



CU At the WheatonArts Ecofair

Over the years Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center and CU Maurice River have been building a working partnership founded on our organizations' mutual appreciation for the intersection between aesthetics and environmental protection. For centuries nature has been a source of inspiration for artists, who through their artwork highlight its beauty and in turn, promote its protection. We invite you to join us at the WheatonArts' Eco Fair to explore the Nature Trail and our partnership.

WheatonArts, in partnership with the Cumberland County Improvement Authority and PNC

Arts Alive, will host the 13th annual ECO Fair on Saturday, May 4th, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is a free Family Day event inspired by natural living. Many organizations come together to celebrate the great out-of-doors by providing the community with a fun-filled day complete with environmentally-minded activities. This event features handmade works, native and wildlife-friendly plants, locally-grown herbs and vegetables, environmental organizations, hands-on family art activities, live music, food vendors, and more. Admission to all WheatonArts exhibits and artist studio demonstrations are free for the day, part of "Family Days. Presented by PNC Arts Alive!" For more information about the event, visit WheatonArts.org.

As for our part, CU Maurice River is excited to lead three free activities at the ECO Fair 2019. Firstly, we are honored to host the WheatonArts ECO Fair keynote speaker, Pat Sutton. At this event, Pat will be unveiling a brand new wildlife gardening program called **"It's a Jungle Out There: LIFE & DEATH in the Wildlife Garden."** The

presentation will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the WheatonArts' Event Center. Pat and her husband Clay have witnessed some amazing natural history happenings in their 41-year old wildlife garden, some heart-warming and some heart-stopping. Be prepared for an eye-opening view into the natural world, occurrences that happen every day out in the wild but are rarely seen, unless you've created a wildlife garden so welcoming that wildlife feels quite at home!

Pat has keenly studied the natural world for 40 years, first as the naturalist at the Cape May Point State Park and then as the naturalist and program director at the NJ Audubon Cape May Bird Observatory. Pat has an undergraduate degree in Literature and a Master's Degree in Environmental Education. She and Clay wrote the landmark book, *Birds and Birding at Cape May* (2006), the in-depth result of their efforts over many years documenting and protecting the migration and the Cape May area that they so love. Other books by Pat and Clay include *How to Spot Butterflies* (1999), *How to Spot Hawks & Eagles* (1996), and *How to Spot an Owl* (1994). Today Pat

is a free-lance writer, photographer, naturalist, educator, lecturer, tour leader, and wildlife habitat/conservation gardening champion. Pat is a passionate advocate and wildlife habitat gardener for butterflies, moths, bees, birds, dragonflies, frogs, toads, and other critters. She has taught gardening for wildlife workshops and led tours of private wildlife gardens for over 30 years. Sutton's own wildlife garden is a "teaching garden" featured in many programs, workshops, and garden tours. For more information peruse: PatSuttonWildlifeGarden.com.

Secondly, CU Maurice River will lead a Nature Walk and Scavenger Hunt before the keynote. You have two options here. One, choose to walk the WheatonArts' Nature Trail at your leisure, stopping to talk to naturalists along the way. These outdoor educators will be there to point out wildlife and flora of special interest as well as provide background on WheatonArts stewardship and habitat restoration initiatives. Two, join the Scavenger Hunt! Both the

young and young-at-heart are encouraged to participate. The outdoor educators will be on the trail if you need clues. The first 60 participants to complete the scavenger hunt will be awarded a free *Nature Explorer* button! To participate, stop by the CU Maurice River table for your copy of the scavenger hunt materials and a map of the trail. The outdoor educators will be on the trail between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. so we recommend that you begin no later than 11:45 a.m.

Did you know that at least 30 percent of our wild plants rely on pollination for reproduction and that native mason bees are two to three times better pollinators than honeybees? AND they don't sting! In preparation for Pat Sutton's presentation on wildlife gardening, we are providing instruction and materials to construct a native bee nursery that you can take home. Your bee nursery will support mason bees and other solitary non-stinging bees that need our help. This activity is free and will be running for most of the day, as long as materials last. While at the CU Maurice River table ask us about

bee nursery management,
wildlife-friendly gardens, best
plants to produce quality pollen,
and to chat with our members
and staff about CU Maurice River.

