



# Thacher Park and Nature Center

## Winter Program Calendar



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

### **Sunday, January 1, at 11am: "First Day" Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Park**

Ring in the New Year with a walk in the woods. Meet at Hop Field and walk through the woods to breathtaking views from the escarpment. Enjoy hot chocolate and refreshments afterwards in the warming room. Walk lasts about 2 hours. Snowshoes available to rent and may be reserved in advance. Please call 872-1237 to register.

### **Saturday, January 7, at 2pm: Local History Talk and Book-signing at Thacher Nature Center**

Local authors Tim Albright and Laurie Ten Eyck will talk about our rich local history and sign copies of their recently released book "John Boyd Thacher State Park and the Indian Ladder Region." This is the first program in our winter presentation series, scheduled on Saturdays in January and Sundays in February. Call 872-0800 for more information.

### **Sunday, January 8, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Nature Center**

Enjoy a guided snowshoe walk on the Nature Center trails. If there is no snow, we'll hike. Snowshoes are available to rent for \$5 per person and may be reserved in advance. Call 872-0800 to register and/or reserve snowshoes. In case of extreme weather, please call ahead to confirm program.

### **Wednesday, January 11, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk in the Woods at Thacher Park**

Join a snowshoe walk on the beautiful park trails. Call Joy at 872-1237 for meeting place and more information.

### **Wednesday, January 11, at 7pm: Meeting of Friends of Thacher Park at Thacher Nature Center**

Do you enjoy and appreciate Thacher Park, the Nature Center, and Thompson's Lake campground? Come and meet with Friends and find out how you can help support the parks. Refreshments will be served. Call 872-0800 for more information.

### **Saturday, January 14, at 2pm: "The 2011 Keene Valley Landslide" at Thacher Nature Center**

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, the largest landslide in our state's history occurred near the Hamlet of Keene Valley in the high peaks region of the Adirondacks. A year of heavy rains and large scale events like Hurricane Irene, coupled with the state's unique geology, has given rise to an environment susceptible to continued landslide activity. Geologist Dr. Andrew Kozlowski of the NY State Museum will explain the monitoring and evaluation of ongoing geologic hazards and the implications for future landslides in the Adirondacks and beyond. Call 872-0800 for more information.

### **Sunday, January 15, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Nature Center** See January 8 description.

### **Sunday, January 15, at 3:30pm: Owls & an Owl Prowl at Thacher Nature Center**

View owl mounts of several species, learn lots of cool facts about owls, listen to & learn various owl calls, dissect an owl pellet, and then go out on snowshoes to call & listen for owls. Dress in warm, QUIET layers for cold outdoor portion. Appropriate for ages 7 and up. This program is part of our Jr. Birder Series and is open to all. Materials fee of \$3 includes use of snow shoes. Come 1/2 hour early to participate in Project FeederWatch. Call 872-0800 to register, space is limited.

### **Saturday, January 21, at 2pm: "All About Fungi" at Thacher Nature Center**

Bring your curiosity to this discussion with Dr John Haines, mycologist. Dr. Haines will talk about some of the fungi that can affect your health, especially the molds that inhabit your basement and those in the air you breathe. He will discuss, as well as possible, questions you may have about rot, mushrooms, molds, plant disease or any other mycological topic. Call 872-0800 for more information.

### **Sunday, January 22, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Nature Center** See January 8 description.

### **Saturday, January 28, at 2pm: "The History of Geology in Thacher Park" at Thacher Nature Center**

The plaque at the west end of the Indian Ladder trail honors "pioneering geologists whose researches in the Helderbergs from 1819 to 1850 made this region classic ground." The list includes James Hall, our first State Geologist; Sir Charles Lyell, the Scottish geologist; Louis Agassiz, the Swiss geologist who discovered the Ice Ages; and James Eights (what was he doing in the Antarctic?). Find out more about these famous individuals and their historical significance with Thom Engel, who has been tracking their footsteps in the park for decades. Call 872-0800 for more information.

### **Sunday, January 29, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Nature Center** See January 8 description.

### **Wednesday, February 1, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk in the Woods at Thacher Park** See January 11 description.



*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](http://nysparks.com) and find the webpage for Thacher Park or the Nature Center or call 518-474-2997.*





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### **Saturday, February 4, at 10am: Family Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Nature Center**

Bring the kids and enjoy a family-paced snowshoe walk on the Nature Center trails. Snowshoes for all ages are available to rent for \$5 per person and may be reserved in advance. Call 872-0800 to register and/or reserve snowshoes. In case of severe weather, please call ahead to confirm program.

### **Sunday, February 5, at 2pm: "Archaeological History and Site Preservation in the Schoharie Valley" at Thacher Nature Center**

Flooding and other natural disasters can have detrimental effects on the preservation of archaeological sites. State Archeologist, Dr. Christine Reith, will discuss the archaeological history of the Schoharie Valley and the impact that Hurricane Irene has had on the preservation of archaeological sites in the region. Call 872-0800 for more information.

### **Wednesday, February 8, 1-3pm: Homeschool Snowshoe Program at Thacher Nature Center**

Break the monotony of the season and join other homeschooled children and parents for some outdoor winter fun. We'll take a snowshoe walk to examine animal tracks and sign, and discuss some of nature's adaptations for winter. Then we'll warm up with hot cocoa and indoor activities. Space is limited, call 872-0800 to register and reserve snowshoes.

### **Saturday, February 11, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Park**

Enjoy beautiful views from the escarpment on a snowshoe walk in the park. Call 872-0800 to register and for meeting place. Snowshoes are available to rent and may be reserved in advance. In case of severe weather, please call ahead to confirm program.

### **Sunday, February 12, at 2pm: "The Evolutionary History of Birds," at Thacher Nature Center**

Did you know that birds are a highly specialized group of reptiles? In fact, birds are the last remaining lineage of the dinosaurs. In celebration of Charles Darwin's 203rd birthday, Dr. Jeremy Kirchman, Curator of Birds at the NY State Museum, will discuss evidence from the fossil record and from genetics research for the origin and evolutionary diversification of birds. Call 872-0800 for more information.

### **Saturday, February 18, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Nature Center**

Enjoy a guided snowshoe walk on the Nature Center trails. Snowshoes are available to rent for \$5 per person and may be reserved in advance. Call 872-0800 to register and/or reserve snowshoes. In case of extreme weather, please call ahead to confirm program.

### **Sunday, February 19, at 9:30am: Birding Skills & the "Great Backyard Bird Count" at Thacher Nature Center**

Learn how to use binoculars, field guides and bird identification keys. Practice your new skills at the bird observation window, where participants will identify and count bird species for the "Great Backyard Bird Count". This citizen-science project can be done from your own living room! We'll teach you how! Bring binoculars and field guides, or we will provide. Call 872-0800 to register. This indoor program, open to adults and families, is part of our Jr. Birder series.

### **Sunday, February 19, at 2pm: "The Power of Water" at Thacher Nature Center**

Driven largely by the energy of the sun and gravity, water is a key geological force that continually alters the landscape through rainfall, floods, currents, waves, tsunamis, tides, landslides, glacial ice, and even the daily action of freezing and thawing in fall and spring. The year 2011 provided a few key examples of water in action: the Japanese tsunami, the Keene Valley landslide, and Tropical Storm Irene. Speaker is Dr. Chuck Ver Straeten, geologist at the NY State Museum. Feel free to bring along your fossil rocks for identification. Call 872-0800 for more information.

### **Wednesday, February 22, 11am-3pm: Snow Day at Thacher Nature Center**

Join us for a day of winter fun! Take a snowshoe walk, help build a snow shelter, look for animal tracks, and make a snow painting. Warm up indoors with food, crafts and stories. Make your own smoothies, trail mix, and more with Honest Weight Food Co-op's healthy snacks program! Storyteller Claire Nolan will be here to share entertaining winter-themed stories. Program is appropriate for all ages. Materials fee of \$10 per family. Please call 872-0800 to register, reserve snowshoes, and for the activity schedule.

### **Saturday, February 25, at 10am: Snowshoe Walk at Thacher Nature Center** See February 18 description.

### **Sunday, February 26, 10am – 2pm: Winter Botany Workshop 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 condition with botanist Ruth Schottman. Indoor study will be followed by time outdoors. Please dress for comfort outdoors with minimal activity. Bring a bag lunch. Program fee is \$2. Call 872-0800 to register.



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