OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER

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

- Caterpillar Lab! View the very LARGEST, RAREST, most COLORFUL and just plain old BIZARRE local species of caterpillars that you could possibly imagine.
- Illustrated presentation about common local butterflies: 10:30am and 12:30pm
- Guided butterfly walks through our fields: 11:30am and 1:30pm
- 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



## SECRET LIVES OF VENOMOUS SNAKES

SATURDAY, JULY 11 - 10AM WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER

Join us for a very special illustrated presentation including live snakes by regional venomous snake researcher and wildlife rehabilitator, Kathy Michell. Learn about these fascinating, misunderstood and reclusive reptiles including:

- Venomous snake identification
- Biology and Behavior
- Conservation issues and survival threats

Observe live specimens of our region's two venomous snakes as well as the Museum's resident non-venomous species!

Recommended for adults and children 10 and up.

Admission: \$11 adults, \$9 children 10 - 16 years

Members: \$8 adults, \$6 children 10 - 16 years

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



## DAZZLING DRAGONFLIES - A POPULAR ANNUAL EVENT

SATURDAY, JULY 18

9:30AM AND 11AM OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER

Join us for an illustrated presentation and learn all about dragonflies and damselflies including anatomy, life cycle and feeding habits. Then we'll walk the fields to net and identify these jewels before releasing them back to their habitat.

Admission: \$7 adults, \$5 children

Members: \$5 adults, \$3 children



## MOTHS AT NIGHT

SATURDAY, JULY 25

8:30PM - 10:30PM WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER

National Moth Week, July 18 - 26, is a perfect time to observe and celebrate these remarkable, mainly nocturnal, butterfly cousins. Help us celebrate National Moth Week with a special evening moth event!

- 8:30pm - 9pm Visit our Marvelous Moths Exhibit; refreshments provided
- 9pm - 9:30pm Slide show presentation
- 9:30pm - 10:30pm Check our light "lures" to see what moths we attract.

Admission: \$8 adults, \$6 children

Members: \$6 adults, \$4 children

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



## SKY HUNTERS IN FLIGHT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

11AM OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER

Learn about the ancient sport of falconry with falconer Brian Bradley. See a hawk and falcon sharpen their hunting skills during an exciting outdoor flight demonstration.

Experience the silent flight of an owl. See a variety of raptors from all over the world.

Learn about their adaptations for survival and how they play a vital role at the top of the food chain.

Admission: \$16 adults, \$12 children (aged 7-12)

Members: \$12 adults, \$9 children

Prepaid registration required.



## Animals & Nature Together ...ANTS!



## Just for Kids!

AT THE WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER Parents and Grandparents! This is designed for you (or another caregiver) and your children ages 2 - 4\*, to learn about animals and nature together. Each carefully structured program in the series focuses on a live animal and includes a craft, song, movement, story and outdoor walk. It is a great way to prepare your child for preschool!

### FIVE TIMES TO CHOOSE FROM – 8-WEEK SESSIONS

Tuesdays: July 7 - August 25  
9:30am - 10:30am (ages 2\* and 3)  
11am - noon (ages 3 and 4)

Wednesdays: July 8 - August 26  
9:30am - 10:30am (ages 2\* and 3)  
11am - noon (ages 3 and 4)

Fridays: July 10 - August 28  
9:30am - 10:30am (ages 2\* - 4)

Price per child/adult pair  
Non-Members \$120.00, Members: \$95  
5% discount for additional sibling  
Prepaid registration required.

\*Please note: your child MUST be 2 years of age to enroll. This is a special time for parents and toddlers. Kindly make other arrangements for siblings over 9 months.



### Grasshopper Grove

OPEN EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY  
10AM TO 4PM APRIL 18 - NOV. 15

Bring your child to our unique Nature Play Area! Grasshopper Grove is a half-acre of natural elements that will give young children the opportunity to find adventure and appreciate the wonder of nature by climbing on fallen trees, digging in dirt piles, balancing on boulders and creating imaginative worlds with sticks, pinecones and bark. There will be a Play Facilitator on site to help engage kids in discovering the wonders of nature.

Admission:  
Children (3 and up) & Adults: \$3  
Members: Free



## Young Naturalist Preschool - Registration is on for 2015-16!



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



### 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!  
Every Wednesday at 9:30am  
April 29 - June 3

Meet at the Outdoor Discovery Center and sign-in at the Visitors Center.

Admission: \$5 per family Members: Free



## SUMMER SCIENCE and NATURE CAMP 2015

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

June 29 – August 28: Science and Nature Exploration for Kids Ages 4 - 12 Every Week!

Half Day Camps for ages 4–5, Full Day Camps for ages 5 - 12. Two special weeks for Eco-Rangers 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.

For more information and to register online visit [www.hnm.org](http://www.hnm.org) or call 845.534.5506 x211



PO Box 451  
Cornwall, New York  
12518



## Museum Bulletin ■ Spring/Summer 2015

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



## SPRING SCOUT PROGRAMS

### GREAT MUSEUM BADGE WORKSHOPS DESIGNED JUST FOR SCOUTS

May 2 - Brownie Bugs  
May 3 - Webelo Forester  
May 16 - Webelo Naturalist  
May 17 - Wildlife Conservation  
May 30 - Daisy Green Petal

Admission: \$15 per Scout,  
Adults: Free

All Programs are held at the Outdoor  
Discovery Center 11:45am - 4pm

Prepaid registration required.

To register, call 845.534.5506 x211

For Fall Programs, go to [hhnm.org](http://hhnm.org)

**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.**

[www.hhnm.org](http://www.hhnm.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 Museum's Executive Director, Jackie Grant at 845.534.5506 x203

### Wildlife Education Center

25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson  
845.534.7781

Open year round:

Friday - Sunday from 12 - 4

Admission: \$3.00 for ages 3 & up.

Members free.

- Live Animals · Interactive Exhibits
- Short family-friendly trails
- "Meet the Animals" at 1pm & 2:30pm every Saturday and Sunday

### Outdoor Discovery Center

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

845.534.5506 x204

Open mid-April to mid-Nov.

Weekends from 10am-4pm

- Trails: Free, Quest Guidebooks \$5
- Grasshopper Grove: Admission \$3, Members - Free

[www.hhnm.org](http://www.hhnm.org)

### Chartered by:

NYS Board of Regents,  
Office of Charities Registration

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