DECEMBER

Tuesday, December 1st Nature Journaling: Kids 11:00am Adults: 1:00pm

Join an educator at the nature center to get started on your field journaling journey. We will supply journals, or we can handmake them. We will learn about the importance of recording observations, practice our skills, and go on a short walk if we are able. This is free and geared to ages 6+ and 13+. We will sit and observe on the beach after our talk so please wear the appropriate clothing. For beginners to experts! Please reserve your spot in advance by calling the office at 518-793-0511.

Tuesday, December 1st Potters Point Hike 2:00pm

Join an educator for an afternoon walk through the woods at Potters Point. This hike is about 1 mile of trail-less wandering. You'll be sure to enjoy the views of the Hudson River and explore a space that you might not know about. Please register by calling the front office at (518) 793-0511. Limit 15 participants.

Thursday, December 3rd Pinecone Bird Feeders 11:00AM

Join an educator to create your own winter bird feeder using pinecones and suet! We will explore how birds adapt to colder temperatures, what they eat during the winter, and how we can help provide food for local wildlife. Participants will make a pinecone feeder to take home and enjoy watching the birds that visit. Free program for ages 6+. Registration is required, with limited space available for 10 participants. Please call the office to register (518) 793-0511.

Every Friday, Wiggly Wanderers 9:30am

Every Friday, year-round we will meet at the Nature Center for Wiggly Wanderers. Wiggly Wanderers is a casual and fun program that is offered to walking toddlers, carriable babies and their caregivers. This is a beginner's hike/wander series with not too much distance for toddlers who are ready to move and caregivers who are willing and able to baby wear and/or carry their toddler if their legs get too tired. Strollers will not work for these programs. We meet at the Nature Center parking lot. This program is free and does not require registration.

Saturday, December 5th Friends Craft 11:00am-1:00pm

Join the Friends of Moreau Lake for a holiday craft! This is free and will be for all ages. You can find more information and register on FriendsofMoreauLake.org .

Sunday, December 6th Night Sky at the Telescope 6:00pm

Did you know that large white dome on the beach is an observatory?! Come to the beach to take a view of the dark sky with our telescope, where we have our volunteer astronomer teach us about the stars! If you have a telescope at home that you need help troubleshooting, the astronomer is welcoming people to bring there's if they have any questions. Dress for the weather! This program is free and for all ages. Please register in advance by calling the office at 518-793-0511.

Every Monday, Birding at Big Bend 8:15am

Every Monday, (December 7, 14, 21, 28) you can bring your binoculars if you have them and we will check out what birds are around this time of year at Big Bend. This will be a short start-and-stop hike for about an hour and a half. Big Bend is a great place to bird from beginners to experts. This is free and geared toward ages 13+. We will meet at the park office and caravan to Big Bend. If Big Bend is closed for prescribed burning, we will still have the walk at the lake. Please register in advance by calling the office at 518-793-0511.

Wednesday, December 9th Retirement Hike: Mud Pond 9:30am

Maybe you just retired, or have you been for years? This free hike is meant to be a nice walk with other retirees who are interested in getting out of the house and stretching their legs. This hike at Mud Pond is approximately 2.5 miles. Please watch the weather, dress appropriately and bring water/snacks for yourself. The educator leading this hike is not retired, however she looks forward to it someday! Please register in advance by calling 518-793-0511.

Thursday, December 10th Homeschool: Reindeer Genetics 11:00AM

Join an educator for a fun introduction to genetics and heredity! Explore how traits are passed from parents to offspring and discover how DNA helps determine the characteristics of living things. Participants will create their own edible DNA models using Twizzlers and gummy bears while learning about the building blocks of life. This free program is best for ages 8+. Registration is required, with limited space available for 25 participants. Please call the office to register (518) 793-0511.

Saturday, December 12th Women's Hike: Lake Bonita 9:00am

This is a new program offering for women. We will be going 1.9 miles around Lake Bonita, taking advantage of any teaching opportunities that Mother Nature provides for us. This is a free program for feminine presenting people ages 13+. Please register in advance by calling (518) 793-0511.

Sunday, December 13th Hiking Series: Nature Trail & Recognition Party 9:30am

Following our last hiking challenge of 2026 around Moreau Lake (3.03 miles), we will be celebrating a wonderful year of dedicated, kind, and fun group of hikers at the Nature Center. Even if you only attended one hike, or plan on joining us in 2027 and want to learn more, still come to the party! Registration required please call 518-793-0511.

Tuesday, December 15th Animal Track Hike at Big Bend 10:00am

Join an educator on a flat hike at Big Bend to look for animal tracks! If there hasn't been any snow we will use our detective skills to look for all animal evidence. This hike can be up to 1.5 miles, we will adjust and accommodate to the people attending. This program is free and for all ages. Please register in advance by calling 518-793-0511.

Wednesday, December 16th Big Bend Loop 1:00pm

Join an educator on a hike on Big Bend Barrens trail and Whispering Pines. The trail is 4.2 miles with an elevation gain/loss of 53 feet. We will meet at the park office and caravan over to the Big Bend trailhead. This program is free and for ages 13+, Please register in advance by calling 518-793-0511.

Thursday, December 17th Homeschool: Winter Decomposers 11:00AM

What happens to leaves, logs, and other organic material during the winter? Join an educator to explore the interesting world of decomposers! Learn about our Giant African Millipedes and discover the importance of these invertebrates in breaking down organic matter. We will also take a closer look at the microscopic world by observing bacterial

cultures under a microscope. This free program is best for ages 8+. Registration is required, with limited space available for 25 participants. Please call the office to register (518) 793-0511.

Friday, December 18th Winterize Your Boots 10:00AM

Join an educator to learn how to prepare your footwear for winter exploring! We will "walk" through the importance of staying warm and dry outdoors. We will discuss how different materials help protect us from the elements, and learn simple ways to care for and winterize your gear. Participants will have the opportunity to treat their own boots and get ready for the winter season. This free program is open to all ages. No registration required.

Saturday, December 19th "The Christmas Owl" Storytime 10:00am

Join an educator at the Nature Center where we will be reading "The Christmas Owl", a New York Times bestseller! Experience the beautiful story that captivated the country about a little Saw-Whet Owl, just like our very own Sam, found in the famous Rockefeller Christmas tree. This book was written by Ellen Kalish, the caretaker for the real owl found in the tree. After the story we will talk a little about Sams story and how we can protect owls and migratory birds in simple but meaningful ways.

Sunday, December 20th Winter Solstice Lantern Making 11:00am-2:00pm

Drop by the nature center to celebrate the start of winter! We will be making lanterns out of invasive plant species. This is for all ages and there is no registration required. Drop by any time from 11-2pm

Tuesday, December 22nd Meet our Animal Ambassadors 11:00am

Join an educator to take a tour of our nature center and get to know our animal ambassadors! We will discuss each animal and the story of how they came to us, why we have them, their current needs, and talk about their very specific personalities and behaviors. We have turtles, snakes, and owls, oh my! This program is free and for all ages. Please register in advance by calling 518-793-0511.

Wednesday, December 23rd Retirement Hike 9:30am

Maybe you just retired, or have you been for years? This free hike is meant to be a nice walk with other retirees who are interested in getting out of the house and stretching their legs. These walks will usually be around or under 3 miles on some uneven terrain. Please watch the weather, dress appropriately and bring water/snacks for yourself. The educator leading this hike is not retired, however she looks forward to it someday! Please register in advance by calling 518-793-0511.

Wednesday, December 23rd Night Hike at Big Bend 6:00pm

Join a park educator on a leisurely twilight walk at Big Bend. If the clouds cooperate, we'll get to enjoy the splendor of the full "Cold" moon. We will meet at the park office and caravan to the Big Bend trailhead. This is a free program and for all ages, but note that it is approximately a 2 mile walk. You must register by calling the office at 518-793-0511.

Thursday, December 24th "The Christmas Owl" Storytime 10:00am

Join an educator at the Nature Center where we will be reading "The Christmas Owl", a New York Times bestseller! Experience the beautiful story that captivated the country about a little Saw-Whet Owl, just like our very own Sam, found in the famous Rockefeller Christmas tree. This book was written by Ellen Kalish, the caretaker for the real owl found in the tree. After the story we will talk a little about Sams story and how we can protect owls and migratory birds in simple but meaningful ways.

Saturday, December 26th Winter Bird Journaling and Feeder Watch 10:00AM

Join an educator for a calm indoor activity observing the birds visiting our feeders outside the Nature Center. This relaxing program is beginner friendly and a peaceful way to connect with winter wildlife. This program is free for all ages. No registration required.

Sunday, December 27th Wrapping Paper Collage Crafting 11:00am-2:00pm

Drop by the nature center to recycle your leftover gift wrap and turn it into a fun keepsake collage, gift tags or decoration! This program is for all ages, wrapping paper not provided. This program is a hands-on way to explore creativity and sustainability. This is free and for all ages. No registration required, drop by any time from 11-2pm.

Tuesday, December 29th Eagle Watch 8:30am

Join a park educator on a convoy-style journey along the Hudson River to learn how to ethically look for and spot our local Bald Eagles! We will be getting in and out of vehicles at a few locations and, with a little luck, viewing the eagles through binoculars, so make sure to bring your hat and gloves! If you have binoculars, bring them, we have a couple pairs to pass around as well. Free and for ages 13+. Please register in advance by calling 518-793-0511.

Wednesday, December 30th Friends Craft 12:00-2:00pm

Join the Friends of Moreau Lake for a craft! This is free and will be for all ages. You can find more information and register on FriendsofMoreauLake.org .

Thursday, December 31st Eco Resolutions 11:00AM

Join an educator to create a New Year's resolution collage featuring environmentally friendly ideas and everyday actions that can make a difference. We will explore simple ways to reduce waste, conserve resources, and make more sustainable choices in the year ahead. Participants will create their own collage of goals and ideas to take home. Free program for ages 6+. Registration is required, with limited space available for 15 participants. Please call the office to register (518) 793-0511.

Friday, January 1st 2027 First Day Hike 11:00am

Join Moreau Lake State Park staff in ringing in the new year! We will be hiking around the beautiful Moreau Lake- starting the hike all together at the park office. There will be a section of the hike that will allow the option to split off and make it a shorter loop of about 2.1 miles or they can continue on the longer hike of 3 miles, both will end either at the Warming Hut for snacks and hot cocoa supplied by the Friends of Moreau Lake or back to the Park Office.

Hikers should wear appropriate clothes for the weather, waterproof hiking shoes, and micro spikes if they have them. Bring water and a snack. This is a free event and registration is not required.