

THE PALISADES PARKS CONSERVANCY



Monarch Caterpillar, photo by Mark Diedrich

**New York State Office
of Parks, Recreation,
and Historic
Preservation**

**Palisades Interstate
Park Commission**

***Minnewaska State
Park Preserve***

August 2013 Events

Pre-registration is required for participation in all public programs. Please call the Park Preserve Office at 845-255-0752. For outings, please wear appropriate clothing and footwear and bring snacks and water. A parent or guardian over the age of 18 must accompany children wishing to participate in any programs. Unless otherwise noted, all outings meet at the Nature Center, located in the Wildmere area at the north end of Lake Minnewaska.

Saturday, August 3, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Walk to Awosting Falls

Unsure how to get to Awosting Falls from Lake Minnewaska? Join a park educator for this two-mile walk to reach this magnificent 60 foot waterfall, starting from the Nature Center. We'll follow two carriage roads which will lead us down the steep hill to reach the bottom of the gorge where the waterfall is found. Pre-registration is required.

Sunday, August 4, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Nature Journals for Children

Bring your child to the Nature Center to make their own nature journal. After the journals are made, we'll take a walk on trails near the Nature Center where children can look for leaves and other natural items to include in their book. This program is for children between the ages of six to ten years old, accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Siblings of any age are welcome to join us, but younger children may need parental assistance making their journal. Pre-registration is required.

Tuesday, August 6, 7:00 a.m.: Early Morning Birders

Designed for birding enthusiasts or those just looking to learn the basics, this series will offer various outings led by experienced birding volunteers and naturalists. Participants will meet at the main Park Preserve entrance every Tuesday morning. In July and August, outings will begin at 7:00 a.m. and in September and October, outings will begin at 8:00 a.m. Participants should come prepared with binoculars. Outing destinations will be determined the day of the program. **This program also occurs on August 13th, 20th and 27th.**

Tuesday, August 6, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.: Story Time with Grandma Mabel

Bring your young children to the Nature Center for a fun and educational story time with park volunteer, Mabel O'Brien. During the school year, Mabel reads to children at a local elementary school, and this summer she'll be reading stories about nature for young children every other week beginning Tuesday, July 9th. Bring your swimming gear, bikes, picnic lunches or other gear and spend the rest of the day at Minnewaska. This program is for children between the ages of four to six years old, accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Well-behaved siblings of any age are welcome to join us. Pre-registration is required.

Summer Youth Programs: Junior Naturalists, Session 2

Minnewaska's fun and affordable summer youth programming offers parents the opportunity to join in the exploration with their children. All programs include time outside discovering the glorious trails of Minnewaska, and you pay only the parking fee of \$8 per vehicle. Your parking fee gets you into the Park Preserve for the entire day, so plan to stay after the program and bring your swim gear, bikes and cameras. Well-behaved siblings of any age are welcome, but all programs do include hiking. Very young children need to be carried by adults in a backpack style

carrier. See dates and age recommendations below. Participants must come dressed appropriately and pack their own lunch, snack and water. Pre-registration is required and all children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at least 18 years old.

Wednesday, August 7th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Junior Naturalists: Art in the Park

Your children will learn about some of the great painters of the 20th century and make their own art to take home. Participants should be prepared to walk two miles and also to spend time sitting and observing nature. We suggest bringing a comfortable cushion for sitting on the ground. This program is recommended for eight to twelve year old children accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at least 18 years old. Pre-registration is required.

Thursday, August 8th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Junior Naturalists: Geology and Debris Hut Building

Your children will learn about the unique geology of the Shawangunk Ridge while directly experiencing it on a hike in the Peter's Kill Area of Minnewaska. This approximately one-and-a-half mile long hike features two scenic views of surrounding valleys and the Catskills. After the hike, your children will build their own debris hut out of branches and leaves found in the woods. This program is recommended for seven to eleven year old children accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at least 18 years old. Pre-registration is required.

Saturday, August 10, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Wild Edible Clue Hunt

What plants in the woods are good to eat? In this orienteering-based program, we will follow clues and compass headings to locate various wild edible plants within the Park Preserve. This program is recommended for anyone over the age of ten who is interested in learning about wild edible plants. All children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian over the age of 18. Pre-registration is required.

Sunday, August 11, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Mossy Glen Meander

This three-mile hike follows along the quietly babbling edges of the Peter's Kill, a stream running through cool hemlock forests and tropical-feeling rhododendron stands along the

Mossy Glen footpath. This trail does include some tricky footing and one potentially challenging stream crossing, but the trip along the Lower Awosting Carriage Road is an easy stroll. Pre-registration is required.

Wednesday, August 14, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Babes in the Woods

This series, which is designed just for people with infants, will be offered the first and third Tuesday and second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Each week, join volunteer outdoor educator and mother, Jamie McGinnis, for a gentle walk along one of the numerous scenic carriage roads in Minnewaska. These walks are a great way to introduce your baby to the beauty of the outdoors, meet new friends, get some exercise and learn about nature all at the same time! Plan to pack a lunch and blanket and stay for optional play time and a picnic afterwards too! Please bring a jogging-type stroller or child carrier and plan to meet at the Wildmere Parking Area Kiosk. Older siblings are always welcome, too. Pre-registration is required. **This program also occurs on August 28th.**

Wednesday, August 14th, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.: Wild Wednesdays Family Day:

Bike to Lake Awosting

Bring your own bicycle, helmet, swimming gear and picnic lunch and join us for this challenging, hilly, nine-mile bicycle ride to the picturesque and refreshing Lake Awosting Swim Area. This program is recommended for physically fit eight to twelve year old children accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Siblings of any age who are capable of participating are welcome. Participants must make sure to pack plenty of food and water and wear appropriate footwear. Pre-registration is required.

Saturday, August 17, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Hike around the Peter's Kill Area

Come explore the Peter's Kill Area on this approximately two mile loop hike. The footpath we will be following ascends some of the local terrain, culminating in view towards the Catskills. The remainder of the hike primarily follows along the edge of the Peter's Kill, a cool mountain stream that cuts through moss and lichen covered rock. This hike includes some moderate to challenging hills and rocky, tricky footing. This outing meets in the Peter's Kill Area. Pre-registration is required.

Sunday, August 18, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Beautiful Birds

Bring your children to the Minnewaska Nature Center to learn all about our feathered friends. After touching feathers and nests, hearing various bird calls and looking at mounted

birds, children will make their own toy binoculars. Then, we'll play a bird scavenger hunt along a wooded mile-long carriage road which features a stunning view of the Catskills at its terminus. This program is recommended for children between the ages of six to ten years old, accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Pre-registration is required.

Tuesday, August 20, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.: Story Time with Grandma Mabel

Bring your young children to the Nature Center for a fun and educational story time with park volunteer, Mabel O'Brien. During the school year, Mabel reads to children at a local elementary school, and this summer she'll be reading stories about nature for young children every other week beginning Tuesday, July 9th. Bring your swimming gear, bikes, picnic lunches or other gear and spend the rest of the day at Minnewaska. This program is for children between the ages of four to six years old, accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Well-behaved siblings of any age are welcome to join us. Pre-registration is required.

Homeschoolers' Summer 2013 Naturalist Series: Session 2

Minnewaska's fun and affordable summer programs for homeschooled children offer parents the opportunity to join in the fun and exploration with their children. All programs include time outside discovering the glorious trails of Minnewaska, and you pay only the parking fee of \$8 per vehicle. Your parking fee gets you into the Park Preserve for the entire day, so plan to stay after the program and bring your swim gear, bikes and cameras. Well-behaved siblings of any age are welcome, but all programs do include hiking. Very young children need to be carried by adults in a backpack style carrier. See dates and age recommendations below. Participants must come dressed appropriately and pack their own lunch, snack and water. Pre-registration is required and all children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at least 18 years old.

Wednesday, August 21, 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.:

Homeschoolers' Summer Naturalists: Beautiful Birds

This ever popular program teaches children all about birds while having fun playing a game, going for a bird scavenger hunt and making their own binoculars to take home. Kids will hear bird songs, touch feathers and nests, look and listen for wild birds and have fun walking the trail. This program is designed for children, ages six to ten years old, accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Well-behaved siblings capable of participating are always welcome. Pre-registration is

required.

Thursday, August 22, 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.:
Homeschoolers' Summer Naturalists: Natural Sculptures and Rainstick
Making

Children will make their own rainstick using a cardboard tube and other household items. Then, we'll take a hike along the edges of the Peter's Kill stream to choose a location where kids will make their own sculptures and drawings out of natural elements such as rocks, leaves and twigs found on the ground. This program meets at the Peter's Kill Park Office and is recommended for seven to ten year old children accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Well-behaved siblings capable of participating are always welcome. Pre-registration is required.

Saturday, August 24, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Learn Your Leaves: Marvelous
Maples

Are you confused with tree terminology or the multitude of different kinds of trees? Then, this basic tree identification walk, which will focus on one family of trees, is made for you. As we take a two-mile hike around Lake Minnewaska, we will take a look at the marvelous maples that call this Park Preserve home. Pre-registration is required.

Sunday, August 25, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: Two Views for One Hike

Start the weekend on the right foot by joining Laura Conner, Environmental Educator, on this moderately challenging two-mile hike in the Peter's Kill area of Minnewaska. This often overlooked and lovely route features two gorgeous vistas, one out over the Clove Valley, with a view of the iconic Skytop Tower, and the other of the Rondout Valley and the Catskill Mountains. Pre-registration required.

Saturday, August 31, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: Beacon Hill Loop Hike

The Beacon Hill loop hike offers a full Minnewaska experience in a small package. This two-mile hike includes an easy-going carriage road and moderately challenging footpath that crosses rock slabs dotted with pitch pines and features numerous scenic vistas of the surrounding Hudson Valley. The return to our starting point will take us on the beautiful Lake Minnewaska Carriage Road. Pre-registration is required.

Sunday, September 1, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Wild for Wildlife

Calling all wildlife detectives! Join us at the Minnewaska Nature Center for an introduction to wildlife detection and to make a plaster cast of an animal track to take home. While these tracks are solidifying, we'll meander through the site of the former resort golf course in search of wildlife activity in the form of browse, scat, and tracks. This program is recommended for children seven to ten years old, accompanied by an adult over the age of 18. Pre-registration is required.

Monday, September 2, Labor Day, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.: Rainbow Falls Hike

Come celebrate water, a powerful landscape-changing force and a most vital resource by visiting one of Minnewaska's waterfalls. This approximately five mile walk is mostly on carriage roads until we reach the Rainbow Falls Trail. From there, the path dips down into the lush Huntington Ravine to reach the aptly named Rainbow Falls. Pre-registration is required.

For information and to register for programs, please call the Park Preserve Office at 845-255-0752. Minnewaska State Park Preserve is open from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. from August 6th until September 17th, when the Park Preserve will close at 7:00 p.m. The fee for parking is \$8 per vehicle and there are no additional fees for public programs, unless noted. All fees are subject to change. Minnewaska State Park Preserve consists of approximately 22,000 acres of wild and scenic land located on Route 44/55, five miles west of the intersection with Route 299 in Gardiner, New York.

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