

## Minnewaska Homeschoolers Series

These programs, designed for homeschooled children, will be offered on the first Wednesday and Thursday of the month, from October through June, with the exception of March. *For previous participants, please note the new time for Wednesdays as of October 2011.*

### Homeschoolers': Winter Fun Fest Thursday, March 1, 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

**Rescheduled for March!** Are you feeling the four walls pressing in on you? Do you yearn for some good old fashioned winter fun for you and your children? Come join the education staff at Minnewaska for an afternoon of winter games and a craft, all in the beautiful outdoors! Scheduled activities include a tag game to be played in snowshoes, a snowball throwing contest, a snow sculpture contest, and pine cone bird feeder making. Hot cocoa and cookies will be available as well.

This program is recommended for children six to ten years old, accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18 years. In the case of no snow, alternate fun activities will be offered. Snowshoes may be reserved and rented at a discounted rate for education programs from the Park Office, located at the Peter's Kill Climbing Area. And, well-behaved siblings of any age are always welcome! Plan to arrive early if renting snowshoes.

**Pre-registration is required.**

### Don't Forget!

#### SRBP Lecture Series

Thursday, March 1, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

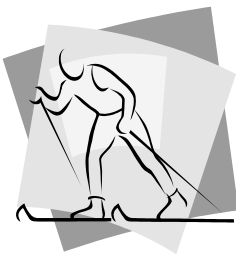
*The Surprisingly Significant Earthworm.*

With Dr. Peter Groffman, Senior Scientist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. This free lecture will take place at SUNY New Paltz, Lecture Hall 102.

## Minnewaska Announcements!

### Winter Activities!

Minnewaska State Park Preserve is open year round! Winter activities include snowshoeing and cross-country skiing on designated trails.



Once trails are groomed for cross-country skiing, a per-head trail fee of \$6 per adult and \$5 per junior applies. A per car fee of \$8 will be charged for those snowshoeing from the Awosting or Peter's Kill lots. Snowshoe rentals are available at the Park Office for \$15.00 per adult and \$14.00 per junior, per day.

### Winter Conditions!

Winter weather can bring quickly changing conditions, which may affect the public programming schedule. In the event of dangerous conditions, some programs may be rescheduled or cancelled. Please contact the Park Preserve Office to get the latest schedule updates.



### Join Our Program List!

Would you like to know what programs are being offered at Minnewaska on a monthly basis? If so, please contact the Park Preserve Education Dept. at 845-255-0752 to receive our monthly e-mail notification of on-going public programs.

## Park Preserve Hours:

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

### Office Hours:

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

A parent or guardian over the age of 18 years must accompany children wishing to participate in any programs.

Please dress appropriately for being outside and bring adequate snacks and drinks. Programs begin promptly at the scheduled time.

To register for programs or for more information, please contact the Park Preserve Office at 845-255-0752.

Minnewaska State Park Preserve consists of approximately 21,000 acres of wild and scenic land located on Rt. 44/55, five miles west of the intersection with Rt. 299 in Gardiner, NY.



State of New York  
Office of Parks, Recreation  
& Historic Preservation  
Palisades Interstate Park Commission



Minnewaska State Park Preserve  
PO Box 893 New Paltz, NY 12561  
Phone: 845-255-0752  
Fax: 845-255-3505

## Minnewaska State Park Preserve

## Public Programs February 2012



Park Preserve Office Phone:  
845-255-0752  
nysparks.com

# February 2012 Public Programs

All programs are free of charge.  
Space is limited, please pre-register by  
calling the Park Office at 845-255-0752

## SRBP Lecture Series

Thursday, February 9, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

*Landscape-Scale Conservation: Connecting the Ridge with the Foothills.* With John Thompson, Director of Conservation Science, Mohonk Preserve. The Mohonk Preserve and Open Space Institute are working with partners to protect grassland and wetlands habitat on the eastern flank of the Shawangunk Ridge to increase connectivity and preserve this iconic rural landscape. John will highlight the historic environmental and cultural value of the site with photos from the Preserve's Daniel Smiley Research Center collection, and discuss the enduring ecological value of these lands. This free lecture will take place at SUNY New Paltz, Lecture Hall 102.

## Guided Cross-Country Ski

Sunday, February 12, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Join Laura Conner, Environmental Educator, for a guided cross-country ski along Lake Minnewaska Carriage Road, Millbrook Carriage Road and Hamilton Point Carriage Road, where we'll reach our final destination at Echo Rock vista. This approximately four-mile long ski features both groomed and ungroomed terrain and gorgeous views out over the Palmaghatt Ravine. This ski does include some challenging hills and curves and is recommended for skiers with previous experience. You must provide your own gear.

**Pre-registration specifically with Laura Conner is required.**

## Tuesday Trek: Snowshoe the Upper High Peter's Kill

Tuesday, February 14, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Join Laura Conner, Environmental Educator for an approximately two-mile long snowshoe outing along the upper section of the High Peter's Kill hiking trail. This lovely and modestly challenging snowshoe hike amongst the mountain laurels features two scenic vistas. We will meet at the Awosting Parking Area and walk the same route both directions.

**Pre-registration is required.**

## SRBP Lecture Series

Thursday, February 16, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

*Creating America's Eastern Wildway.* With John Davis, co-founder of the Wildlands Network. In 2011, John hiked, canoed, cycled, and skied over 5,000 miles of the Eastern Wildway of the United States and Canada to demonstrate the need and potential for conservation connectivity for the benefit of wildlife, vegetation, protected areas, and people. Join John as he discusses the potential for connecting America's eastern wildlands and cultural landscapes and maintaining viable ecosystems in the face of fragmentation and climate disruption. This free lecture will take place at SUNY New Paltz, Lecture Hall 102.

## New Snowshoes and Frozen Falls

Saturday, February 18, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Have you ever wanted to snowshoe, but never had an opportunity to do so? Now is a great opportunity to get out and learn how with Park Educator, Nick Martin. In this introductory outing, we will experience how easy traveling in snowshoes can be. After learning how to put on our new shoes and maneuver in snowshoes, we will go for a short excursion to the base of a possibly frozen Awosting Falls. Along the way, we'll look for signs of wildlife that have been left in the snow. Be prepared to make tracks! This outing meets in the Awosting parking lot.

**Pre-registration is required.**

## Wildlife Tracking Program

Monday, February 20, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Join Laura Conner, Environmental Educator, and Carl Herzog, biologist with the Wildlife Diversity Unit of New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation, for this unique program. An expert tracker, Carl spent thousands of hours tracking wildlife prior to joining the Department of Environmental Conservation in 2004.

During the course of this three-hour outing, participants will learn by searching for and studying numerous signs of wildlife with Carl, whose unique teaching style challenges participants to decipher tracks, browse and many other wildlife signs. Winter is an amazing time to see all sorts of wildlife clues that we might often miss in summer. You'll be amazed to discover how many different animals live in the Park Preserve! **Pre-registration is required.**

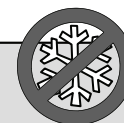
## SRBP Lecture Series

Thursday, February 23, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

*Living on the Wind: The Miracle of Bird Migration.* With Scott Weidensaul, noted author and naturalist. Since the dawn of human imagination, we have been spellbound by the migration of birds, in which even the smallest species traverse immensities of space the way we cross the street. New research continually expands our understanding of where birds travel and their migratory feats. But while populations of many migratory birds are in drastic decline, there are many things we can do to save them. Scott will explore the wonder and mechanics of migration and the simple, effective ways we can preserve migratory birds, from what we plant in our gardens to what we pour into our morning mug of coffee. Presented in partnership with Birds & Beans Bird-Friendly Coffee. This free lecture will take place at SUNY New Paltz, Lecture Hall 102.

## No Snow?

In the event of no snow, snowshoe and cross-country ski programs will be rescheduled as hiking programs instead.



## Snowshoe Beacon Hill

Sunday, February 26, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Join Laura Conner, Environmental Educator, for a one-and-a-half-mile long snowshoe hike along two carriage roads and one hiking trail. Views along the Beacon Hill hiking trail, which does feature some challenging terrain as it follows along an escarpment edge, are particularly spectacular on clear winter days. Signs of wildlife can be abundant in this area as well. *Please note, once ski trails are groomed, the entrance fee for this area of the Park Preserve is \$6 per adult and \$5 per junior and the Empire Passport can not be used.*

**Pre-registration is required.**

## Tuesday Trek: Mine Hole Hike

Tuesday, February 28, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Eric Van Deusen, retired librarian, naturalist and frequent visitor to Minnewaska will lead this hike or snowshoe to the Mine Hole area, located off Foordmore Road in Kerhonkson. Join us as we hike uphill to Point Lookout and clamber down to examine the site of the old tin mine, located near a small waterfall (if conditions permit). This approximately three-mile long hike does include a continuous long hill on somewhat rugged trails. Participants may need to ride share as the parking area is limited. We will meet at the Peter's Kill Climbing Area and then convoy to the hiking area.

**Pre-registration is required.**



## Need Snowshoes?

Snowshoes may be rented from the Park Preserve Office, located at the Peter's Kill Climbing Area. Early arrival is suggested for snowshoe rental.