

Camp offers a view of nature

By **JASON KAPLAN**

Black Rock Forest Consortium is announcing sign-ups for the nine camps it will offer during the second and third weeks of July.

Students ages 11 to 15 can learn about various species or focus on just insects, birds, or cold-blooded creatures. They can opt to write about nature, make discoveries using electronics they construct by hand, or perhaps view nature through the eyes of a lens.

From July 10 to 14 and 17 to 21, Peter Terezakis, a New York University Associate Arts professor in the Tisch School of the Arts, will lead "Investigations in Beauty, Mystery, and Science."

NYU is a consortium member and for the last three years Terezakis has brought his students to Black Rock to experience nature. They learn how real science is done by observing what researchers do in the forest.

During a luncheon, Terezakis approached William Schuster, director of Black Rock Forest, about offering a camp.

"I think it's very exciting to have world class faculty around here," Schuster said. "It highlights the value of our consortium having connections with amazing people and institutions and trying to bring those benefits directly to students."

Terezakis said he was inspired to teach the camp because of the students taking his course on environmental issues.

"Most of my students were coming from major metro-

politan areas. They didn't have an idea of what the natural world is like."

Providing as much time outdoors as possible, the camp will help students explore the mechanics of vision, how the eye sees, how the brain interprets visual information, as well as how the camera captures images and why those images are important.

Students will create images to bring back to the classroom for further discussion. They will not only look at nature through natural light, but also through various other wavelengths such as ultraviolet light and infrared light.

"Depending on sky conditions, we'll look up into the heavens and catch million-year-old light," Terezakis said. "We'll look down through the microscopes, look at tiny things, and capture some images."

Students will also be creating web pages where they can upload and store their images.

Campers will be required to bring their own camera. Any kind will do, even one on a cell phone.

"I'm hoping people will become curious about how their mind takes in information and processes it and uses it as a marker for life," Terezakis said. "I'm hoping people become increasingly curious and appreciative of the world around them, especially the natural world and how precious and delicate so much of what we take for granted really is."

To register for this, or one of the other camps, visit blackrockforest.org or call 845-534-4517.