

Autumnal Equinox 2022 SEASOLS Autumnal Equinox 2022

A Quarterly Publication to Advance Environmental Literacy



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Colors of Autumn

By Derek Scott

Every year, people across the country are mesmerized by the beautiful colors of autumn. Oranges, yellows, and reds are everywhere you look, but have you ever stopped and wondered why this amazing phenomenon occurs? Yes, the leaves are getting ready to drop from their trees for the season, but there is much more to it than that.

Throughout the growing season of spring and summer, leaves spend most of their time producing food for the tree. The green pigment that we associate with leaves comes from the chlorophyll inside; a chemical capable of converting sunlight into chemical energy. Sunlight is absorbed by the chlorophyll and mixed with carbon dioxide and water to yield carbohydrates in the form of sugar and starch.



In the fall, as the days grow shorter and temperatures begin to drop, the trees stop making food and begin preparing for winter. The chlorophyll in the leaves begins to break down, resulting in other pigments within the leaves becoming visible. Carotenes and xanthophyll, which are present year-round in the leaves, begin to show their oranges and yellows without being masked by chlorophyll. Around the same time, anthocyanin is produced in the leaves to help draw out the remaining nutrients resulting in the red pigment associated with fall colors. The chemical compositions within each leaf vary between tree species and can often result in a variety of oranges, yellows, and reds.



Weather can also play a big factor in the colors of fall from year to year. Late summer droughts will often result in color changes later in the season. Early frosts can cause a rapid turn over, turning most leaves brown before they truly show their beauty. Warm, wet weather can really dull the colors while cool, overcast conditions make them extremely vibrant.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end at some point and the leaves eventually fall from the trees. After all the nutrients have been salvaged, the leaves form thin cell layers between their petiole and the tree, which cuts off the support system of the leaves. While this is happening, the trees will also produce a similar seal along the branch. Once wind knocks the leaf off the tree under its own weight, the result is sealed over area which we refer to as a leaf scar. It is important to note that while most trees will lose their leaves this way, some species such as the American Beech will keep the dead leaves until the new growth appears the following spring.

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Autumnal Equinox 2022

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Message from the Executive Director By Jeff Rosalsky



I remember turning 50. For my birthday I had my first pedicure (highly recommended) and then sushi with friends. Fifty years felt like a crossing over and, if I was very lucky, a half way point. It was also a time for assessment about how I wanted the next part of my life to proceed and what changes and habits I needed to adopt to realize that vision.

2022 is PEEC's 50th Anniversary as an overnight environmental and sustainability education center. It is an amazing accomplishment for a non-profit organization and the result of hard work by PEEC staff, Trustees, partners, generous supporters and lots of good luck. Although not a Hollywood worthy plot, PEEC's story is an unlikely one. It began with the Tocks Island Dam

project--and its demise--which led to the creation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area as a National Park. Then Keystone College and PEEC's Founding Trustees convinced NPS to let them establish an overnight environmental education center in the Park. PEEC would host students to study the natural world and stay in cabins at an old honeymoon resort—Honeymoon Haven. It sounds like a mish-mash of Friday the 13th, Dirty Dancing and Man vs. Wild. Somehow we convinced school boards and parents let their children get on buses and travel 2 hours to PEEC from NYC, urban NJ and Philadelphia and stay for a few days of field classes. Student experiences were transformative. Year after year, and over 1,000,000 students later, PEEC is going stronger than ever and is even more relevant in today's post-COVID lockdowns and metaverse obsessed world.

In the early days, the odds of success were very slim. Similarly, during my tenure, hurricanes, winter storms, government shutdowns, dry water wells and pandemics along the way have challenged us, but we kept going and students continue to be inspired by the immersive PEEC experience. While I am not sure what a pedicure would mean for PEEC, we are definitely doing a bit of sprucing up for our 50th Celebration on October 8, 2022. This is also a time for goal setting and self-examination about PEEC's next 50 years. I remain optimistic about the amazing students who visit PEEC each year and the continuing inspiration we all get from immersing ourselves in the natural world.





Hunting and Fishing at PEEC

By George Johnson

It's almost that time of the year again. The weather is cooler, the leaves start changing, and the days are shorter. Autumn, however, is also known as the season of harvest. When most people hear the word harvest, they likely tend to think of farmers and the crops that they collect after a year of hard work. That way of thinking is not wrong by any stretch of the means, but it is only half of the picture. A harvest can also apply to collecting resources from your natural environment. In this case, hunting and fishing.

At PEEC, both hunting and fishing are allowed on certain areas of our grounds and at certain times of the year. Thoma Pond is available throughout the spring, summer, and fall for fishing. Children under the age of 16 do not need a permit; however, adults do need one from the PA Game Commission in order to partake. Permits can be purchased directly online and the prices and time lengths will vary. Within the pond itself, you could potentially catch a few different species. I have only seen sunfish caught, but there is also pickerel, largemouth bass, and yellow perch hiding in the pond. Fishing can be a very relaxing pastime for those that enjoy sitting by the water. The early morning and late afternoon usually end up being your best times of day to get your bait in the water. Mid-day generally makes the water too hot and so fish will relocate to



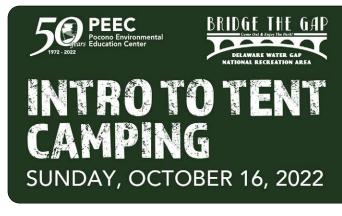
deeper/cooler areas of the pond. On Thoma Pond, your best location will probably be around our spillway. It is easy to access, fewer trees to get snagged on, and there are spots in which you can get pretty close to the water.

At PEEC, there are also particular areas of our grounds where deer hunting is allowed. We do have a safety zone set up around our immediate campus



that encompasses both the Fossil and Two Ponds Trails, but there are sections of Tumbling Waters, Scenic Gorge, and Ridgeline in which hunters are allowed to set-up. All hunters must have all the appropriate permits and they cannot be directly on a trail or facing a trail/roadway. Just like your fishing permits, a hunting license can be obtained from the PA Game Commission. Most hunters are out in the early hours of the morning and pack it in around lunch. As a hiker, during this time of the year it's important to wear your safety orange and to keep your dogs (also wearing orange) on a leash. There's absolutely no need to be afraid of hunters, since like most people, they are looking to just get out and enjoy their pastimes.

So, what can you do if you are interested in learning more? Well, you can always check out the NPS webpage for more information about fishing and hunting in other areas of the park. You can also check out the PA Game Commission webpage as well. The Game Commission has a number of different resources and even offers various classes about these hobbies throughout the year. There also even might be some local clubs in the area that you can reach out to.





PEEC Through Time







2001

Jim Rienhardt takes over as Executive Director and continues to build PEEC's multi-state and community reach through 2009.

1986

PEEC becomes an independent 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization and the Board of Trustees is formed with 8 founding trustees.



1955

Back-to-back hurricanes, Connie and Diane, cause severe flooding and loss of life along the Delaware River from Port Jervis, NY to Easton, PA. As a result, the Army Corps of Engineers begins the Tocks Island Dam project. At this time, the PEEC property is "Honeymoon Haven," a popular Poconos honeymoon resort. Eventually, the dam project was discontinued and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area was created instead.



1974

Jack Padalino becomes Executive Director of PEEC. Jack builds PEEC's programs and leads PEEC through 2001.



1972

Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) is born of a partnership between Keystone Jr. College and the National Park Service. Jerry Howard, Keystone Jr. College Dean of Students, is appointed Director of PEEC. In it's first year, PEEC sees over 1,800 visitors.





2011

Honeymoon Haven's indoor swimming pool is transformed into the one-of-akind EcoZone Discovery Room.



2005 - 2018

Campus Improvements

2005-2006: The Visitor Activity Center / Dining Hall is built along with the Group Lodges.

2006-2007: Family Duplex Cabins replace older honeymoon cabins.

2007: Additional honeymoon cabins are replaced by the Yurt Village.

2018:The original Honeymoon Haven Dining Hall is replaced by classroom-sized Teaching Yurts.



2022

50 Years of advancing environmental education, sustainable living, and appreciation for nature through hands-on experience in a national park.



2009

Jeff Rosalsky becomes PEEC's Executive Director and focuses on increasing sustainability education.

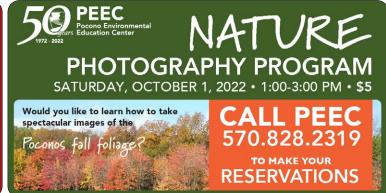




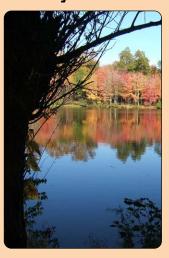








5 Ways to Fall in Love with PEEC this Autumn By Kate Hausman

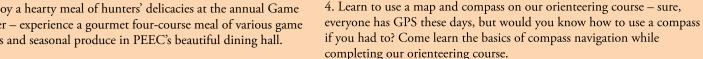


- 1. Come take a hike enjoy beautiful fall foliage and crisp cool air on one of our six wonderful trails that total 12 miles of hiking opportunities.
- 2. Search for owls during our evening Owl Prowl - take an evening hike with PEEC staff to listen for the haunting calls of our local owl species. Keep your eyes up, you might even get to see one of these nocturnal beauties!



3. Enjoy a hearty meal of hunters' delicacies at the annual Game

Dinner – experience a gourmet four-course meal of various game species and seasonal produce in PEEC's beautiful dining hall.





5. Celebrate 50 years of PEEC at our Harvest Festival - come celebrate 50 years of learning and growing at PEEC! The festival will included vendors, games, tie dye, crafts, and more! In the afternoon, there will be a special ceremony to commemorate PEEC's 50th Anniversary.







Harvest Festival: Earthwalk Explore & Much More!

By Stephanie Sherman

If you're not already planning to attend our 50th anniversary celebration, mark your calendars now! October 8th could be one of the biggest and busiest days we have seen at the center in a very long time as we prepare for our Harvest Festival (11am to 4pm) and the big 50th anniversary ceremony event (2:30pm). There will be a lot happening that day so here are the highlights!

The Earthwalk Explorer Exhibit: This interactive map experience comes to us from the National Scenic Visitors Center to celebrate our indigenous land stewards the Lenni Lenape. Featuring a 128 square foot relief map of the U.S. from North Carolina to New Hampshire, this map is meant to allow guest to walk the trails of the Native Americans of our area. The exhibit also feature Native American Petroglyphs, or painting symbols, that were used for communication and education by the tribes.

A Campus Hayride! This festival, we are expanding past the normal boundaries of our main building and dining hall to have vendors, games and crafts located on our lower campus property. To make getting around enjoyable for everyone, we'll be offering a hayride shuttle service around the lower campus loop that will make the journey fun and festive!

The New Cabins-on-Wheels! If you've hiked or walked our campus, you may have noticed the 40s and 50s cabins tucked away on our hill. Sometimes the past becomes a little dated and we are excited to say that the future has arrived! Those old cabins are now in the process of being replaced by mobile cabins on wheels that will provide new bunks for our guests and take us forward into the next 50 years of environmental education!

Colors of Autumn

By Derek Scott

Continued from Page 1

Fall is the time of year when nature really gets a chance to show off its beauty. For most regions, color changes often occur in the early weeks of October. The spectacle doesn't last for very long though, so make sure you get out and enjoy it while you can because it only comes once a year!

Content Credit: SUNY ESF Environmental Information Series

If you take a picture of this year's fall foliage share it with us on Facebook or Instagram under the hashtag #PEECintoNature.





The 50th Celebration: We will be having a ceremony in the Dining Hall at 2:30pm that will be acknowledging PEEC's history and hopes for the future. The celebration will feature some light finger food and samples from Moo Duck Brewery operated by PEEC alumni who have generously created a Honey Blu Blue Dark Lager in our honor this year.

Festival Fun: All day from 11am to 4pm, games, crafts, tie-dye and EcoZone will be available for the enjoyment as well as numerous vendors and local partners to say "Hi" to. We will be having 2 bands on campus, one by the dining hall and one down at the Pavilion for musical enjoyment. Guided Hikes will be offered starting at the Welcome Table and Canoeing will be available at our pond across the road. Don't forget! 3pm is our Animal Presentation in the main building!

This year's Harvest Festival plans to be big, big, big! The event will be free entry; but we do ask that if you could spare a donation, all proceeds from the festival day will be going toward our Endowment Fund. What's that? It's a nest egg financially for PEEC! We did get lucky the past few years during hard times, but watched other nature centers close their doors around us. We're fundraising to set aside at least \$100,000 in the bank to ensure we can continue into the next 50 years and beyond. Come out, support if you can, and enjoy the celebration with us!

We would like to thank the following lead sponsors of the 50th Anniversary Endowment Fund for their generosity and support of environmental education.

Title Sponsor



Platinum Level Sponsors



Another Successful Year of Summer Camp

By Justin Murray



As the final days of our 2022 Summer Camp season came to a close, it was nothing short of emotional and cathartic. It was exhaustingly hot on some days, and lethargically overcast or rainy on others. This year we had staff that truly showed us all what it meant to be camp counselors, and environmental educators. They all went the extra mile for the kids, providing an interactive, hands-on, unforgettable camp experience that we strive to give every year. Aside from the congenial praise of upper management due to how well the season ran, I cannot help but wish I could offer more to the outstanding staff instead of the usual "congratulations" and "good jobs". Without them, the season would not have been the way that it was, and for that, they deserve my sincerest thanks and the declaration that I am extremely proud of them and wish them well in their future endeavors.



On the other side of the coin, we have the fantastic campers, both new and returning, that made camp such a great experience for the counselors as well. We had an amazing 390 total campers in attendance; with our wonderful volunteer counselors, who helped throughout the season to make camp even better, the number is 408. These campers and volunteers were nothing but enthusiastic, engaging, and excited to attend camp, as every day brings a new adventure here at PEEC.



Thank you to the families, the campers, the volunteers, and staff for another recordbreaking year, and we all look forward to seeing everyone here again next camp season!





\$30 PER WALKING

CREATE YOUR OWN WALKING STICK SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022

CALL PEEC: 570.828.2319

*Pre-registration required Minimum of 3 to run



He's Just Sleeping; We Promise By Stephanie Sherman

Black bears are becoming quite a regular occurrence for anyone living here in the Poconos. Here at PEEC, we are no different in that at least once a year we see a campus bear. This August, we had one young bear who decided our dumpster was his personal buffet. Unfortunately, this is not good for our staff cleaning up the mess every day, our students who are on-site, or the bear who has now learned how much more appealing human food is over forest foraging. It was time to call in the PA Game Commission.

With a quick email, we had a trailer parked by our dumpster and baited for our trash-diving Yogi. That night, my staff said that there was something large, furry and black shaking the closed metal tunnel of a bear trap. After a quick personal adventure up to see for myself with a flashlight, we did confirm that the nose, eyes and toes with big claws was in fact our dumpster bear! Another quick email and a hopeful ask about processing the bear on-site for our kids and staff resulted in quite the learning experience for all here at PEEC!

Officer Patrick of the PA Game Commission arrived at about 10am on a sunny Thursday morning to process the bear and educate us on how they tranquilize, tag and catalog any trapped black bear that are being relocated. He welcomed all 50 of my campers and the Women in Natural Sciences group of Philadelphia onto the patio of the dining hall to watch as he carefully prepared the sedative and tranquilizers that would assure the bear would be sleepy and unable to move during the process of ear tagging. Once the dart was prepared, all the students went inside our glass dining hall to wait for about 15 minutes after the dart was delivered into the bear's furry rump.

Patrick explained to us how most bear's fall asleep toes to nose, meaning that the feet are the first to sleep and once the nose stops twitching it's safe to open the trap, remove the bear and then give it two ear tags. My staff were so excited to assist in moving Mr. Bear (yes, we did check that he was a boy) out of the trap, all 150lbs of the young bear. We did also learn that apparently the bear of our area have a preference of Krispy Kreme donuts over Dunkin' as Krispy Kreme's are a Pike County rarity. The two ear tags are as harmless as the piercings we receive and two ensure redundancy if one does happen to fall off; they can still ID the bear if recaptured after release.



It was then we all got the moment of a lifetime when Patrick said to me, "They can all pet the bear." How amazing! This young male bear (otherwise called a boar) then received some gentle pets from every single camper and staff member on-site as well as plenty of photo ops. Afterwards, PEEC staff assisted in loading Mr. Bear gently back into the metal tunnel trap and he was given a quick water bath to stay cool on his journey into the wilds of Pike County for release. Hopefully, we will not see him again. However, we are now realizing that bear can smell our yummy dumpster from up to 2 miles away as we have already seen another bigger, round-rumped bear stepping into fill the vacancy of patrolling campus trashcans. Currently, our car horns have been working to scare this new bear off with a healthy sense of space from humans.



AUTUMN PROGRAMS **GETAWAYS**

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED Unless otherwise indicated.

TO REGISTER: Call PEEC at 570-828-2319

OCTOBER

Nature Photography Saturday, October 1st \$5 per person * 1pm-3pm

Learn some beginner techniques on how to frame a picture, and we'll take you out to practice those skills on our campus. Great for children and those starting from scratch. Participants will need a camera for pictures, even a phone camera will do!

Owl Prowl Saturday, October 1st \$5 per person * 7pm-8:30pm Pennsylvania is home to a number of different species of owls. There are a handful of different species that live around PEEC. Let's explore and see **who** we can find!



Harvest Family Camp Weekend October 7th-10th Adults \$240 / 10% off ages 11-13 25% off ages 7-10 / 50% off ages 4-6 Free ages 3 & under Bring your friends and family to experience PEEC in the splendor of autumn. Animal presentations, canoeing & kayaking, nature hikes, crafts, campfire and more! Price includes three nights of lodging and meals from Friday dinner through Monday lunch.

Harvest Festival & PEEC's 50th Anniversary Celebration Saturday, October 8th \$5 per car * 11am-4pm Celebrate Fall at PEEC's 12th annual Harvest Festival and 50th anniversary! Enjoy animal presenters, arts & crafts, hands-on activities, conservation exhibits, live music, local food, oldtimey activities, & more! Bring your family & friends to this great event!

Signs of Fall Hike Saturday, October 15th \$5 per person * 1pm-3pm Take a hike with us and discover the science behind the wonderful season of fall. We'll discuss changing animal behavior, why leaves change color, and why it's the best season to be out and about!

Bridge the Gap: Intro to Tent Camping Sunday, October 16th FREE * 10am-12pm Learn everything you need to know about

camping right here, from basic shelters to common knots, and even how to build a fire from scratch. It'll be great practice for any future family vacations.

Nature Photography Saturday, October 22nd \$5 per person * 10am-12pm

Learn some beginner techniques on how to frame a picture, and we'll take you out to practice those skills on our campus. Great for children and those starting from scratch. Participants will need a camera for pictures, even a phone camera will do!

Ecozone Discovery Room! Saturday, October 22nd \$2 per person * 1pm-4pm Climb into a bald eagle's nest, crawl into a bat cave, explore a beaver lodge, and dig in a fossil pit! Explore this indoor discovery room and enjoy hands-on exhibits on natural history, sustainability and the local environment. No registration required.

Create your own Walking Stick Sunday, October 23rd \$30 per walking stick * 12pm-3pm Spend the afternoon with us as we create handcrafted walking sticks. Wood, tools, gloves, and aprons will be provided, as well as suggestions and pointers on how to personalize your work. Pre-registration required. Minimum of 3 to run

Girl Scout Badge Festival Saturday, October 29th \$25 Full Day * 9:30am-4pm Brownies will work on Hiker & Bugs. Juniors will participate in the Camper badge. Cadettes will work on the Eco Trekker badge and Seniors on their Adventurer badge. Payment is required at registration. Space is limited - call early! Overnight accommodations with meals are available for \$43/person. Don't forget to

Signs of Fall Hike Sunday, October 30th \$5 per person * 10am-12pm Take a hike with us and discover the science behind the wonderful season of fall. We'll discuss changing animal behavior, why leaves change color, and why it's the best season to be out and

Bridge the Gap: Introduction to Orienteering Sunday, October 30th FREE * 1pm-3pm

Come learn how to use a map & compass on our orienteering course. We'll show you the basics before you set out to try and find all the points.

Space is limited - call early!

bring a lunch.



NOVEMBER

BSA Scout Badge Festival Saturday, November 5th \$25 Full Day * 9:30am-4pm Bears & Webelos will partake in the BSA Ranger patch. Scouts will work on the Environmental Science badge. Payment is required at registration. Space is limited - call early! Overnight accommodations with meals are available for \$43/person. Don't forget to bring a lunch.

Wacky Science Adventures: Chemistry Edition Sunday, November 6th \$5 per child * 10am-12pm Put on your lab coats and prepare to conduct

some crazy experiments! You'll get to create your very own slime, oobleck, and more. Prepare to get your hands a little dirty! All ages welcome.



Ecozone Discovery Room!

Sunday, November 6th

\$2 per person * I pm-4pm

Climb into a bald eagle's nest, crawl into a bat cave, explore a beaver lodge, and dig in a fossil pit! Explore this indoor discovery room and enjoy hands-on exhibits on natural history, sustainability and the local environment. No registration

required.

Flying Needles — Fiber Arts Retreat
November | Oth — | 3th
\$280 Full Workshop * Call us for day rates
Join other crafters while finishing your knitting,
crocheting, quilting, or other fiber art works-inprogress (WIPs). Or, start a new project if you are
short on Un-finished Objects (UFOs). Includes
lodging and meals!

Ecozone Discovery Room!

Saturday, November 19th

\$2 per person * 1pm-4pm

Climb into a bald eagle's nest, crawl into a bat cave, explore a beaver lodge, and dig in a fossil pit! Explore this indoor discovery room and enjoy hands-on exhibits on natural history, sustainability and the local environment. No registration required.

Game Dinner
Saturday, November 19th
\$35 per person * 6pm-8pm
Enjoy the bounty of the season at PEEC's 12th
annual game dinner! This dinner features local
game and seasonal harvests. Bring your friends &
family to enjoy this cozy evening. *Recommended
ages 14+.* Call early to guarantee a seat.

Animal Tracking
Sunday, November 20th
\$5 per person * 10am-12pm
Animals leave behind clues that give us glimpses into their lives. Explore our natural areas for tracks, trails, scat, territory marks, chew marks, and other signs animals leave as they travel through the fields and forests of the Poconos.

DECEMBER

Bird Bonanza
Saturday, December 3rd
\$5 per person * 10am-12pm
Spend the morning watching our feeders and putting together your own unique, custom-made bird feeder from a variety of **recycled** materials just in time for spring. We'll provide everything you need, but you are welcome to bring your own supplies. Great craft for children!

Ecozone Discovery Room!

Saturday, December 3rd

\$2 per person * I pm-4pm

Climb into a bald eagle's nest, crawl into a bat cave, explore a beaver lodge, and dig in a fossil pit! Explore this indoor discovery room and enjoy hands-on exhibits on natural history, sustainability and the local environment.

No registration required.

Holiday Bows and Boughs
Sunday, December 4th
\$20 per wreath * Ipm-4pm
Create your own holiday decorations using natural materials! We provide evergreen boughs and materials for you to make wreaths, swags, and table decor. Come join us as we introduce making swags from hangers. You can also bring your own supplies and decorations – we'll bring the music, drinks, and snacks! Preregistration is required for this program.

Winter Ecology Hike
Saturday, December 10th
\$5 per person * 10am-12pm
Learn how different plants and animals survive the winter. Join us on a hike and experience PEEC in the wintertime. All ages welcome.

Wacky Science Adventures: Physics Edition Sunday, December 11th \$5 per child * 10am-12pm Put on your lab coats and prepare to conduct some crazy experiments! You'll get to build your own rocket, create a cushion for an egg, and more. Prepare to get your hands a little dirty! Great for kids!

Sunday, December 11th \$5 per person * 1pm-3pm
Learn some beginner techniques on how to frame a picture, and we'll take you out to practice those skills on our campus. Great for children and those starting from scratch. Participants will need a camera for pictures, even a phone camera will do!

Nature Photography

Bird Bonanza
Saturday, December 17th
\$5 per person * 10am-12pm
Spend the morning watching our feeders and putting together your own unique, custom-made bird feeder from a variety of **recycled** materials just in time for spring. We'll provide everything you need, but you are welcome to bring your own supplies. Great craft for children!

Ecozone Discovery Room!

Saturday, December 17th

\$2 per person * 1pm-4pm

Climb into a bald eagle's nest, crawl into a bat cave, explore a beaver lodge, and dig in a fossil pit! Explore this indoor discovery room and enjoy hands-on exhibits on natural history, sustainability and the local environment.





