



**Franklin Township
OPEN SPACE PROGRAM CONTINUES NATURE WALKS**

Explore wilderness right in the heart of Franklin Township!



The Township's open space program will, for the 9th consecutive year, sponsor guided nature walks on Township open space parcels. The **2014** walks begin in March and continue in the Spring and Summer months. ***The walks are free to the public.*** The walks are along easy terrain and are great for kids. Bring binoculars, if you have them, and waterproof footwear.

While Franklin Township is located in one of the most densely populated regions of the country, it claims over 9,000 acres of preserved land (1/3 of the township's land mass) and this area provides key habitat for unique species of plants and animals.

The March walks will be led by two township residents and avid birders, Chris and Paula Williams.

SPRING DANCE OF THE WOODCOCK AT THE NEGRI-NEPOTE GRASSLAND PRESERVE

Friday, March 7 at 5:45 pm

Friday, March 14 at 7:00 pm

We will meet at the parking lot located at 260 Skillmans Lane.

Walk will be approximately 45 – 60 minutes in length.

The American Woodcock, a long billed woodland bird probes in soft wet soil of wetlands and eats its weight in worms each day. Woodcock return to Franklin Township in late winter or early spring to mate and nest. Males of the species begin calling and performing an aerial courtship-display-flight when the afternoon shadows are almost gone. We'll hear more than we see. After the woodcock finish we may look for Spring Peepers.

No pre-registration is necessary. All walks are free. Bring binoculars if you have them and preferably wear boots. Be sure to dress appropriately for current weather conditions. For detailed directions to the parks, information, and updates please visit http://www.franklintwpnj.org/open_space.html

We ask that you kindly RSVP.

Questions? Contact Fran Varacalli at franklintrails@gmail.com or at 732.690.7750

