



# Thacher Park and Nature Center Program Calendar

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

## **Wednesday, September 2, at 10am: 'Lakeshore Explore' at Thompson's Lake Campground**

Late summer is a good time to explore the shore of Thompson's Lake. We'll look for aquatic animals, interesting plants, and we even may catch a glimpse of a Bald Eagle! Meet at the campground beach and wear shoes that can get wet. This program is appropriate for all ages. Please call 872-0800 to register.

## **Saturday, September 5, at 10am: Live Wildlife Program at Thacher Nature Center**

Meet some wild neighbors up close and personal with wildlife rehabilitator Kelly Martin. See and learn about the birds of prey and other animals in her care and why they are with her. Find out how you can help protect wildlife from harm. Donations are appreciated. Call 872-0800 for more information.

## **Saturday, September 5, at 6pm: Campfire Storytelling at Thacher Nature Center**

Enjoy stories with Storyteller Claire Nolan as you relax by a crackling campfire. S'more fixins' will be provided. Feel free to bring a blanket or camp chair. Fee is \$1 per person. Appropriate for all ages, so bring the family! Call 872-0800 to register.

## **Saturday, September 12, 10am – 4pm: Hawk Migration Watch at Thacher Park**

Thacher Park Overlook is a great place to watch for hawks on this peak migration weekend. Hawk Watch leader Will Aubrey will be on hand to answer questions, provide background material, compile statistics, and assist with hawk identification. Come see live raptors and learn about wildlife rehabilitation. Children will enjoy measuring their 'wingspan' and having their face painted. Refreshments will be available at the Overlook concession stand. On Sunday, September 13, raptor viewing and counting continues with Will Aubrey. Please call 872-1237 for additional information.

## **Saturday, September 19, at 10am: Family Seed Collection Hike at Thacher Nature Center**

For many plants, fall is the season for making and dispersing seeds. Take a walk through fields and forests to examine different types of seeds and how they spread. We'll enjoy the autumn foliage and look for seeds that fly, hitchhike and explode! Make a seed collection container to take home. This program is appropriate for ages 8 and up, but younger siblings are welcome. Please call 872-0800 to register your family.

## **Sunday, September 20, 10am – 3:30pm: Oil Painting Workshop at Thacher Nature Center**

Complete a beautiful autumn landscape painting of the view from Thacher Park in this workshop. Instructor Karen Woodin will demonstrate how to apply, blend, and smooth your oil paints on a prepared canvas, and teach specific techniques that will bring your painting to life. Class level is beginner to intermediate and appropriate for ages 16 and up. Light refreshments will be provided, please bring a bag lunch. Fee of \$54 includes all materials. Payment is due prior to class. Please call 872-1237 for additional information.

## **Saturday, September 26, 10am – 4pm: 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival at Thacher Park**

Join us for a day of family fun and festivities including: storytelling and music making hayrides, live birds of prey, face painting, pioneer games, pony rides, fortune teller, Produce Pitch, Skillet Toss contests and other old fashioned games, archery, harvest and Halloween crafts for kids and adults, air brush tattoos, unicycle demos, portrait paintings, cave squeezebox, local artisans and crafters selling quality handcrafted items, bake sale, farm fresh veggies and flowers, walks for hunger and for St. Jude, live Music by Loosely Wound String Band, food vendors 4 Corners Luncheonette and Dolan's Dogs. Take a picture with Helderberg Hildie and her friends. Entrance fee is \$5 per car. Please call 872-1237 for more information.



## **Saturday, October 3, at 10am: Escarpment Hike in Thacher Park**

Explore the northernmost part of the escarpment on this fairly level approximately 5 mile hike. Starting at the Old Stage Road parking area, we will hike a route off trail along the cliff that includes Flat Rock, High Point, and Hang Glider Cliff, and then return on trails to the starting point. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and insect protection. Be prepared for off trail hiking. Contact leaders Jim and Bonnie Schaller with any questions at 518-861-7452 or

[jims2999@yahoo.com](mailto:jims2999@yahoo.com)





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## **Saturday, October 3, at 11am: Geocache Treasure Hunt at Thacher Nature Center**

Geocaching is a treasure hunt, but instead of a pirates map with "X marks the spot," participants use a GPS receiver and clues to find a cache filled with hidden treasure. Come out and learn how it's done. We will hike along one of the Nature Center trails and navigate to a cache. Bring your own handheld GPS or download a Geocache app on your smartphone. Call 872-0800 to register.

## **Saturday, October 10, at 10am: Autumn Walk on the Indian Ladder Trail at Thacher Park**

Take in the brilliant colors of the season and learn about the fascinating geologic history of the escarpment on the historic trail below the cliff. Wear sturdy shoes and meet at the Pear Orchard picnic area. Walk will last approximately 1.5 hours. Call 872-0800 to register.

## **Sunday, October 11, at 10am: Fall Foliage Hike at Thacher Park**

Hike a short trail up a slope and look out at the views and the gorgeous fall foliage. We'll return via the same route taking plenty of time to look closely at beautiful details of nature for photography or identification. Bring water and a snack and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Meet at the Nature Center and carpool to trail head. Call 872-0800 to register.

## **Saturday, October 17, at 10am: Autumn Colors Walk at Thacher Park**

Enjoy the vibrant foliage as you stroll through the woods and take in valley views along the cliff-top trail. We will meet at the Pear Orchard parking area and walk the Long Path out to Hailes Cave and the Escarpment Trail back to Pear Orchard. This walk is about 1.5 miles. Dress for a cool morning and bring your camera to capture the colors! Please call 872-0800 to register.

## **Tuesday, October 20, at 9:30am: Fall Flora Walk at Thacher Nature Center**

Join members of the Environmental Clearinghouse (ECOS) for a botanical exploration. Enjoy the fall foliage and look for seeds, fruits, and late blooming wildflowers. This is the final walk in the fall walk series sponsored by ECOS. Call 872-0800 for meeting place.

## **Saturday, October 24, at 1pm: Disc Golf Basics at Thacher Park**

Disc Golf, also called Frisbee Golf, is a sport where a specialized Frisbee is thrown at an elevated metal basket or "hole" a few hundred yards away. A player tees off and progresses down the course making consecutive throws trying to avoid trees, shrubs, and other obstacles along the way. Come and find out what disc golf is all about. We will go over the different types of discs and throwing techniques. Discs will be available to borrow or purchase. Meet at Pear Orchard parking area. Call 872-0800 to register.

## **Saturday, October 31, at 11am: 'Nature's Creepy' Mystery Trail at Thacher Nature Center**

Take a walk on the Nature Center Trail and discover cool and creepy natural objects and oddities along the way. Use the clues to complete the challenge and win a prize. Wear your costume if you like. Make Halloween crafts and enjoy warm cider and donuts. This program is appropriate for all ages. Call 872-0800.

## **Saturday, November 7, 1pm – 3:30pm: Explore More Geology in Thacher Park**

Cliffs, rocky ravines and classic geology were key reasons for creating Thacher State Park over 100 years ago. The park is 3.5 square miles in size and abounds in interesting, seldom visited areas. Explore and discover more of Thacher Park, with geologist Dr. Chuck Ver Straeten, (New York State Museum). Dress for hiking both on and off trail. Call 872-0800 to register and for more information.

## **Wednesday, November 11, at 6:30pm: "History of Knox School #5" Presentation and Annual Friends Meeting at Thacher Nature Center**

The historic one room schoolhouse near the Nature Center was completely restored by the Helderberg Kiwanis Club. Dan Driscoll, member of both the Kiwanis Club and the Friends of Thacher Park, has written a book about the history of the schoolhouse. Dan will speak about his research findings and his personal interviews with community members. The presentation follows a brief business meeting at 6:30pm. The public is invited to attend the meeting as well as the presentation. Call 872-0800 for more information.



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

