



Thacher Park and Nature Center Program Calendar



Saturday, January 9, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Nature Center

Join us for a snowshoe walk on various trails at the Nature Center or in Thacher Park. If there is not enough snow, we will take a winter hike. Call ahead for meeting place. Snowshoes are available to rent and may be reserved in advance by calling 872-0800. Rental fee is \$5. In the case of extreme weather, please call ahead to confirm program.

Saturday, January 9 at 2pm: Signs of Wildlife at Thacher Nature Center

Animals leave behind lots of evidence that tell us where they've been, what they eat, where they take shelter, and signs like tracks, scat and more. We'll talk about animal signs and what to look for, then go outside and see what we find. When we return we'll make delicious fake scat to eat! There is a \$1 fee for supplies. Please register by calling 872-0800.

Sunday, January 10, 10am - 2pm: Winter Botany at Thacher Nature Center

Learn about the anatomy of tree branches and the use of keys and other aids in identifying native trees and shrubs in their winter (or early spring) condition. Workshop teacher is botanist Ruth Schottman. Weather permitting the program will be split between indoor work with samples, keys, and various aids, and outdoor exploration. Please come dressed to be comfortable outdoors with minimal activity. Bring a bag lunch. Program fee is \$2. Call 872-0800 to register.

Thursday, January 14, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Park

Take a winter walk in the woods on trails in the park. Meet Joy at Hop Field. Call 872-1237 for more information.

Saturday, January 16, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Nature Center

See January 9 description. Please call 872-0800 to register and to confirm conditions.

Sunday, January 17, at 2pm: "The Culture of the Mohican People" at Thacher Nature Center

The Mohicans were the friendly native people that Henry Hudson first encountered in the Hudson River Valley. Their history was confused by James Fennimore Cooper in his book, "The Last of the Mohicans." Steve Comer, a Mohican Indian and a SUNY Albany doctoral student specializing in Mohican Studies, will discuss the interesting historical and cultural experience of the tribe in the states of New York and Massachusetts.

Saturday, January 23, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Nature Center

See January 9 description. Please call 872-0800 to register and to confirm conditions.

Sunday, January 24, at 2pm: "Reading the Rocks – From the Helderbergs to Mars" at Thacher Nature Center

What do geologists see and understand, that allows them to read the history and processes that formed a rock? Learn the lore of reading rocks with Dr. Chuck Ver Straeten, who will also discuss the 2009 Berne earthquakes (23 of them!).

Thursday, January 28, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Park

Take a winter walk in the woods on trails in the park. Meet Joy at the Park Office. Call 872-1237 for more information.

Saturday, January 30, 6am – 2pm: Ice Fishing Contest and Winter Chill Out at Thompson's Lake

The ice fishing contest will begin at 5:30 am, when participants may register to fish. Registration fee is \$15 per person. Fishing hours are 6 am – 1 pm. Cash prizes for the longest fish in three categories – perch, pickerel and trout, plus a grand prize for largest fish overall – will be awarded at 1:30 pm. In addition, there will be Winter Chill Out activities including a snowshoe walk at 10am, and rides and demonstrations with Vic DiSanto and his sled dogs from 11am – 2pm. Bring your ice skates, skis or snowshoes for some fun around the lake. And hopefully, there will be plenty of snow for building snowmen and snow sculptures. Food and refreshments will be available. Please call the office at 872-1237 for more information.

Sunday, January 31, at 2pm: "Flying by Night: Nocturnal Songbird Migration" at Thacher Nature Center

Many songbirds migrate at night. Their calls can be heard from the ground, and their movements can be seen on radar and when they fly in front of the moon. David Martin will present an overview of songbird migration and describe how we know some of these facts. He also will describe how bird calls are being used to study nocturnal songbird migration at Thacher Nature Center and will play recordings of what birds sound like as they fly by at night.

Saturday, February 6 at 10am: Preschool Program at Thacher Nature Center

Winter is a great time to explore the outdoors. If conditions are good, we'll put on snowshoes and check out who is making tracks around the Nature Center. Then we'll warm up indoors with a winter craft, a story and some hot chocolate. Dress warmly for the weather! Program is appropriate for ages 3-5. Please call 872-0800 to register.

Please call 872-0800 to confirm programs.

Check www.nysparks.com for updates.



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Saturdays, February 6 at 2pm: "First Peoples of New York" at Thacher Nature Center

Humans first explored New York about 13,000 years ago, as this region was emerging from the "Ice Age." Dr. Jonathan Lothrop, Curator of Archaeology, reviews current archaeological research on how and when Native Americans colonized, and then adapted to, the Late Pleistocene landscapes of New York between 11,000 and 8000 B.C. Call 872-0800 for more information.

Sunday, February 7, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Nature Center

Join us for a snowshoe walk on various trails at the Nature Center or Thacher Park. If there is not enough snow, we will take a winter hike. Call ahead for meeting place. Snowshoes are available to rent and may be reserved in advance by calling 872-0800. In the case of extreme weather, please call ahead to confirm program.

Thursday, February 11, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Park

Take a winter walk in the woods on trails in the park. Meet Joy at the Overlook. Call 872-1237 for more information.

Saturday, February 13, 10am – 4pm: Wildlife Tracking Adventure at Thacher Nature Center

Follow that deer, fox or fisher and see where they go and how many other animals they cross paths with along the way. Learn how to identify tracks and interpret the story they leave behind. Dan Yacobellis, local tracker and wilderness skills educator, will lead you on a trek through the snow covered hills and show you how to locate, identify and interpret the clues left by our resident animal neighbors. Program fee is \$35. Call 872-0800 to register.

Sunday, February 14, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Nature Center

See February 7 description. Please call 872-0800 to register and confirm conditions.

Wednesday, February 17, 1pm – 4:30pm: Snow Day!! at Thacher Nature Center

Attention Families! Come out and play on our 5th annual day of winter fun! Go on a snowshoe adventure to search for clues about wild animals. Then, make s'mores over a crackling campfire and hear winter tales from storyteller Claire Nolan. Warm up indoors with winter-themed activities and crafts. Materials fee of \$10 per family includes use of snowshoes. Please call 872-0800 to register.

Saturday, Feb. 20, 10 am – 1 pm: Dream Catcher Program at Thacher Nature Center

Hear the legend of the origin of the dream catcher and its purpose. Instructor Laura Bartell will teach participants how to make an authentic dream catcher from materials found in the natural world. Decorate with beads, stones, feathers, and other found objects. Program fee of \$5 includes materials. Appropriate for ages 8 and up. Please call 872-1237 to register.

Saturday, February 20, at 2pm: "Black Bears of New York" at Thacher Nature Center

Black bears are found throughout much of New York State, including here in the Helderbergs. Lou Berchielli will discuss the natural history of black bears, their expanding ranges in the state, and management of the growing populations. Lou is a retired Wildlife Biologist, who worked for NYSDEC with black bears for almost 30 years. Call 872-0800 for more information.

Sunday, February 21, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Nature Center

See February 7 description. Please call 872-0800 to register and confirm conditions.

Saturday, February 27, at 2pm: "Geology of the Catskill Mountains" at Thacher Nature Center

The Catskills display one of the finest Devonian age sedimentary sequences in the world. More than a mile of sedimentary rock takes us about 400 million years into the past to visit richly fossiliferous tropical oceans and dense Devonian age forests which grew on a great now petrified delta complex. Meanwhile, most of New England was rising into a mountain range which may have towered higher than the Himalayas. Dr. Robert Titus, paleontologist and Hartwick College professor, will explore the geology of the Catskills.

Sunday, February 28, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Nature Center

See February 7 description. Please call 872-0800 to register and confirm conditions.

Saturday, March 6, 1pm – 3pm: Star Lab Planetarium Adventures at Thacher Nature Center

Take a trip into outer space inside the STARLAB portable planetarium. Learn about the constellations and planets, and hear star stories from around the world. Educator Christopher Grubb will guide you on a multimedia adventure inside the STARLAB dome. Space is limited. Please call 872-0800 to register or for more information.

Saturday, March 13 through Saturday, March 27: 5th Annual Nature Art Exhibit at Thacher Nature Center

Discover works of art by local artists and join us for a weekend workshop. Call 872-1237 for more information.

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