

2012 Rally Field Trips—ALL FIELD TRIPS TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY, MARCH 9.

Both Field Trips cost \$20.

1. Duke Farms Field Trip

Field Trip Coordinator: **Thom Almendinger**, Team Leader-Ecological Stewardship. With the opening of a new orientation center in 2012, Duke Farms will offer greater public access to the core area of almost 1,000 acres of the property for self-discovery, along with an expanded offering of educational programs focused on good stewardship practices and increased opportunities for research related to ecological sustainability of our regional environment. Trip highlights include: adaptive reuse of buildings, renewable energy demonstrations, habitat restoration, and 528 acres of wetlands restoration through a partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Attendees should be able to freely ambulate and dress for the outdoors. Field trip will take place rain or shine.

Field Trip Sponsors: Duke Farms Foundation & Natural Resource Conservation Service

Location: Hillsborough, Somerset County

Time: 10-2

2. South Mountain Reservation Field Trip: Forest Regeneration

Field Trip Coordinator: **Marian Glenn**, Forest Ecologist & Co-Director of Environmental Studies, Seton Hall University

The field trip will begin at the Dog Park in the South Mountain Reservation for an easy walking tour to observe some of the deer exclosures that are at the heart of regenerating the forest understory. We will describe the history and on-going efforts of this long-term project in ecological restoration sponsored by Essex County Parks Department with volunteer support organized by the South Mountain Conservancy. The project employs both professional and volunteer efforts to manage the deer herd by annual culling, construct numerous exclosures, plant native species and remove invasive species. The South Mountain Reservation, established in 1895, is the largest park in Essex County. Located in central Essex County, the park covers over 2000 acres in three municipalities—West Orange, Millburn and Maplewood. The park includes 19 miles of trails and carriage roads, historic sites, a zoo, ice arena, and part of the Rahway River. The field trip will be led by Dr. Marian Glenn, a forest ecologist and co-director of Environmental Studies at Seton Hall University. Joining Dr. Glenn will be representatives of the Rahway River Association and South Mountain Conservancy.

Field Trip Sponsors: Seton Hall University, Rahway River Association, South Mountain Conservancy

Time: 10-2

Location: West Orange, Essex County

Specific information about field trips, such as directions, exact times, weather contacts, and other details, will be sent to the people who register.