

# Field Notes

From Schiff Nature Preserve



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## Music in the Woods

We're thrilled to bring the Music in the Woods event back to Schiff. Music in the Woods is a community-wide event celebrating Schiff and music together in the preserve. In 2014,



Executive Director, Jeanne Rice and Schiff supporter Tom Rice introduced the special event to bring together friends, neighbors, nature, and music. This year's concert showcases

the talents of established and emerging artists. This year's performers include Tom Rice's trio, and local duo Playful Banter — featuring Alexis von Aulock and Kimberly Sanchez! Music in the Woods is attended by families of all ages, with proceeds supporting Schiff and the musicians. Come support live music and the Schiff Nature Preserve.

## Everyday is EARTH Day @ Schiff

by Ken Rendall, Trustee

I was recently asked about why I became involved with Schiff Nature Preserve. My very short and direct answer was that I was looking for something to do, something to get involved in. Of course, the reasons are way more involved than a short answer can deliver. The first reason is related to my love of the natural world that was developed while growing up, spending summers at our cabin on a lake in Western Maine. Unfortunately, as I traveled through life, my working-self lost touch with the natural world. Another reason I became involved is related to my time with the Princeton volunteer fire department. I served with them for 25 years, in every role before moving out of the area. I think that was where I really developed a love to get involved in an important cause.

My first knowledge of Schiff was through the Environmental Book Club. Attending the club led me to meet others who were actively involved with Schiff, so I started to help out in work details and with the Stew Crew. I have always found that working on a project together develops team building, respect for each other, and a strong sense of community. I think people who have devoted time to an organization feel much more connected to the mission as compared to when they just sent a check. Perhaps there is a deeper commitment when one makes a donation of time and energy versus money. Of course, all non-profits rely on donations of money, but invested people really help an organization thrive. I encourage people to come join us here at Schiff; spend some time volunteering. You can attend a Volunteer Day, work on the trails, serve on a committee, get your hands dirty as a way to connect not only with our mission, with others but with your own self. I know from experience that I have always felt better after making that real connection with nature, whether digging in the dirt, planting or clearing trails, doing my part.



## Help Spread the Word about Schiff

Tell your friends and neighbors why you chose to become a member of Schiff. Ask them to support Schiff. We rely heavily on revenue from membership, and have made it even easier to become and stay a member of Schiff with our recurring PayPal payments, if you so choose!

- **Introduce your friends and family to our ever changing and improving website, Facebook, Nextdoor, and Instagram posts.** Please share our posts and events and comment! We appreciate your testimonials.
- **Take pictures when you visit.** Use the hashtag #schiffnaturepreserve OR #supportschiff.
- **Take friends and family to the preserve** to enjoy our trails, nature center, and programs.
- **Attend (and bring your friends) our Special Events,** like our Environmental Film Festival, our Annual Members meeting, Music in the Woods, or Paws for the Preserve.
- **Wear your Schiff Nature Preserve hat, tie dye, or magnet** proudly and let all your everyone know you Support Schiff!

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## Schiff Summer Nature Programs 15th Year!

This year's Summer Nature Program continues to grow as we offer programs that seek to inspire, educate, and provide loads of nature-focused FUN for kids ages 4 to 13! Co-Directors and Dynamic Duo Jenny Chmura and Marissa Fuellhart, both teachers at William Annin Middle School in Basking Ridge, bring energy, extensive teaching experience, and a love of nature that is contagious. Children will enjoy nature-themed camps such as: Animal Antics, Frogs, Turtles and More, Living Treasures, and Soaring through Schiff. The children will experience adventure hikes, river

exploration, wineberry picking, and tie dye making in addition to searching for woodland creatures, constructing debris huts, engineering giant spider webs, observing butterflies, and more. In doing so, they will also learn ways to protect and preserve the delicate balance between our great variety of species and their habitats. Through good old-fashioned outdoor fun, children unlock their joy and wonder as they explore the natural and wild magic of the preserve. Need a visual to help you envision the fun? Go to our website to view the new video of Schiff's renowned Summer Nature Program, filmed and produced by Greg and Christin Barna (who also happens to be proud Schiff Summer Nature Program alumni)!

## Schiff Conducts Prescribed Burn to Enhance Habitat and Protect Neighbors

Since 2004, the Schiff Natural Lands Trust has collaborated with the New Jersey Forest Fire Service to conduct a series of prescribed burn events at a variety of locations within the Schiff Nature Preserve. This practice is a safe and cost-effective method of reducing fuels, vegetation, and leaf litter that could contribute to an uncontrolled wildfire in the future. By conducting controlled burns, we aim to lower the wildfire hazard on our property and thus reduce the hazards to our neighbors as well. The burn was planned to occur during the last two weeks of March. However, due to this relentless winter, the burn was postponed to the first two weeks of April. At the time of the printing of this article, it is still unclear if the burn will be conducted. On the chance that it can occur, it will be conducted and overseen by professional firefighters from the New Jersey Forest Fire Service and the Ralston Fire Company. This year's targeted areas are the Great Meadow, a small grassy area near the Dan Beard cabin, and the meadow near our North Conservation Pond. For safety reasons, at the time of the prescribed burn, parts of the Schiff Nature Preserve will be temporarily closed.



## NEW – "School's Out" program for kids ages 6 to 12

The NEW School's Out program has been a VERY POPULAR, fun, and exciting new addition to our Calendar of Events. The program provides a reprieve for busy

parents and a fun and educational option for kids during school breaks. Each School's Out program has an ecological theme from which our environmental educators develop a three hour program of games, projects, hikes, books, songs, and crafts. Recent themes of seasonal content have been — Wonders of Snow, Tracking Time, and Beginner Birding. Schools out programs can be found on our website under the Programs Tab.

## GLAD YOU ASKED



### Q.Does Schiff Offer Birthday Parties for Children?

Yes, birthday parties at Schiff feature trail games, nature walks, natural science exploration led by our naturalists. Parents may select from a set of themes such as Scavenger Hunt, Map Quest, Tracking or Crazy Critters. Parties are 2 1/2 hours in length and may be customized for children ages 3 and up. Parents are encouraged to use these eco-friendly party tips:



## SAVE THE DATE — 9th Annual Environmental Film Festival is planned for June 2

Each year a group of dedicated and adventurous members, friends, and first time visitors enjoy taking a hike or a hayride to the Woodbadge Lodge to enjoy a delightful evening of community amidst a quiet call to action. Tickets include a hayride, dinner and dessert, and environmentally focused movies for all ages. With an array of divine desserts, a roaring fire in the fire pit, and occasional impromptu acoustic music, the Environmental Film Festival is a sweet gem of the Schiff community.



“Sustainable.” The film is a passion project for them, combining their roles as food activists with their talents as documentary filmmakers. “Sustainable” was screened at 20+ film festivals around the world and recently won the 2016 Accolade Global Humanitarian Award for Outstanding Achievement.

The evening begins at 6 pm and will feature a very special opportunity for Q & A with this year’s guest speaker; Adrian Hyde. Adrian owns and manages Dunwald Farm, a Certified Organic vegetable farm in Hopewell, NJ, and is the Executive Director of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ). Adrian’s passion for organic agriculture stems from the fact that it lies at the intersection of multiple areas of great importance: ecological stewardship, health, animal welfare, and community.

With generous sponsorship and in-kind donations from individuals, local organizations and businesses, we look forward to another successful Environmental Film Festival full of community, education, and inspiration in support of Schiff. If interested in sponsoring this event, please contact [dorian@schiffnaturepreserve.org](mailto:dorian@schiffnaturepreserve.org).

This year’s feature film, “Sustainable” by directors Matt Wechsler and Annie Speicher is “what a farming documentary should be.” The film is a vital investigation into the economic and environmental instability of America’s food system, from the agricultural issues we face — soil loss, water depletion, climate change, pesticide use — to the community of leaders who are determined to fix it. Sustainable is a film about the land, the people who work it and what must be done to sustain it for future generations.

Directors Matt and Annie are the storytellers at Hourglass Films behind

## Schiff Welcomes New Board of Trustees Member Alan Weinstein



This past fall, Schiff Natural Lands Trust Board of Trustees welcomed our newest trustee, Alan Weinstein of Mendham. Businessman and entrepreneur, Alan enjoyed a long and successful career in the restaurant and catering business. He opened the Greenhouse Restaurant in Morristown in 1976 and then in 1982, purchased The Park Savoy. During his time at the Park Savoy, he partnered with the Morristown Community Soup Kitchen by donating specially prepared as well as unused food to the Soup Kitchen for 25 years. Alan was broadly recognized in 2013 for organizing a broader collaborative effort among 40 local restaurants, dubbed, “Kitchen to Kitchen” which ensured the continuation of the charitable services provided to the Soup Kitchen. Alan and his wife, Judy became Schiff neighbors in 1976. They have four children who all attended the local Mendham schools. He has served on the Planning Board for many years and has been an active hiker and horse rider throughout the Schiff property since the 1970’s. Since joining the Board, Alan has joined the Conservation and Stewardship committee and the Fundraising and Outreach committee where his professional experience as a successful business owner shall prove valuable. We are lucky to have such generous and thoughtful board members. Thank you to Alan!

## Service Projects for Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts

For more than 45 years, Schiff served as the Boy Scouts of America’s National Boy Scout Training Camp (1933 – 1979). Today, Schiff embraces its rich scouting history and works with all individual



scouts and groups to fulfill badge requirements, Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Silver and Gold Award projects.

Scouts can find a listing of completed and desired projects that support the work and programs of Schiff on the Programs Tab of our website.

- ✓ Use recycled paper or on line/paperless invitations
- ✓ Make party favors from recycled goodies around the house
- ✓ Resist serving children soda, or individually packaged snacks or candy gift items
- ✓ Consider requesting a homemade gift, a gently used gift, or a donation (to Schiff) in lieu of a gift

- ✓ Suggest that gifts be wrapped in newspaper, children’s artwork or a reusable gift bags
- ✓ Encourage friends to carpool to Schiff for the party
- ✓ Support your local farmers and/or serve organic, local, and in-season food

## Come Out & Enjoy Schiff

Discounts For Members. More Info Online.  
[www.Schiffnaturepreserve.Org](http://www.Schiffnaturepreserve.Org)

### Singing Bowl Meditation

April 28, 2018 (Saturday) 7:00 – 8:15 pm

### Creating a Home Apothecary

May 5, 2018 (Saturday) 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

### Volunteer Day

May 19, 2018 (Saturday) 9:00 – 11:00 am

### Annual Members Meeting

May 20, 2018 (Sunday) 2:00 pm

### National Trails Day Hikes

June 2, 2018 (Saturday) 8:00 am – 2:30 pm

### Environmental Film Festival

June 2, 2018 (Saturday) 5:45 – 9:00 pm

### Moths: Misunderstood But Beautiful

June 9, 2018 (Saturday) 7:30 – 10:30 pm

### Foraging with Ellen Zachos

June 23, 2018 (Saturday) 4:00 – 6:30 pm

### Mushroom Foray

July 14, 2018 (Saturday) 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

### Summer Nature Program for Kids

July 9 - Aug 3, 2018

### Paws for the Preserve – Doggie Walk a Thon

October 13, 2018 (Saturday) 9:00 am – 12 pm

## WHERE'S SCHIFF?

40° 45' 48.332" N / 74° 37' 15.641" W



## Scout and Schiff Artifacts, Memorabilia, and Interview Volunteers

Schiff is actively seeking current and past Scout Troop leaders of all ages who might like to donate Schiff/Scout artifacts or photos for an upcoming fundraising event. In particular, Schiff is looking for pictures or objects representative of the period where the Scout Training camp resided on what is now Schiff Nature Preserve and when the Schiff mansion was in use by the Scouts. Scout elders interested in being personally interviewed to be part of a video compilation of Schiff memories may contact [dorian@schiffnaturepreserve.org](mailto:dorian@schiffnaturepreserve.org) to set up a time for a personal video session.

