

Mashomack

Connecting People and Nature

UPDATES FROM MASHOMACK PRESERVE | SUMMER 2025



Program Schedule

SUMMER 2025

Programs require pre-registration. Unless noted, enjoy our programs free of charge (donations welcome). While many are suitable for all audiences, please note any age recommendations. For more information, e-mail MashomackPreserve@tnc.org or visit nature.org/nyevents.

MAY

VISITOR CENTER EXHIBITS OPEN
THURSDAY-SATURDAY | 10 AM-3 PM



BOOK IN THE WOODS

Bird Boy

by Matthew Burgess

Are you someone who loves to watch nature? Nico, a new kid at school, makes friends while still being true to himself as he observes bugs and birds. Come take a self-guided, half-mile walk and read as you go.

Mashomack Spring Picnic

SUN. | MAY 25 | 4-6 PM

Kick off Mashomack's 45th anniversary celebration and the unofficial start of summer. Join us for lawn games, hand-seining at Bass Creek, music, local sweets, beverages, exploring Mashomack and other fun activities! Bring your own picnic and a blanket or chair.

Shelter Island Friends of Music Concert at Mashomack

THURS. | MAY 29 | 4-5:30 PM

Enjoy music in a natural, informal setting at the Mashomack Visitor Center pavilion area, where Shelter Island Friends of Music will present WindSync, a world-class wind quintet. Light refreshments will be served.

JUNE

VISITOR CENTER EXHIBITS OPEN
THURSDAY-SATURDAY | 10 AM-3 PM



BOOK IN THE WOODS

Have You Heard the Nesting Bird?

by Rita Gray

Birds sing in the spring as they look for mates. This lively book invites you to imitate the song of various birds, while waiting to find out why the nesting bird is being so quiet. Come take a self-guided, half-mile walk and read as you go.



World Ocean Day Kayak Trip

SUN. | JUNE 8 | 10 AM-12 PM

All water is connected. Come paddle with us along Mashomack's coastline and explore the preserve from the sea in honor of World Ocean Day on June 8. Kayaks, paddles and safety gear provided. Adults only.

Bluebirds and Blueberry Muffins

SAT. | JUNE 14 | 9-11 AM

When was the last time you saw the brilliant blue of New York's state bird? Bring a portable chair and binoculars and we'll take a truck ride to Mashomack's meadows to watch an active nest. Relax, have a light breakfast and learn about this charismatic "harbinger of happiness."

Dragonfly Field Day

SAT. | JUNE 21 | 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

(RAIN DATE SUN. JUNE 22, SAME TIME)

Dragonflies are beautiful and fascinating insects that play a key role in nature. Join the South Fork Natural History Museum and TNC's dragonfly expert Kevin Munroe as he leads this exploration at Mashomack's Bass Creek and Sanctuary Pond. You'll use hand nets to capture dragonflies so you can get rare, close-up looks at them. You'll even get a chance to briefly hold them before they're safely released. All are welcome. Parent or guardian required.

Bird Photography in the Mashomack Meadows

SAT. | JUNE 28 | 7-10 AM

(RAIN DATE: SUN. JUNE 29, SAME TIME)

The mulberry trees in Mashomack's meadows are a magnet for birds in late June. Learn from wildlife photographers Don Bindler and Jim Colligan how to capture the perfect image!

JULY

VISITOR CENTER EXHIBITS OPEN
WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY | 10 AM-3 PM



BOOK IN THE WOODS

Mr. Seahorse

by Eric Carle

Did you know that male seahorses give birth to babies?! Enjoy Eric Carle's unique illustrations as Mr. Seahorse swims around meeting other fishy fathers who are caring for their babies. Come take a self-guided, half-mile walk and read as you go.

Nature's Library for Kids

WED. | JULY 2, 9, 16, 23 AND 30 | 3-4 PM

The Nature Conservancy is joining Shelter Island Library staff to bring you a summer full of programs. Come learn about awesome animals, terrific trees, fun fungi and much more. We'll read, walk and craft our way through the exciting natural world around us.

Fireflies in the Meadows

FRI. | JULY 11 | 7:30-9 PM

Remember the joy of watching the twinkling lights of fireflies on a summer evening? Take a walk with us in Mashomack's meadows to learn about these amazing insects and use hand nets to catch them for a close-up view of "nature's fireworks."

Environmental Explorers

SESSION 1: JULY 14-17 | 9AM - 3PM

SESSION 2: AUG. 4-7 | 9AM - 3PM

Hike, paddle and explore Mashomack's amazing fields, forests and wetlands. During this active, hands-on program for kids, we will learn about the fascinating natural world and how we can "be the change" we want to see in the world. Ages 8-12.

45th Anniversary Cocktail Party

SAT. | JULY 19 | 4-6 PM

Join us on the Manor House lawn for a cocktail party celebrating 45 years of protecting Mashomack Preserve. Indulge in simple nibbles, and cold beverages. Travel down memory lane viewing displays that celebrate 45 years of conservation, education and community engagement.



Seedlings: July in the Marsh

TUES. | JULY 22 | 2-3:30 PM

Let's explore the shoreline of Bass Creek! We'll check out the fish, crabs, snails and lots of other animals that call the marsh home. Please be prepared to get wet and wear shoes that can go in the water. Nets and buckets will be provided. Ages 4-7; parent or guardian required to stay for program.



Log Cabin Creek Shellfish Paddle

THURS. | JULY 24 | 3-5 PM

What's better than spending a summer afternoon paddling along a quiet coast? We will venture to Log Cabin Creek and learn about the importance of shellfish in our coastal waters from Kate Rossi-Snook of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Kayaks, paddles and safety gear provided. Adults only.

Blue Trail Truck Tour

SUN. | JULY 27 | 4-6 PM

Take a 10-mile safari-style truck ride to the far reaches of Mashomack's Blue Trail to see our beautiful oak forests, meadows, and vernal and coastal ponds. This comprehensive overview of the preserve will show you how layers of conservation work overlap on the preserve. Ages 6+.

AUGUST

VISITOR CENTER EXHIBITS OPEN
WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY | 10 AM-3 PM



BOOK IN THE WOODS

Wonder Walkers

by Micha Archer

"Is the wind the world breathing? Are the forests the mountain's fur?" Join two children as they wander and wonder in this joyful collage-illustrated book. Come take a self-guided, half-mile walk and read as you go.

Nature Writing Workshop with Maryann Calendrille

SAT. | AUG. 2 | 10 AM-12:30 PM

Join us for a morning of immersive nature writing with Maryann Calendrille, co-owner of Canio's

Books and an educator, writer and passionate environmentalist. Participants will learn to craft meaningful nature stories in the context of climate change. The 2.5-hour session includes examining written works, doing deep observation, writing and sharing. Light refreshments provided. Registration required.

Nature's Library for Kids

WED. | AUG. 6, 13, 20 AND 27 | 3-4 PM

The Nature Conservancy is joining Shelter Island Library staff to bring you a summer full of programs. Come learn about awesome animals, terrific trees, fun fungi and much more. We'll read, walk and craft our way through the exciting natural world around us.

Hanging with Hummingbirds: Photography and Observations

SAT. | AUG. 9 | 10-11:30 AM

Professional photographer KC Bailey will unlock the secrets of capturing the elusive hummingbird in flight. Enjoy an accessible, up-close look at these small, captivating pollinators from the beautiful porch of the Mashomack Manor House. Adults only.

Seedlings: August in the Marsh

WED. | AUG. 13 | 9:30-11 AM

Let's explore the shoreline of Bass Creek! We'll check out the fish, crabs, snails and lots of other animals that call the marsh home. Please be prepared to get wet and wear shoes that can go in the water. Nets and buckets will be provided. Ages 4-7; parent or guardian required to stay for program.



Bass Creek Kayak and Sandflat Exploration

SAT | AUG. 16 | 9:30 - 11 AM

Participants will use kayaks to explore Bass Creek, winding through the shallow waters of the tidal marsh from the bay to the far back reaches. Along the way, we'll stop and explore the sandflats and marsh grasses on foot. We'll use hand nets to catch and examine different species before returning them safely back to the water. Ages 10+.

Wildlife Wonders Week

AUG. 18-21 | 9 AM-12 PM

Hike, paddle and explore Mashomack's amazing fields, forests and wetlands. During this active, hands-on program for kids, we'll learn about the fascinating natural world

and how we can "be the change" we want to see in the world. Participants can do both Environmental Explorers and Wildlife Wonders Week. Ages 8-10.

Mashomack at the Green Fair

SAT, | AUG. 23 | 11 AM-3 PM

Conservation partners from around Eastern Long Island will be on the grounds of Shelter Island School. Visit the Mashomack table for hands-on displays, fun and prizes.

SEPTEMBER

VISITOR CENTER EXHIBITS OPEN
THURSDAY-SUNDAY | 10 AM-3 PM



BOOK IN THE WOODS

On a Magical Do-Nothing Day

by Beatrice Alemagna

What is there to do on a boring, rainy day when your game and phone gets dropped into a pond? See what adventures await with snails, mushrooms and explorations! Come take a self-guided, half-mile walk and read as you go.

Community Haul Seine

SAT. | SEPT. 6 | 5-6:30 PM

All hands-on deck! Help pull in our 300-foot haul seine net and get a close-up look at the hidden underwater life found in Peconic Bay. Bring your water shoes so you can wade across to the outer beach where we'll learn and explore. S'mores to follow.

Coastal Clean-up

SUN, | SEPT. 21 | 2-3:30 PM

Come out for a day of volunteering as we work to clean up our coastline! Together, we can help keep our environment free of litter and protect marine life.



Scan the QR code or visit nature.org/nyevents to register for an upcoming program!

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Mashomack

For 45 years, The Nature Conservancy has welcomed visitors to Mashomack, both on land and in the water, to learn and be inspired. With over 80 programs a year, we share our passion through guided hikes, summer camps, kayak trips and special environmentally themed events. We strive to create a fun and engaging program schedule with options for people of all ages and abilities.

For more than 35 years, we have offered our wildly popular 'Environmental Explorers' summer camp. Designed to engage children ages 8-12 in the wonders of nature through hands-on experiences, we are now hosting our second generation of explorers. These children, like their parents, experience the timeless joy of holding a crab for the first time or learning to identify a bird by its call.

Everyone is welcome at Mashomack to explore the outdoors and learn about their role in protecting nature for future generations. Celebrate 45 years of conservation with us by attending a program or event!

