

Learn how animals survive the winter at Prescott Farm

LACONIA — Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center will be offering nature walks during each of the winter months designed to show people how fields, forests and wetlands, change from month to month.

Each month participants will go on a leisurely hike with one of Prescott Farm's naturalists, with the goal of cultivating their observation skills and deepening each person's relationship with the natural world. Program titles and descriptions are used with permission from Mary Holland, author of "Naturally Curious."

"Endurance" — Saturday, Jan. 9; 10-11:30 a.m. (Adults only); 1-2:30 p.m. (Families); and Wednesday, Jan. 13; 1-2:30 p.m. (Homeschoolers ages 8-12). Although January occasionally provides us with a thaw, most years New England is locked into winter during this month. Food is scarce for wildlife and any snow on the ground usually compounds the difficulty of finding it.

"Survival" — Saturday, Feb. 6; 10-11:30 a.m. (Adults only); 1-2:30 p.m. (Families); and Wednesday, Feb. 10; 1-2:30 p.m. (Homeschoolers ages

8-12). February is a complex month — at the same time that many creatures are fighting for survival, others are bringing progeny into the world. The sun is stronger, the days longer. Even in northern New England the stirrings of spring have begun, albeit often under several feet of snow.

"Awakening" — Sunday, March 13; 10-11:30 a.m. (Adults only); 1-2:30 p.m. (Families); Wednesday, March 9; 1-2:30 p.m. (Homeschoolers ages 8-12). For several centuries the British parted ways with the Gregorian calendar and declared March 25 the first day of the New Year. This makes enormous sense to most natural historians, for March is the month of "awakenings," when the earth begins to thaw and life begins to stir after months of relative inactivity. March is synonymous with rebirth — a new beginning for all living things.

The change for a session is \$10 per person, or \$8 for Prescott Farm members.

Reservations are required for all programs. Those interested in reserving space need to call Prescott Farm at 366-5695.