

Thacher Park and Nature Center Program Calendar

** Please call to confirm all programs and to check locations.**



Saturday, November 4, at 6pm: Full Moon Hike at Thacher Park

Join us for a 2.5 mile hike to the escarpment at dusk. We'll watch the full moon rise over the Hudson Valley from Hang Glider Cliff. We may need flashlights for the hike out, but if the sky is clear we can hike back by moonlight. Meet at the Carrick Road trailhead at 6pm. Note, there are no restroom facilities in the north end of Thacher Park. Call 518-872-0800 to register.

Wednesday, November 8, at 7pm: "Bats and White-nose Syndrome: A Look at NY and Beyond" at Thacher Park

The Friends of Thacher Park invite you to a presentation at their annual meeting. Carl Herzog, mammals specialist for the DEC Wildlife Diversity Section, will provide an update on the devastating bat disease that was first discovered at a cave in Thacher Park. We'll look at the spread of the disease, bat population impacts, the latest research into management approaches, and predictions as to what the future holds for bats, both locally and across North America. The talk will follow a brief business meeting that starts at 6:30pm. Stay for refreshments and mingle with Friends. Call 518-872-0800 for more information.

Saturday, November 11, 10am – 1pm: Exploring Geology in the Higher Elevations of Thacher Park

Join geologist Dr. Chuck Ver Straeten for a hike through the higher parts of Thacher Park. We'll explore the landscape, different types of rocks and fossils, springs where water flows out of the rocks, caves, rock faults, and more, to learn the ancient to recent history of the park. This hike will often be off trail in sometimes rugged terrain. Wear hiking boots, bring water and a snack. Meet at Beaver Dam Road. Call 518-872-0800 to register.



Sunday, November 12, at 1pm: "Berry Basket for the Birds" at Thacher Nature Center

Create some holiday bird bounty with a Basket of Berries to use as a centerpiece and then offer to your backyard birds! Bring a basket from home (preferably w/ a handle) and we will line it with plastic and fill it with stems of native plants that offer lots of important foods for birds as they fatten up for the winter. We will also watch birds at our bird observation window and do bird related activities. Materials fee is \$3. Please call 518-872-0800 to register.

Saturday, November 18, 10 am - 12 pm: Paint a Snowy Owl! at Thacher Nature Center

Kids will have fun painting and learning about this beautiful bird with artist Noreen Powell. Ages 7-13 are welcome. The cost is \$20 per student and all supplies are included. Students will take home a memorable painting and a fabulous learning experience! Call 518-872-0800 to register.

Saturday, December 2, 10am – 4pm & Sunday, December 3, 11am -4pm: Holiday Bazaar at Thacher Nature Center

Shop for unique hand-crafted gifts made by local artisans and crafters, including jewelry, pottery, wooden wares, framed artwork, soaps and beauty products, fleece and woolen items, original artwork, pine needle baskets, honey products, wildlife photography, delicious foods and snack items and much more. Find nature books, wooden toys, and stocking stuffers in our gift shop, too. Enjoy live music that'll put you in the holiday spirit. Call 518-872-0800 for more information.





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Saturday, December 9, at 3:30pm: Busy Beavers at Thacher Park

Late fall is when beavers really get busy! They are building up their lodge and storing food for the long winter ahead. Learn about these industrious animals and their adaptations for life in icy waters. A short indoor presentation will be followed by an easy walk to a small, well-established beaver pond. There, we will quietly observe for about 20 minutes in hopes of viewing a beaver in action. This program is appropriate for adults and school-aged children. Space is limited, please call 872-0800 to register and for meeting place.

Saturday, December 16, at 10am: Hike to High Point at Thacher Park

Join us for a hike to the escarpment on the Fred Schroeder Memorial Trail. We'll walk through forests and fields and stop at the cliff to take in the views. The 3-mile loop trail is mostly level with a couple of moderately steep slopes. Call 518-872-0800 to register.

Wednesday, December 27, 11am: Birch Log Feeder & Winter Birds at Thacher Nature Center

Make a birch log suet feeder to give as a gift or hang in your yard. Suet is a preferred winter food for many bird species. This beautiful birch log is pre-drilled and ready for you to assemble. We will explore ways birds have adapted to winter survival, view birds at our observation window, and learn about Project Feeder Watch. Come prepared to explore the wintry world of our feathered friends! Program is open to all ages. Materials fee is \$5. Pre-registration is required. Call 518-872-0800 to reserve your materials.

Saturday, December 30, at 2pm: Hike to Historic Knox School #5 at Thacher Nature Center

Ever wonder what it was like to attend school in the early 1900's? Take a walk back in time to visit a historic one-room schoolhouse. Learn about life in a rural school, who was in attendance, and how the teacher managed to teach all grade levels in one room! Afterwards, warm up around the campfire and enjoy hot cocoa and toasted marshmallows. Walk is less than one-half mile in length. Program is appropriate for adults and children. Please call 872-0800 to register.

Monday, January 1, at 11am: "First Day" Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Park

Ring in the New Year with a winter walk in the park. We'll leave from the Visitor Center and walk for about an hour, taking in views from the escarpment along the way. Dress in layers and wear warm winter boots. Bring your own snowshoes or rent a pair at the park. Register and reserve snowshoes by calling 518-872-0800. In case of extreme weather, call the park office at 518-872-1237 to confirm conditions.

Saturday, January 6, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Nature Center

Join us on a snowshoe outing on Nature Center trails. We'll explore a trail through the woods with a natural spring and a cedar swamp – excellent wildlife habitat. Snowshoes are available to rent and may be reserved in advance. Call 518-872-0800 to register, reserve snowshoes, and confirm conditions.

