

What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is a global treasure hunt in which participants use Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers or smart phones 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.

Click here for geocaching.com

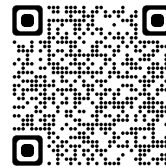


Visit our Scherman Hoffman Nature Store!

We have cold drinks, bird feeders, nest boxes, gift items and a wide variety of bird friendly items to fit your needs. We offer a selection of the most popular binoculars and spotting scopes, books and more.

Follow the QR code to become a member.

Help support the work of New Jersey Audubon and stay updated with all of our program and events.



Center and Store Hours:

Wednesday 10:00am-3pm

Thursday - Saturday: 9:00am-5:00pm

Sunday: 12pm-5:00pm

Upper Parking lot closes at 5pm

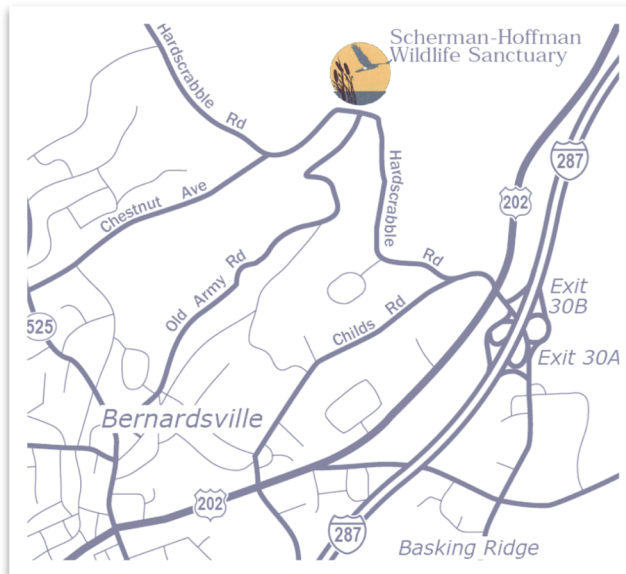
Trails: Open 7 days a week, dawn to dusk

Please park in lower lots after 5pm
For Nature Study, Birding, Hiking,
and Photography
No Pets Allowed

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.



Questions or feedback please let us know how you enjoy the trail:
shws.geocache@njudubon.org



NEW JERSEY
AUDUBON
www.njudubon.org

Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary



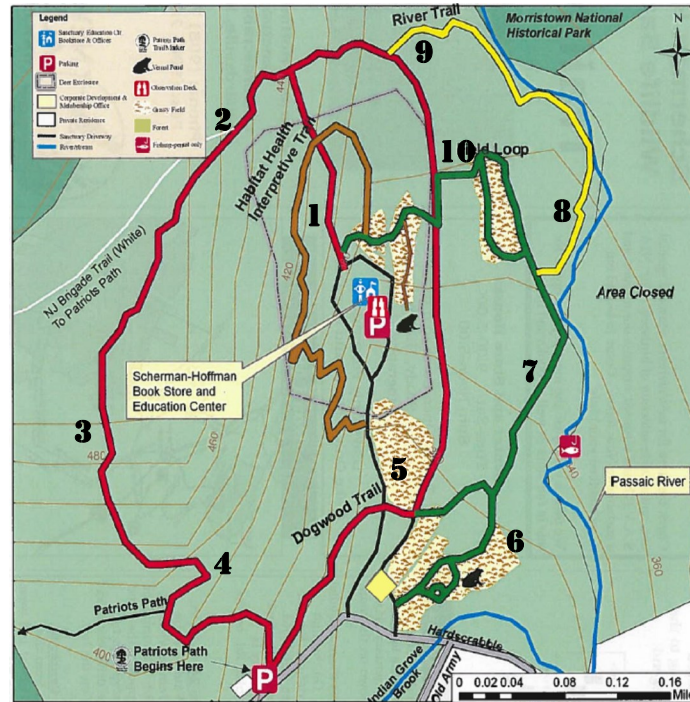
GEOCACHING



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

Hiking Trails and Landscape Features



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 now passing through our 15 acre deer "Exclusion Fence" created in 1999 with funds from an anonymous donor. 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 exclusion. 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 PathThis is part of a 14 mile hiking trail that runs from Bernardsville to Morrystown, and passes through Morrystown National Historic Park. It begins in the original Scherman parking lot.

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 Morrystown National Historic Park.

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 became the Sanctuary Welcome Center.

8. The Passaic River seen on the right begins in Mendham. It forms part of the border of Scherman Hoffman's 298 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 in the field 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 exclusion fence up the hill to the Nature Store with your unscrambled message.

All coordinates & hints are available on [Geocaching.com](https://www.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 and a NJ Audubon Path Tag. (Exceptions apply)

New Jersey Audubon is committed to connecting all people with nature and stewarding the nature of today for all people of tomorrow.