

Weekend Warriors Ideas

1. Allaire Village in Allaire State Park

<http://www.allairevillage.org/index.htm>

1830 village and iron works. General store, blacksmith shop, and houses. Discover the Historic Village at Allaire and all it has to offer. From Special Event Programming to Interpretive Demonstrations, visitors to the Historic Village will gain a better understanding of life in an early 19th Century Industrial Iron Producing Community. Visit the Trades Shops where the master craftsmen and their apprentices practice their arts, stroll along the tree lined streets and stop in at the Manager's House where Mrs. Smith and her daughters demonstrate the domestic skills of the time or pay a call on the Allaire Home and see how an affluent family of the period lived. Your visit will not be complete without a trip to the Howell Works Company Store Museum and Gift Shop or the Howell Works Bakery for some fresh baked "flat cakes." The Historic Village at Allaire - On the National and State Registries of Historic Places. Where History is Forged. Admission Weekends Only May to October. \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children. Senior Discounts.

2. Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve

http://www.bhwp.org/visiting/general_info.htm

It is open daily (seven days a week) year-round. (Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.) The grounds are open from 8:30 a.m. to sunset, and the Visitor Center and Twinleaf Shop are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission Fees

- The fee for non-members is: Adults- \$5, Seniors (62 and older)-\$3, Children 4 through 14- \$2, Children under 4- free.
- Members of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve are admitted free. To learn about other member benefits, [click here](#).
- Admission includes a guided tour, offered daily at 2:00 p.m. from mid-March through October.

+++++

3. The Celery Farm

Highlights:

A short, pleasant hike. Great for families and birders. No dogs allowed.

Near: Allendale, NJ <http://specialproperties.com/areainfo.html>

Distance: 1 miles round trip

Elevation Gain: 0 ft

Hike Time: 0.5 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Trail Condition: Well maintained trail

HikeType: Loop

Summary: No dogs allowed here. Its a short, easy but pleasant walk in this small oasis of green in the middle of Bergen County. Catch the trail behind the kiosk and turn left. It will go through an often wet area and it follows a stream for a way, then a drainage ditch. To your right is the meadow with acres of phragmites spread out before you. Stay on the trail and you will soon pass an observation platform. A good spot to view birds from. The trail winds around the lake and turns east, then south before returning to the beginning.

This is by no means a wilderness hike, as you're never far from roads and area homes, yet is worthwhile if you're interested in birding and the area is also known for its many butterflies. Because of its short length its also a great hike for families with young children
Trailhead: Take the Garden State Parkway to Exit 163, Route 17. Continue north on Route 17 for 7.2 miles to Allendale exit. Go west on E. Allendale road for one mile to Franklin Turnpike. Turn right and go about 0.2 miles to a small parking lot on the right. Parking area is between Pittis Ave and Alison Ct (which are on right). Small and hard to spot. (Lat:41.03393 Lon:-74.12691) Trail Guides for The Celery Farm:
Even though it says it will only take a half hour, you will find yourself wandering around for a lot more than that because there is a lot to see. You will see a lot of birders wandering around because the area is a magnet for birds. If you are a wildlife photographer like I am, you will come back again and again.

+++++

4. Craftsman Farms

<http://www.fieldtrip.com/nj/15401165.htm>

Box 5 2352 Route 10 West
Morris Plains, NJ 07950
(973) 540 1165

This unique museum was the home of turn-of-the-century designer, Gustav Stickley. The foremost spokesman for the Arts & Crafts Movement of the early 1900's, Stickley combined the roles of furniture designer and manufacturer, architect, publisher, philosopher, and social critic.

He acquired the Craftsman Farms property -- 650 acres at the time -- in 1908, and

constructed a T-shaped log house. Intending it as a gathering place for workers, students and guests, Stickley designed the main house with a kitchen capable of serving 100 people and fifty-foot living and dining rooms. Here he envisioned establishing a farm school for boys.

He also built two cottages and originally was to build a residence for his family. Unfortunately, the school never panned out and he and his family lived in the Main House upstairs. Stickley's daughters' families occupied the cottages.

By 1915 the taste of the American people had changed, favoring the revivalism of early American styles over the clean, strong lines of Craftsman furniture. Gustav Stickley went bankrupt, but only after he made a lasting impression on American decorative arts.

Threatened with development after 1989, the house was saved by the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills, with the encouragement of community groups. Today only the Main House is untenanted, and it is being developed as a Museum, to be as it was in Stickley's time.

This is a relatively young museum and represents a great effort to preserve an important piece of history. Already tours are available for individuals and groups -- an education in design, courage, and change for **School Groups**.

Families can also enjoy special Demonstrations and Workshops most Sundays, as well as changing exhibits throughout the season.

Hours: April through mid-November, Wednesday - Friday 12 - 3pm (last tour starts at 1:45), Weekends 11 - 4pm (last tour starts at 3:15). Open for groups other times by appointment.

Admission: Call to confirm fees before visiting. Adults \$4.00, Seniors & Students \$3.00, Children under 12 FREE. Groups same.

Group Reservations: At least 2 weeks in advance.

Lunch: Picnicking welcome (bring a blanket).

Handicapped: Limited.

Directions: I-80 West to I-287 South, exit 39. Rt. 10 west 3 miles past Rt. 53. Turn right into Powder Mill Estates entrance. Turn into first driveway on right.

Time: 1 hour southwest of the George Washington Bridge.

+++++

5. Ford-Faesch Manor House

Located on Mt. Hope Road and Mt. Hope Avenue.

The following information is derived from Morris County Historic Sites Survey R974.974 Mor and Historic Sites of Morris County.

The twelve-room Georgian manor house originally built by Jacob Ford Jr., later became the home of Swiss ironmaster John Jacob Faesch. With his advanced knowledge of European technology, Faesch introduced many improvements to Morris County's iron industry. He also directed the iron manufacturing operations that provided the Continental Army with ammunition and ordnance during the Revolution.

Manor house was built by Jacob Ford Jr. Subsequently this house was the home of John Jacob Faesch who directed the iron mining operations which provided the Continental Army with ammunition and ordnance.

Built between 1768 and 1770, the 12-room stone mansion was erected by Jacob Ford Jr., the same man who built the Ford Mansion in Morristown, which served as George Washington's headquarters in 1779.

The Ford-Faesch house, located on Mount Hope Road, was built for the ironmaster at Mount Hope, "who lived like a feudal lord, complete with a personal coach and uniformed footmen." said Mrs. Hazel Howell, Historic Preservation Society vice chairman. The Ford family was a pioneer in the iron industry. It established the first forge in Morris County in Whippany in 1710. In 1750, the family purchased much of what is now Rockaway Township because of the valuable iron deposits.

John Jacob Faesch, a Swiss iron master, leased the "plantation" complete with an iron mine, grist and flax mills, apple orchard and meadows, from the Ford family, in 1772 and purchased it in 1792. The Mount Hope mine became, and remained, the most productive in the area.

Faesch, who is credited with naming Mount Hope, moved to Morristown after the Revolutionary War, and later to Boonton, where he managed ironworks belonging to the Ogden family of Newark.

The Mount Hope mansion was occupied by mine superintendents and engineers for many years.

Today the Ford-Faesch House is owned by the Rockaway Township and maintained by the Historical Society of the Rockaways.

+++++

6. Frelinghuysen Arboretum

<http://www.arboretumfriends.org/>

FROM ROUTE 24 Travel WEST to Exit 1A, 511 South Morristown. Bear RIGHT, go under the bridge and make a RIGHT onto East Hanover Avenue. Travel one quarter mile. Entrance to the Arboretum is on your left opposite the Morris County Library.

The beautiful 127-acre Frelinghuysen Arboretum more than satisfies that definition, offering visitors a serene place to relax as well as to learn more about plants well-suited to the soils and climate of Morris County. Surrounding a magnificent Colonial Revival mansion, the woodlands, meadows, beautiful gardens and distinctive collections of trees and shrubs of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum make the ideal setting for leisurely strolls and summer concerts. Self-guiding trail booklets are available at the reception desk to enrich one's visit to this singular property.

Today The Frelinghuysen Arboretum is also a regional center for horticultural activities, including educational programs and a comprehensive collection of botanical literature. The Joseph F. Haggerty Education Center and Home Demonstration Gardens have been designed to expand the Park Commission's services to the gardening public in a barrier-free environment.

The non-profit 'Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum' supports and promotes the development of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum and other horticultural facilities of the Park Commission through various programs, exhibits and trips. Extensive information about their activities is available through their site.

+++++

7. Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatswamp/>

<http://www.friendsofgreatswamp.org/>

<http://www.fieldtrip.com/nj/14251222.htm>

152 Pleasant Plains Road

Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

(973) 425 1222

Hours: Headquarters Office Hours: Weekdays, 8am - 4:30pm.

May be open Sundays during spring and fall. Call for details.

The Great Swamp Refuge is located in Morris County, New Jersey, about 26 miles west of Manhattan's Times Square. The refuge was established by an act of Congress on November 3, 1960. It consists of 7,600 acres of varied habitats and over the years, the refuge has become a resting and feeding area for more than 244 species of birds. Fox, deer, muskrat, turtles, fish, frogs and a wide variety of wildflowers and plants also call the refuge "home".

+++++

8. Greenbrook Sanctuary – Private

<http://www.njpalisades.org/greenbrook.htm>

<http://www.fieldtrip.com/nj/17681360.htm>

PO Box 155

Alpine, NJ 07620-0155

(201) 768 1360

For members only, this beautiful 165-acre sanctuary sits atop the Palisades, 350 feet above the Hudson. Though largely an oak forest, a wide variety of trees will be found here, as well as shrubs such as witch hazel, blueberry, spicebush, and others. Naturally, the changing seasons bring a wide range of flora, including colorful wildflowers, 20 species of ferns, and a variety of mushrooms. A 5-acre pond feeds the 250-foot Greenbrook Falls.

More than 230 species of birds have been spotted in this important migration stopover, and common mammals include the raccoon, red fox, striped skunk, squirrel, cotton-tail rabbit, to name a few.

This is the place for the nature lover. The membership requirement helps ensure the integrity of the land, and membership carries many benefits.

A full-time naturalist is on hand to conduct programs and answer questions, and a Group Walk through the sanctuary is certainly a pleasant and educational experience.

Hours: Daily, during daylight hours.

Admission: Annual Memberships: Individual \$30.00, Family \$40.00.

Group Walks \$30.00

Reservations: Groups at least 2 weeks in advance.

Lunch: Picnic area available.

Handicapped: Not accessible.

Directions: Rt. 9W north. Entrance is on right, 4.7 miles north of Bridge.

Time: 10 minutes from the George Washington Bridge.

Joe Thomas is a member and we have been there with him. Nancy & Bob McMurtrie

+++++

9. Greenwood Gardens

http://www.greenwoodgardens.org/about_us.html

Greenwood Gardens is a new nonprofit conservation organization and public garden located approximately twenty miles west of New York City. Since the early twentieth century, the twenty-two acre Greenwood Gardens has been a private retreat of formal Italianate gardens graced with colorful Arts and Crafts tiles, mossy pebbled walks and vistas stretching into the lush surroundings of South Mountain Reservation.

Now, with the support of those who care about our national historic gardens, including the Garden Conservancy, the New Jersey Historic Trust, and dedicated people who believe in the importance of history, art and nature in our lives, the gardens of Greenwood are being rediscovered.

Though the beauty of Greenwood remains partially hidden beneath chipping stucco and overgrown vegetation – the result of years of quiet slumber – careful and dedicated preservation work is restoring vitality to the place. With the active participation and support of friends from the community and region, Greenwood Gardens is becoming a place of education and repose – open to all who seek to learn about gardens and to renew and explore our vital bond with nature. Please join us.

The property on which Greenwood Gardens is located was first developed as a private estate in 1906 by Joseph P. Day, a leading New York City real estate auctioneer, and his wife Pauline Martindale Pope. After the existing house on the property was destroyed by fire in 1911, Day retained architect William Whetten Renwick (nephew of the prominent architect James Renwick, Jr.) to design a new house and gardens. Called Pleasant Days, the estate featured a 28-room Italianate mansion that was built by the Gustavino Company of New York City, renown for their work on Carnegie Hall and the great hall at Ellis Island. Renwick's design for the garden and its principal built features, including two stone summer houses, water cascades, grottos, arbors, and pools, reflected Arts and Crafts details, with rustic paths and stonework as well as colorful tiles from the famous Rookwood Company of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Pleasant Days was in its prime in the 1920s and 30s, when it was the scene of many gatherings for Day's large family. With stone teahouses tucked discretely behind plantings, shady grottoes decorated with Rookwood tiles, and sunny lawns surrounded by beds of peonies, iris, and other hardy perennials, the garden provided a retreat for the family. Following Day's death in 1944, the estate of more than 70 acres was subdivided and sold at auction. Robert E. Havell of Morristown acquired 26 acres of the property, including the mansion and gardens. The remaining property, including two cottages and a carriage house, was sold separately.

In 1949, the house and gardens were purchased by Peter P. Blanchard, Jr., and his wife, Dr. Adelaide Childs Frick, as a country retreat where they could enjoy riding and other

outdoor pursuits. Deeming the original mansion too large for their needs, and not to their taste, the Blanchards demolished the house and built a new Colonial Revival style brick house on its foundations. They changed the name of the estate to The Greenwoods, after the home of a Blanchard family ancestor. The house was designed by Lewis Weeks of Lawrenceville, NJ, with modifications by D. Wentworth Wright AIA of Maplewood, NJ, and elegantly furnished in the Colonial Revival style with many Frick family pieces.

The Blanchards kept the original Day-era gardens, adding garden ornament and plantings. After his wife's untimely death in 1956, Peter Blanchard Continued with the expansion of the gardens, purchasing more than one hundred pieces of outdoor sculpture, including Italian stone obelisks, pineapple finials, limestone chess figures, and fountains. He installed numerous allees and supervised a major portion of the current plantings of boxwood. He also was responsible for the construction of two ponds and a wildflower meadow. In addition, Blanchard reassembled parcels of property once owned by Day that had been purchased by separate owners in the 1950s. Blanchard subsequently sold or donated more than 48 acres of this property to Millburn Township for the establishment of Old Short Hills Park.

+++++

10. Hackensack Meadowlands

Environment Center

<http://www.meadowlands.state.nj.us/ec/>

<http://www.fieldtrip.com/nj/14608300.htm>

Two DeKorte Plaza

Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

(201) 460 8300

Hours:

Museum open weekdays, 9am - 5pm and Saturdays, 10am - 3pm.

Boardwalk open daily.

Admission:

Age 12 and over: \$2.00.

School Programs: \$3.50 - \$5.00 per student.

The Boardwalk Trail offers a quiet stroll through the mist and the reeds. It's quite beautiful and offers great opportunities for photographers, bird watchers, and nature - lovers.

+++++

11. James A. McFaul Environmental Center

Crescent Avenue
Wyckoff, NJ 07481
(201) 891 5571

<http://www.co.bergen.nj.us/Parks/Parks/McFaul.htm>
<http://www.fieldtrip.com/nj/18915571.htm>

This 81-acre environmental center has much to offer in the way of environmental education to the general public, as well as to groups of all kinds. The Wildlife Exhibit Hall overlooks a waterfowl pond, and winding trails take visitors through woodland gardens and habitats of a wide range of animals. 25,000 daffodils on the grassy slopes of the park, along with rhododendron and azaleas, create one of the prettiest sights around.

Hours: Grounds are open daily, sunup to sundown.
Museum building open weekdays, 8am - 4:45pm, and weekends & holidays,
1 - 4:45pm.

+++++

12. Leonard J. Buck Garden

<http://www.njskylands.com/atbuckgar.htm>
http://www.somersetcountyparks.org/activities/gardens/gardens_Buck.htm

Somerset County Park Commission
11 Layton Road, Far Hills, NJ 07931
(201) 234 2677

The Leonard J. Buck Garden is one of the premier rock gardens in the United States. Working with a well-known landscape architect, Mr. Buck developed a Naturalistic Garden designed to be ecologically correct and not recognizable as being man-made. Incorporating several large outcroppings, each slightly different, the two created varying exposures and microclimates, enabling different plant associations to thrive. Tucked among the rocks are rare and exotic rock garden plants. Wooded trails, lined with beautiful wild flowers, connect the outcroppings, leading visitors through a magnificent world where nature and the human touch complement one another, proving beyond a doubt that such a harmony can and does exist.

There is much to be learned here as well. Horticulture, landscape design, and geology are

presented in a way that is most acceptable and interesting even to those only mildly interested in these subjects.

There are no formal school programs, but Guided Tours are offered to organized groups of all ages. Participants learn how nature and man conspired to create one of the most beautiful places around.

Though the Buck Garden is of interest year-round, the peak time is in spring, when life begins to stir among the many flowers.

Hours: Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm, Sundays (Winter) 12pm - 4pm (to 5 in summer).

Admission: \$1.00 per person.

Guided tour, up to 15 people, \$30.00. Above 15, add \$2.00 per person.

Reservations: At least 3 weeks in advance.

Lunch: No facilities.

Handicapped: Partial.

Directions: I-80 west to I-287 south to exit 18. Take Rt. 202/206 north, staying right to continue on 202. Follow signs to Morristown and Far Hills. At the Far Hills train station, turn right just before the railroad tracks onto Liberty Corner -- Far Hills Rd. Go .9 of a mile to Layton Rd. and turn right. Garden is on the left.

Time: 1 hour, 15 minutes from George Washington Bridge.

+++++

13. Lorrimer Sanctuary

<http://www.njaudubon.org/Centers/Lorrimer/>

<http://www.fieldtrip.com/nj/18912185.htm>

PO Box 125, 790 Ewing Avenue

Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

(201) 891 2185

Hours: Wednesday through Friday 9-5, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 1-5

Closed Mondays, Tuesdays and major holidays

Operated by the New Jersey Audubon Society, Lorrimer Sanctuary contains 14 wooded acres with winding Self-Guided trails throughout.

Formerly a private estate, the grounds feature a main house, parts of which date to the 1700's, that has a Visitors' Center with an exhibit and lecture room, winter bird feeding station, interpretive displays, hands-on exhibits and gift shop.

+++++

14. Montclair Hawk Watch

<http://www.hmana.org/watches.php?sitesel=334>

<http://conservationresourcesinc.org/montclairHawkWatch.htm>

<http://www.njaudubon.org/sites/hwmont.html>

This land preservation project will connect existing New Jersey Audubon Society (NJAS) Sanctuary Lands to the Mills Reservation, an Essex county park. It will vastly improve the public access to the Montclair Hawk Watch, and enhance open space areas within a heavily urbanized area of Essex County. The Montclair Hawk Watch became the smallest NJAS sanctuary in 1959 as a gift from the Montclair Bird Club. Today, a platform sits atop a rock cliff on a basalt ridge of the First Watchung Mountain and commands a panorama of nearly 360 degrees, offering views of landmarks up to fifty miles away. Woodland and suburban development surround it, while the skyline of New York City rises thirteen miles to the east.

This is the first ridge west of the lower Hudson River Valley and runs from northeast to southwest. What makes the site unique during migration is the mixture of both coastal and ridge flights. Although birders have been making regular observations of hawks from this site since the 1930's, the formal Montclair Hawk Watch was organized in 1957. Data has been collected every year since, thus making it the oldest monitoring point in the state and one of the oldest continuous monitoring points of its type in the United States. The existing sanctuary consists of approximately 1 acre. A narrow access corridor with a trail connects from the road known as Old Quarry Rd (Cedar Grove Township) and Edgecliff Rd (Town of Montclair) at approximately the municipal boundary. The top of the cliff is maintained with an open view of the surrounding area. The remainder of New Jersey Audubon's Sanctuary is located on steep slopes along the east side of the ridge, which is forested and provides stopover sites during migration as well as songbird nesting habitat during the summer.

Public access to the Sanctuary is allowed during the hawk migration. Paid and volunteer hawk watchers gather daily. Thousands of members of the public including organized groups and school classes visit to observe this unique phenomenon.

+++++

15. POCHUCK QUAGMIRE TRAIL A VITAL LINK ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

<http://www.nynjtc.org/press/2002/pochuck-facts.html>

http://runtrails.net/journal/day_92.htm

http://www.treibs.com/pochuck_bypass.htm

Challenge: to provide a safe, practical, cost-effective creek crossing on the Appalachian Trail.

The Appalachian Trail is a continuous, marked national or scenic trail meandering 2,160 miles from Georgia to Maine. More than 73 miles of it runs through New Jersey. To provide a trail corridor from Pochuck Mountain to Wawayanda Mountain in the Vernon Valley, the New Jersey State Park Service and the National Park Service acquired 14.1 acres between Sussex County Route 517 and Canal Road. The Trail could not be placed within this corridor until hikers could safely cross the 60-foot-wide Pochuck Creek. The creek is up to eight feet deep, with steep, slick clay banks, and a deceptive current. A 3,000-foot-wide floodplain wetland covers both sides of the creek. The wetland approach on either side of the creek is a quagmire into which a hiker can sink waist deep even during the summer months.

With the financial and technical assistance of the USDA Forest Service Wood in Transportation Program, the Pochuck Quagmire Pedestrian Suspension Bridge was completed in 1996. The 146-foot bridge was constructed by a unique volunteer-driven, public-private partnership with a material cost of \$36,000 and 5,240 hours of labor. After considerable pre-construction design work, a timber suspension bridge was selected because of the location, site characteristics, cost and a volunteer work force. The Pochuck Bridge now provides hikers a safer trail without a quagmire detour on a dangerous 2.1 mile walk along heavily traveled roadways with poor visibility.

+++++

16. Reeves-Reed Arboretum

<http://www.reeves-reedarboretum.org/index.htm>

165 Hobart Avenue

Summit, NJ 07901

(908) 273 8787

Mission Statement The Reeves-Reed Arboretum is a suburban conservancy dedicated to the environment and horticultural education for children and adults and to the enjoyment of nature through the professional care and preservation of a historic country estate.

About Reeves-Reed Distinct from a park, an arboretum is an educational conservancy promoting the awareness that the natural environment needs protection and deserves concern. Trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants are conserved and identified in their natural settings for study and appreciation. Native flora, new plant introductions and unusual specimens that can be grown in this region are also on display.

The daffodil bowl (roughly 40,000 daffodils) is usually in bloom from the middle of April till the end of April. It varies slightly due to weather conditions so it might be a good idea to either call the office, or email me, to find out what is going on. We would be delighted to have your group over to photograph. Carolyn Lydon

+++++

17. SHIPPEN MANOR

<http://www.wcchc.org/>
<http://www.njskylands.com/hsoxfordfurnace.htm>
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/njht/profiles/97078.htm>
http://www.warrennet.org/oxford/laubach/Shippen%20Manor2/Shippen%20Manor%20Main%20WP_files/Shippen%20Manor%20Main%20WP.htm
<http://www.wcchc.org/views1.htm>

8 Belvidere Avenue, Oxford, NJ 07863

Docent Guided Tours
First & Second Sundays - 1 PM to 4 PM
Exclusive of Holidays
Suggested donations: \$3 Adults, \$2 Seniors, Children under 12 free

From the West: Rt. 80 East to Exit 4B (Rt. 46 East.) Turn right onto Rt. 31 South. Travel 2.5 miles and turn right at first traffic light.

From the East: Rt. 80 West to Exit 12. Turn left off ramp and follow Rt. 521 South to blinker in center of Hope. Continue straight on Rt. 519 South to left onto Rt. 46 East. Turn right onto Rt. 31 south. Travel 2.5 miles and turn right at first traffic light.

From the South: Rt. 31 North to light in center of Oxford. Turn left.

From Rt. 78 West: Take Exit 17 and follow Rt. 31 North for 15 miles to first light after Welcome to Oxford billboard. Turn left at light.

From the North: Travel to either Rt. 46 or Rt. 80 and follow directions above.

+++++

18. SKYLANDS MANOR & NJ Botanical Garden

<http://www.njbg.org/events.html>

Via I-287 North or South

At Exit 57, follow the signs to Skyline Drive. Drive over the mountain (approximately five miles). Turn right at the bottom of Skyline Drive on #511. Take second right onto Sloatsburg Road. You will pass the Hewitt School and Carletondale Road. Make a right on Morris Road. The NJBG is 1.5 miles up on Morris Road, at the top of the hill.

Skylands Manor with its English Jacobean architecture common in the English countryside 400 years ago, was designed by John Russell Pope for Clarence McKensie Lewis, a stockbroker and civil engineer. Built in the 1920s, it is constructed of native stone and half-timbers. The weathered stone facade of this 44-room mansion blends into the landscape. The mansion contains rooms with antique paneling as well as new American Oak paneling and large windows, some of which contain 16th-century stained glass medallions. Moulded plaster ceilings and an elaborately carved staircase add the finishing touches to this impressive county house.

Manor Tours are offered on the first Sunday afternoon of each month from March through December. Docents lead visitors on a descriptive tour of the beautiful and historic Manor House Donation suggested.

Free Guided Garden Tours are Sundays, 2 p.m., May through October.

+++++

19. Tillman Ravine

<http://www.wildnj.com/njm5-10.htm>

<http://www.photos-of-the-year.com/nikon-dslr/showphoto.php?photo=3291>

<http://www.fieldtrip.com/nj/19483820.htm>

<http://3dparks.wr.usgs.gov/nyc/parks/loc36.htm>

Stokes State Forest

RR 2, Box 260, Branchville, NJ 07826

(973) 948 3820

A natural area within Stokes State Forest, Tillman Ravine retains the primeval beauty of its pine and hemlock forests. A mountain stream, Tillman Brook, flows through the area and rises in a spring along side of the Kittatinny Mountains.

This is an ideal place for hikers, photographers, and serious students of earth sciences. Being a Wilderness Area, Tillman Ravine has no picnic, restroom, or other facilities. Anything brought in must be brought out.

Hours: Open mid-March - December, from dawn to dusk (note: the State Forest is open year-round, but the road to Tillman Ravine is closed in winter and spring).

Admission: FREE.

+++++

20. Van Vleck House & Gardens

<http://www.vanvleck.org/>

<http://whatisee.org/mt/archives/entries/000334.html>

HISTORY: Van Vleck House & Gardens originated as a private estate more than 125 years ago. Three generations of the Van Vleck family lived on the 5.8 acre property and developed the grounds throughout the past century. The garden's evolution over the decades produced a strong representation of ericaceous plants, with rhododendrons and azaleas being particular favorites. Today, the Van Vleck property provides an excellent example of the large estates built in this New York City suburb during the late 1800s.

The last family member to reside here was Howard Van Vleck. His interests reached beyond gardening and garden design to include the scientific aspects of horticulture. He hybridized rhododendrons, working to create a clear, yellow-flowering variety. A number of his hybrids survive as special elements in the garden and several have been registered and named for Van Vleck family members.

The main house that now graces the Van Vleck grounds was designed and built in 1916 by Joseph Van Vleck, Jr. It recalls the classic architectural style of a Mediterranean villa. In 1993, the heirs of Howard Van Vleck placed the property in the hands of The Montclair Foundation. This community foundation transformed the house into a center for non-profits. The offices of several New Jersey foundations reside on the second floor and use of the ground floor is restricted to non-profit organizations for meetings, seminars, receptions, and fundraisers.

+++++

21. White Lake

<http://www.nynjctbotany.org/njrvtofc/whitelk.html>

Hardwick Township, Warren County, N.J.

Directions:

US 80. Exit 19; turn right on Route 517 and then very quickly a left following the sign that says Johnsonburg (Route 612). Turn right onto Route 519 (either in town or earlier by taking the bypass -- Hope Johnsonburg Road). Turn left onto Route 661 (or if you took the bypass just go straight) and travel one mile to Route 94. Turn left onto Route 94. Travel 1.9 miles and turn right onto Route 659 (the sign says Stillwater) . Drive 1.2 miles. (You will pass a hiking spot for Paulinskill Valley Trail.) Turn right onto Stillwater Road (Route 521) and travel 0.4 mile to a right turn into the park. A better parking area for about 6 to 8 cars is on the right just after the pull-off on the left for the Paulinskill Valley Trail. You walk northeast and will pass the remains of the walls of a lime factory.

History:

Here is an abandoned railroad spur of the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad that transported ice blocks from White Lake to a local creamery.

Near White Lake itself are the remains of a marl works. Marl is a soft, calcium-rich limestone clay. The marl was dredged out and processed to make cement and fertilizer. This business failed in 1900.Up along the ridges are the remains of a lime kiln. Here are keyhole-arched kilns. In these kilns alternating layers of wood and limestone were set ablaze which eventually produced a calcium-rich powder that was hydrated and loaded on wagons to be taken to farms where it was spread on fields. In the woods are the ruins of a 1950s Girl Scout camp.

+++++

22. Wildcat Ridge

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw//wldcthwk.htm>

The Wildcat Ridge Hawkwatch is located within the Wildcat Ridge Wildlife Mangement Area, located off Rt. 513 (Upper Hibernia Road) in northern Morris County.

From Route 23:

From the I-287 interchange (north or south) take Route 23 north for 8.9 miles to La Rue & Green Pond Road exit. Cross over Route 23 and go south a very short distance and take immediate right onto Green Pond Road. Go 5.1 miles south to a left turn onto Upper Hibernia Road (opposite Marcella Community Club). Stay on Upper Hibernia Road for

2.7 miles (it becomes a dirt road) to the white gravel parking lot on right (identified with a sign).

A bit further across the road are two white gate posts. Enter and walk to just before the yellow gate. Turn right here, and follow the orange-blazed trail to the site, a 20-25 minute walk. If you prefer, you can go around the yellow gate, and follow the road to the site, a 15-20 minute walk. About 3/4 mile up, you will see a large stone pile (cairn) on right marking a trail that joins the orange trail about 35 feet into the woods.

From I-80:

Take exit # 37 (Rockaway/Hibernia). Turn left (north) at light. Proceed 6.3 miles to right turn onto Upper Hibernia Road (at Marcella Community Club). Stay on Upper Hibernia Road for 2.7 miles (it becomes a dirt road) to the white gravel parking lot on right (identified with a sign). Then follow hiking directions above.

+++++

Places of Interest in New Jersey

<http://www.fieldtrip.com/nj/index.html#Botanical>

<http://www.wildnj.com/br4-11.htm>

Best Gardens in New Jersey

http://www.hudsonreporter.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=14114320&BRD=1291&PAG=461&dept_id=523594&rfti=6

HISTORIC SITES IN NEW JERSEY

<http://pirate.shu.edu/~luriemax/NJResources/njsites.htm>

<http://www.preservationnj.org/default.asp>

LOCAL HIKES IN NEW JERSEY

<http://www.localhikes.com/getHikes.asp?Search=1&getreporter=briansnat&getHikebyReporter=Yes>

OTHER PLACES TO GO IN NEW JERSEY

The Raptor Trust

1390 White Bridge Road

Millington, NJ 07946

(908) 647-1091 Education Center • 647-2353 Rehab Center

<http://www.fieldtrip.com/nj/86471091.htm>

THE TURTLE BACK ZOO

MOST PEOPLE ARE NOT AWARE THAT THE TURTLE BACK ZOO IS
EXTREMELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT WAS FIVE YEARS AGO.
TAKE THE TIME TO SEE WHAT WE HAVE RIGHT IN OUR
BACKYARD.

560 Northfield Avenue
West Orange, NJ 07052 973-731-5800

ADMISSION:

Adults: \$7.00

Children (2-12): \$3.00

Seniors: \$3.00

CURRENT ZOO HOURS:

Daily: 10:00AM - 4:00PM

The Black Bear Exhibit and Reptile House are new this year.

+++++

Prepared by Nancy McMurtrie, September 2, 2006