

**New Jersey Audubon
Path Tags
Available in our
Welcome Center
Nature Store
\$3.00 each
(During Store Hours)**



**The New Jersey Audubon
Scherman Hoffman Wildlife
Sanctuary Geo Trail project is a
partnership between the
Sanctuary and The Northern New
Jersey Cachers (NNJC.org), who
have assisted with the
development of this geotrail.**



**Let us know how you like our trail:
shws.geocache@njaudubon.org**

The Nature Store at Scherman Hoffman

Check the store for new arrivals, seasonal specialties, and a wide selection of birdseed. Our NJA S.A.V.E brand birdseed supports our mission and a sustainable New Jersey. Come in to find out more and feed your birds.

We offer a variety of the most popular optics for sale in our store as well as books and more.

Nature Store Hours:

Friday & Saturday 9:30 to 4:30
Center is closed.

Trails: Open dawn to 5:00 PM
For nature study, hiking, and
photography.

Leave only footprints,
take only pictures and memories.
NO PETS.

What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is a global treasure hunt in which participants use Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers to find geocaches hidden throughout the world. Caches can be as small as a dime or as large as shoe-box size. Some caches are not even physical caches, but events or significant landmarks.

When geocachers find a cache, they will usually log their visit in a log book found in the cache. They may also trade trinkets in the caches. Currently there are about 2.4 million geocaches located in more than 150 countries around the world.



Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary *Geocache Trail*



**Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary
11 Hardscrabble Road
Bernardsville, NJ 07924**

**Phone: (908) 396-6386
Fax: (908) 766-7775
shws@njaudubon.org**

1. **Forest Health:**.....The area around Bernardsville was a farming community in the eighteenth century. Therefore, most of the trees here are less than 100 years old. Tulip trees, which were used by the Lenape (native Americans) to make wooden canoes, are considered the tallest native flowering trees in the United States.

You are passing through our deer “Exclosure Fence”. It is a deer-free area initiated in 1999 with funds from an anonymous donor. It now encloses about 15 acres. There were no young trees within the area because of browsing deer. Keeping the deer out allows young trees, shrubs, and wildflowers to grow within the exclosure. Volunteers continue to remove invasive plant species such as Japanese Barberry, Multiflora Rose and Winged Euonymus.

2. **Standing Dead Trees:** Here the Red trail connects to the NJ Brigade trail (to Patriot’s Path). Red Cedar Junipers were the first to grow in the abandoned open logged areas of this hillside. They prefer full sun habitats. Now there are oak and hickory trees that have shaded the junipers out. There is a natural succession of plants from field to forest leading to a particular climax community of plants. Notice the standing dead trees which are very important habitats for many animals.

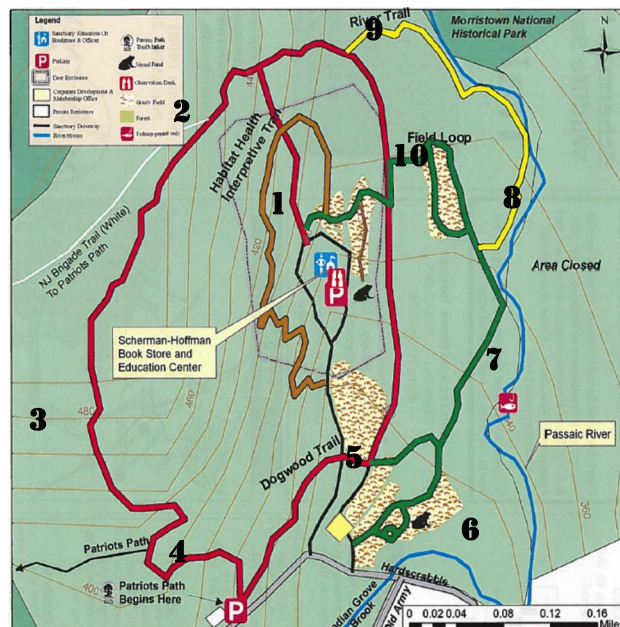
3. **Iron Pit Mine:** During the revolutionary war a 1777 letter, from Gen. Washington to Richard Lee, noted that there were between 80 and 100 iron works in Morris County for the purpose of making cannon balls and shells. Trenches or pits were dug until solid rock was laid open. This was often done on steep terrain to reduce the amount of work moving soil. The ore was then moved to a furnace heated by charcoal. A trench near this trail was explored for a 1700’s iron mine, the Ayres mine.

4. **Patriot’s Path**This is part of a 14 mile hiking trail that runs from Bernardsville to Morristown, and passes through Morristown National Historic Park. It begins in the original Scherman parking lot. Pictured is the trail blaze.

5. **NJ Brigade Tent Site:** This area is rich in the history of the American Revolution. The field in view ahead is where the New Jersey Brigade tented while building their cabins (down the road and up the hill) in the cold and snowy winter of 1779-80. The Brigade site is part of the Morristown National Historic Park.

Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary

Hiking Trails and Landscape Features



All coordinates are available on
Geocaching.com
Username:
NJ AUDUBON SHWS

Geocaching Etiquette

1. Bring a pen
2. Leave no trace
3. Put geocache back as you found it
4. Write a log of your journey

Unscramble your letter “clusters” below (3 words).

Bring your answer to the store (during store hours)
to receive a discount coupon for 10% on merchandise
except optics and S.A.V.E. seed.

6. **Vernal Ponds:** Vernal means spring. The vernal ponds you have passed are filled with spring rain, but can dry out in hot summer. This makes them perfect as spawning sites for Wood Frogs and American Toads because there are no fish in vernal ponds to eat the eggs. Notice the wetland indicator plants; cat-tails growing in the water.

7. **Scherman Hoffman donations...** In 1965, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Scherman donated 125 acres to the New Jersey Audubon Society (established in 1897). Later in the 1970’s more land was donated by Mr. G. Frederick Hoffman, and in 1981, the Hoffman estate house was added to become the Sanctuary Welcome Center.

New Jersey Audubon, a not-for-profit, membership organization, has centers throughout the state and is involved in conservation, education, research and stewardship.

8. The **Passaic River** seen on the right begins in Mendham. It forms part of the border of Scherman Hoffman’s 276 acres. The 87 mile river has seven major tributaries before it reaches Newark Bay and the ocean. It supplies tap water to almost 2 million people.

9. The **water’s inhabitants** here in the “head waters” (trout, caddis fly larvae, mayfly nymphs, stonefly nymphs) tell us the water quality is nearly excellent.

10. The **bluebird** nesting boxes that are ahead on the left are often used by Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Tufted Titmice, House Wrens and Black-capped Chickadees. The birds only use the nest boxes during the breeding season. The entrance hole is just large enough for these birds and too small for the invasive Starlings that are also cavity nesters. Bluebirds and Swallows are mainly insect eaters. Large areas of grasslands and fields are needed to supply insects for the baby birds.

Return to the Red Trail and head through the enclosure fence up the hill to the Nature Store with your unscrambled message.
