



Thacher Park and Nature Center Program Calendar



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

Saturday, May 5, 9am – 1pm: "I Love My Park Day" at Thacher Park

Thacher Park is a natural treasure in the capital region, picturesque and historical. You've come here for hiking, family picnics, weddings, programs and events. This is a day to show your appreciation for our beautiful park by helping out on some park improvement projects. There are a variety of projects for different ages and abilities. Lunch will be provided for volunteers by the Friends of Thacher Park. Please call 872-1237 to register.

Wednesday, May 9, at 7pm: Friends of Thacher Park Meeting at Thacher Nature Center

Find out what the Friends are up to and how you could contribute. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities coming up, including Trails Day on June 2. All are welcome, call 872-0800 for more information.

Saturday, May 12, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm: Pine Needle Basket Making at Thacher Nature Center

Learn the art of traditional Native American basket makers. Make your own beautiful coiled pine needle basket. The coiling technique requires concentration and patience, but the results are well worth it! A brief history of materials, collection, and preparation will be presented. Participants should bring embroidery scissors if available and small kitchen towel to wrap wet needles. Bring a snack or lunch. Appropriate for ages 14 and up. Class fee is \$35 and materials fee is \$6. Please call 872-1237 to register.

Sunday, May 13, at 8:30am: Birding at the Boardwalk at Thacher Nature Center

Celebrate Mother's Day and International Migratory Bird Day! Join the Jr. Birders club for a light breakfast before we caravan over to the Knox Wetland Boardwalk. We'll look for birds and listen for their songs and calls with experienced birder Liz Neill. Bring your field guide and binoculars, or we will provide. Caravan departs at 9:00am promptly. Dress for a cool mountain morning. Only downpour will cancel. Call 872-0800 to register.

Saturday, May 19, at 9am: "Chronicles of Thacher Park" History Hike

Learn about the bygone times of the Indian Ladder Region while strolling on the scenic cliff top trail with historian Tim Albright. You'll feel like a time traveler as Tim recounts tales of the area and stories of former residents. Meet at the Upper Overlook parking area at 9 am and walk to Hailes Cave. Walk is approximately 1 – 1.5 mile. Wear appropriate footwear for hiking. Binoculars may be helpful. Call 872-1237 for more information.

Saturday, May 19, at 9am: Family Bird Walk at Thacher Nature Center

Join us for an easy walk on the trails, exploring field, forest and lakeshore habitat in search of our returning migrant songbirds. Tree swallows, Eastern Bluebirds, warblers and ducks are just a few of the birds we can expect to see and hear. Dress for a cool spring morning and bring a snack. Binoculars will be provided. Call 872-0800 to register.

Saturday, May 26, at 10am: "Little Green Monsters" at Thacher Nature Center

The Emerald Ash Borer is a small green beetle that is killing our Ash trees. This invasive pest came from Asia in wooden crates and quickly began to spread. Learn what you and your family can do to help prevent the spread of these creepy aliens. Learn how to identify ash trees and make an 'EAB' mask to take home. Please call 872-0800 to register.

Saturday, May 26, at 2pm: Indian Ladder Trail Guided Hike at Thacher Park

Descend the cliff and learn about the geologic and cultural history of the Helderbergs on this scenic and historic trail. See underground streams, look for fossils and step inside the crevice cave along the trail. Wear sturdy shoes and meet at the Indian Ladder picnic area. Walk lasts about 1.5 hours. Park entrance fee is \$6 per vehicle. Call 872-0800 to register.

Saturday, May 26, at 9pm: Stargazing at Thacher Nature Center

View objects in the night sky through a powerful telescope with amateur astronomer Ken Dubois. Meet in the field near the parking area. Cloudy skies will cancel program. Call 872-0800 for more information.

Sunday, May 27, at 10am: Wildlife Program at Thacher Nature Center

Wildlife is all around us, but it's rare to catch more than a glimpse of our wild neighbors. Come and meet some local native critters up close and personal with licensed rehabilitator Kelly Martin. Kelly takes care of injured and orphaned wildlife and has lots of great information and stories to share. Call 872-0800 for more information.

Saturday, June 2, at 8:30am: National Trails Day at Thacher Park

Join volunteers for a workday in Thacher and Thompson's Lake parks. Work on trail maintenance and cleanup with members of the Friends of Thacher Park and the Albany Chapter of ADK. Bring saws or loppers or the Park will provide. Lunch will be provided for volunteers by the Friends. Call 872-0800 to register.



Make a difference and support the park and nature center through the Natural Heritage Trust, a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation. Visit nysparks.com and find the webpage for Thacher Park or the Nature Center or call 518-474-2997.





Thacher Park and Nature Center

Program Calendar



Saturday, June 2, 10am – 3pm: Sheep and Wool Gathering at Thacher Park

Gather with fellow fiber enthusiasts at Pear Orchard in Thacher Park. Meet live sheep, goats, alpacas, and leaping llamas. See demonstrations in wheel and spindle spinning, weaving, felting, and more. Learn to knit and crochet at mini workshops. Vendors will be selling hand crafted items, kits, yarn and fleece, needles and wool accessories. Enjoy music of Knox Traditional Strings and Erik Kuck. Refreshments and baked goods will be available. Call 872-1237 or 872-0800 for additional information. Rain date is June 3.

Saturday, June 9, at 10am: Hike to Bullfrog Pond at Thacher Nature Center

Join us for a fun and easy hike to an exciting habitat full of life. We'll take a walk to a beaver pond and look for signs of these busy mammals, along with eggs, tadpoles and adult frogs in this wonderful watery world. Wear rubber boots or old sneakers, your feet will get wet. This program is appropriate for all ages, so bring the family! Please call 872-0800 to register and for meeting place.

Saturday, June 9, 10am – 2pm: Wet on Wet Oil Painting Workshop at Thacher Nature Center

If painting with oils has frightened you away, this is the class for you! Learn this easy method of oil painting with artist Amy Anderson and go home with a beautiful finished landscape painting. Fee is \$50 including materials, \$40 if you bring your own. Appropriate for ages 14 and up. Bring a lunch and be prepared for outdoor painting. Class will be held indoors in case of inclement weather. Early registration is required. Call 872-1237 to register and for materials list.

Sunday, June 10, at 1pm: "Who's In My Nest Box?" at Thacher Nature Center

Learn about nest box monitoring in this program for adults and children. After a brief introduction to the basics, we will head out into our nesting habitat and inspect at least three nest boxes to check on nest material, eggs and possibly hatchlings (babies)! We will use binoculars to view bird activity and then record data. This Jr Birders Club program is open to all. Program size is limited and pre-registration is required. Call 872-0800 to register.

Saturday, June 16, at 9am: Wellness Walk at Thacher Park

Just what the doctor ordered! Stretch your legs and get your heart pumping, relax your mind and breathe the fresh mountain air. We will walk at a pleasantly brisk pace for a distance of 2.5 – 3 miles on easy to moderate trails. Meet at Hop Field picnic area. Not appropriate for small children. Please call 872-1237 to confirm in case of inclement weather.

Saturday, June 16 & Sunday, June 17, 10am – 3pm: Native Plant Sale at Thacher Nature Center

This year's sale features showy native perennials and includes many hard to find species as well as real "show stoppers". Planning a rain garden? Need plants for that dry, rocky area in full sun? Create a Backyard Habitat or add to your existing one. Call 872-0800 for more information.

Saturday, June 23, at 10am: Geology Walk at Thacher Park

Join other geology enthusiasts for a traverse along the Helderberg cliffs in the newer, northwest area of Thacher State Park. In this first of a series of Geology walks, Dr. Chuck Ver Straeten, NYS Museum geologist, will give perspectives to observations and questions along the way. Wear hiking gear for trail, brush, and rock outcrop walking. Afterwards, Chuck will identify your rocks and fossils. Meet at Thacher Nature Center to carpool to walk location. Call 872-0800 to register.

Saturday, June 30 at 10am: The Buzz on Honeybees at Thacher Nature Center

Summer is in full swing and the honeybees are BUSY! Come and observe our unique live honeybee observation hive. Find out where the bees are foraging for food and see many different types of activity. Learn all about the lifecycle of the colony's three types of bees: workers, drones and the queen. Sample the sweet taste of honey! Program is appropriate for adults and children of all ages. Call 872-0800 to register.

Saturday, June 30, at 9pm: Stargazing at Thacher Nature Center

View objects in the night sky through a powerful telescope with amateur astronomer Ken Dubois. Meet in the field near the parking area. Cloudy skies will cancel program. Call 872-0800 for more information.

Wednesday, July 4, at 10am: 'Beachy-Keen' Summer Crafts at Thacher Nature Center

Make your own beach tote or colorful t-shirt using fabric paints, stencils, stamps and a little creativity. This program is appropriate for all ages, so bring the family! Please call 872-0800 to register.

Saturday, July 7, at 6:30pm: Campfire Storytelling at Thacher Nature Center

Gather round the fire and enjoy s'mores and entertaining tales with storyteller Claire Nolan. Fee is \$2 per person. Call 872-0800 for more information.



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