

**Discovering Natural New Jersey**  
**Series of walks through beautiful places in our state**

Date: October 21, 2009

Meet the Arboretum's new Executive Director – Jim Peck

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Place: Cora Hartshorn Arboretum

Cheese & Crackers will be served.

Free



Come and meet Jim Peck and hear his ideas for the future of the Arboretum. **He will give a presentation and slide show on “Discovering Natural New Jersey”** and discuss places he has explored for his monthly *Trail Mix* nature column in the Home News Tribune.

**Chat with Jim, have a snack and see where to find billion year-old rock, the oldest trees in the northeast, a 17 trillion gallon aquifer, the highest point on the eastern seaboard, the highest Atlantic white cedar bog in the world, orchids growing wild, a gorge worthy of the Rockies, and much more ... all in Jersey!**

This talk will kick off a series of walks (and bike rides) Jim will lead to beautiful natural places across the state.

Date: Thursday, October 22, 2009

Four Seasons Arboretum Tour – #1 the fall (beginning tree identification).

Time: 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Place: Cora Hartshorn Arboretum

Level of walk: easy

We'll provide deli sandwiches and drinks afterwards for lunch.  
Fee: \$25 per person



Join Jim Peck on a walk through the Arboretum in fall and learn the basics of tree identification. The tall wooden sentinels change into their prettiest colors to contrast with the lapis sky before they go out in a blaze of glory and sleep for the winter. Bring binoculars and a friend and we'll share a signed copy of David Sibley's Guide to Trees, or bring your own. We'll come back inside for conversation, deli sandwiches and a drink.

**Date: Monday, November 9, 2009 (rain or shine)**

## **A Walk on the Jersey Shore – Sandy Hook/Ft.Hancock.**

Time: 9:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Place: Car pool from the Arboretum or meet at Sandy Hook.

Level of walk: easy/moderate (some walking on beach sand which can be tiring)

Pack your own lunch.

Fee: Free (\$20 per person or \$35 per family donation suggested – we cannot charge a fee in a federal park).



Come explore one of the few natural barrier islands left in New Jersey juxtaposed next to Ft. Hancock, one of the best places to experience the entire history of U.S. port protection. We'll see the transition from ocean to sand to dune to thicket to maritime forest and then to the Sandy Hook Bay. We'll identify shells then go into the largest American holly forest on the east coast before we enter Ft. Hancock. There you will see the first (and only) steam powered disappearing gun battery ever built as well as the largest front loading cannon in the world. We'll finish up on an observation platform overlooking the Atlantic and New York City.

**Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2009**

## **Climb Snake Hill in the Meadowlands.**

Time: 9:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Place: Car pool from the Arboretum or meet at Laurel Hill Park in Secaucus.

Level of walk: moderate (one steep hill and one trail over boulders which is optional).

Pack your own lunch.

Fee: \$20 per person or \$35 per family



We'll drive to "snake hill" and explore the surrounding area before we ascend to the highest point in the meadowlands. This big chunk of volcanic trap rock is like an iceberg – only showing us a small portion of its true mass. It appears large not because it was pushed up out of the ground but because the surrounding area eroded away leaving this massive behemoth with the New York skyline on one side and a terrific view of Jersey on the other. It looks out over an estuary that is the most efficient place on earth for converting the sun's energy to food, while nearby thousands of cars convert carbon to CO<sub>2</sub>.