



Robert A. Ficano
County Executive

33175 Ann Arbor Trail
Westland, MI 48185

Located on Hines Drive
Just east of Ann Arbor Trail

For more information call
734-261-1990
www.waynecountyparks.org



WAYNE COUNTY PARKS

Nankin Mills

Interpretive Center

Home School Program Series 2009

Nankin Mills Interpretive Center is pleased to offer our series of monthly educational programs designed for home school students and their parent to attend together. Many of our popular program topics are returning, and we have added many new topics as well.

- **Programs are held 1:30 – 3:00 pm at Nankin Mills except Feb 18 and Sept 16 are 2:00 – 3:30 pm.** See program dates and topics below.
- **Program fee is \$4.00 per student for each program** that you register for, no charge for adults that attend.
- **Pre-registration and prepayment are required.** Register only for the topics you are interested in attending. You will not be registered for a program until payment is received at the Park Office at the above address. We accept cash or check made payable to “Wayne County Parks”. **Call 734-261-1990** if you have any questions.
- **Program registration opens Wednesday, January 7, 2009.** You can mail it in or drop off your registration at the Park Office.
- **PLEASE NOTE NEW POLICY:** Sorry, no refunds or program credits will be given unless Wayne County cancels a program.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE AGE RECOMMENDATIONS LISTED WHEN REGISTERING FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF ALL PARTICIPANTS.

Nankin Mills Interpretive Center 2009 Monthly Home School Programs

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15: ANIMAL TRACKS/ANIMALS IN WINTER

Bring a light-colored T-shirt to track up! Learn to identify different animal tracks and take a hike to search for real tracks in the snow. Discover different ways that animals survive the Michigan winters. Half indoors and half outdoors, dress for the weather. Ages 4 – 12.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21: KITCHEN EXPERIMENTS **NEW!!**

If you are interested in several hands-on experiments drop your spatula and come join us! We will make invisible ink and other cool things from ordinary kitchen ingredients. Mostly indoors, possible short outdoor experiment. Ages 7 – 12.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28: BEGINNING ASTRONOMY

Locating winter constellations and learning planet facts will be the focus of this astronomical adventure! A constellation craft will also be part of the fun. Indoor program, Ages 7 – 12.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10: ANIMAL SIGNS AND SKULLS

Bring your detective skills to unravel the clues animals leave behind. We will solve animal “mysteries” indoors and learn the secrets of skull identification. Indoor program, Ages 9 – 15.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18: MEET THE WILD CANINES, 2:00-3:30 pm

Learn more about Michigan's wolves, coyote and fox as we explore the similarities and differences between wild and domestic canines. Our visitor, Beth Duman will introduce us to her very talented domesticated canine friends. They were a big hit last year! Indoor program, Ages 7 – 15.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26: UNDERGROUND RAILROAD HISTORY

The Middle Rouge River corridor was an escape route used in the past by people seeking freedom from slavery. Learn about our local abolitionists and some of the stories surrounding Nankin Mills during this time. Discover the secret quilt codes and songs used for communication, and make your own quilt "code". Indoor program, Ages 8 - 15.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3: ALL THINGS MICHIGAN

NEW!!

Learn about our Michigan State Symbols and some of our favorite Michigan folklore. We will explore all things Michigan! Test your knowledge to see how much you know about our state! Indoor program, Ages 7 – 15.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11: SIMPLE MACHINES

Simple machines, such as pulleys, inclined planes and levers were no doubt useful at Nankin Mills and the surrounding pioneer villages and farms in the 1800s. Hands-on experiments with the physics of these machines will help students understand their concepts and encourage future scientists. Indoor program, Ages 9 – 15.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19: MAPLE SUGARING

March is maple sugar month in Michigan. Bundle up and join our naturalist at Cass Benton Park in Northville, off Northville Road north of Six Mile, near the picnic shelter and play structure. See how trees are tapped and sap is boiled to syrup and sugar. Also learn how the early Native Americans first discovered maple sap and prepared it. Be sure to dress for the weather, program is outdoors. Ages 4 - 15.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7: HERPS OF THE ROUGE ~ WHAT'S A HERP?

Frogs, turtles and snakes, Oh My! Join us to meet our live reptiles and amphibians, together known as "Herps". Learn about their interesting natural history and adaptations to their wetland habitats. Indoors, Ages 4 - 15.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15: LIVING GREEN WITH CAPTAIN ECO!

NEW!!

Get ready for Earth Day with our Super Hero, Captain Eco, armed with the power of knowledge and working tirelessly to make the world a cleaner, greener place for all. Activities will cover topics such as water quality and energy stewardship, and a "green piñata" will round out our eco day! Program indoors and outdoors, Ages 7 – 12.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23: OWLS OF MICHIGAN

The many unique adaptations of owls make them such effective nocturnal predators. Our owl mounts will introduce you to some of the eleven different species that have been found in Michigan. Close examination of owl pellets allows you to investigate what owls have been eating! Indoor program, Ages 8 – 15.

TUESDAY, MAY 12: WILDFLOWER FOLKLORE HIKE

NEW!!

Meet at Nankin Mills to carpool to the Cowan Section of Holliday Nature Preserve for a hike through some of the best wildflower displays in southeastern Michigan. We will learn folklore about our beautiful native flowers along the way. Trail is not stroller friendly and we will be hiking about one hour. Outdoors, Ages 8 – 15.

TUESDAY, MAY 19: POND LIFE

You'll be amazed to see how much aquatic life lives in our little pond! Catch some of these pond critters and try the Pond Bingo Challenge to identify them. We'll take an even closer look under our video-microscope, also known as "slime TV"! Indoors and outdoors, Ages 5 - 10.

THURSDAY, MAY 28: HAWKS OF MICHIGAN **NEW!!!**

Come learn about our daytime raptors as we present our nice collection of stuffed mounts. A raptor claw craft will be part of the learning experience, along with a short hike to look for soaring hawks. Indoors and outdoors, Ages 8 -15.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9: BIRD NESTS **NEW!!!**

Join us for a fun day as we learn how to identify different bird nests, visit a few of our nesting boxes to look for baby birds, play a bird nest game and make an edible bird nest craft. Indoors and outdoors, Ages 6 – 10.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17: ART SKETCHING AND PAINTING **NEW!!!**

Using pencil sketching and water colors, children will hone their observation skills on the environment around them. Haiku and poetry will also be part of the fun. Mostly outdoors, Ages 8 - 15.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25: BUTTERFLY GARDENING AND REARING

We will learn to recognize many of Michigan's beautiful butterflies and find out how to attract them to your own yard using native plants for caterpillar host plants and adult nectar plants. The life stages of butterflies will be discussed and students will be shown how to raise a monarch butterfly to take home if they wish. Indoors and outdoors, Ages 8 – 12.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8: WATER AND SOIL CONSERVATION **NEW!!!**

It can take hundreds of years to form soil, and only days to lose it to erosion. Our planet's surface is 75% water, yet only a fraction of it is fresh, clean and useable. Activities will teach students ways to conserve these precious resources. Indoor and outdoors, Ages 7 – 15.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16: BAT CONSERVATION 2:00 - 3:30 pm **NEW!!!**

The Organization for Bat Conservation will present a live bat program. Join us to learn about these fascinating and often misunderstood mammals. Echolocation, food webs and conservation of bats worldwide will be discussed. Indoor program, Ages 5 – 15.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24: NATURE GAMES & NATURE CRAFTS **NEW!!!**

Let's all enjoy nature by creating a beautiful craft to take home using nature items and playing some memory and matching games with nature's things. Indoors and outdoors, Ages 6 – 10.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6: SEED IDENTIFICATION & COLLECTION

Trees, shrubs and flowers have gone to seed for the season. We will learn about different kinds of seeds and take a hike to identify them. Students will make a collection of several different types of seeds to take home. Ages 7 – 12.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14: LEAF PRINTS AND TREE IDENTIFICATION

Trees will be the focus of our explorations as we take a hike to learn how to identify our local floodplain species. Each student should bring a light-colored T-shirt to make leaf prints as a memory of the beautiful fall season. Indoors and outdoors, Ages 4 – 12.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22: CIDER MAKING AND PIONEER GAMES

Bring your own apples (about six per student) and use your own muscle power to hand crank our old-fashioned cider press! The taste of the fresh pressed cider is worth all of the work! Games and hands-on activities will introduce us to pioneer history. Outdoor program, Ages 4 – 12.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3: BUILDING GREEN **NEW!!!**

Learn construction techniques that are healthy for both you and the environment. Our presenter is a professional architect and college professor certified in green building. Indoor program, Ages 9 – 15.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11: CORN HARVEST

November is corn harvest time in the farming community. A video of the harvest process will show how it's done. Corn crafts and snacks will also be part of the learning fun. Indoor program, Ages 4 – 12.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19: NATIVE AMERICANS OF THE GREAT LAKES

Michigan has a rich Native American cultural history. Learn about the Three Fires tribes from our area, the Potawatomi, Odawa, and Ojibwa. Hands-on games and activities will help us appreciate the knowledge needed to live with the land. Indoors, Ages 7 - 12.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1: ADVANCED ASTRONOMY **NEW!!**

Star life cycles, including supernovas and black holes, will be explored, as well as new discoveries such as exoplanets and other galactic wonders. Indoor program, Ages 9 – 15.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9: MICHIGAN GEOLOGY

Discover Michigan's amazing geological history, which includes volcanoes, mountains, oceans and glaciers! We will take a look at the "big" picture, including plate tectonics. Then we will explore the "smaller" picture by learning rock and mineral classification. Students will do mineral testing and make a mineral collection to take home. Indoors, Ages 8 – 15.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17: ELECTRICITY EXPERIMENTS

Thomas Edison played a key role in setting up the powerhouse at Nankin Mills in the early 1900s. In the spirit of Edison, we will explore electricity by trying several different experiments. Indoors, Ages 8 - 15.



Wayne County Parks: Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs