

## **STATE PARKS ANNOUNCES FALL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Enjoy the splendor of Fall in Western New York with a diverse offering of programs sponsored by the Niagara Region of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. All events are free to attend and registration is strongly encouraged.

**Saturday, October 4**

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Bones Day - Noll Nature Center at Glen Park in Williamsville**

This event is presented by the Town of Amherst in partnership with NYS Parks and NYSDEC Reinstein Woods. ***For information contact Amherst Youth & Recreation at (716) 631-7132.***

**Sunday, October 5**

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Secret Falls of Knox - Knox Farm State Park**

Join us for a hike to the little known falls of Knox Farm. Along the way we will visit the pond and explore the diverse habitats found in the park. ***Call (716) 549-1050 to register for program.***

**Sunday, October 5**

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Fall Fitness Sundays - Niagara Falls State Park**

Tired of going to the same gym every day? Want to try something new and exciting? This series offers just that! Get out, be active, and enjoy the benefits of hiking and take in the beautiful scenery of autumn.

***Call (716) 282-5154 to register for program.***

**Saturday, October 11**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Fall Foliage Walk - Buckhorn Island State Park Sanctuary**

Leave your worries and stress behind and join us as we venture through a kaleidoscope of color on a walk along the Niagara River. ***Call (716) 282-5154 to register for program.***

**Saturday, October 11**

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Three Point Five Part I - Artpark State Park**

Hike half of the gorge from its beginning point at the Niagara Escarpment to the magnificent Whirlpool. (Part II will be offered on Saturday, October 18.)

***Call (716) 282-5154 to register for program.***

**Saturday, October 11**

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual WNY Earth Science Day Celebration - Penn Dixie Site in Hamburg**

Meet earth scientists to see what they do, and enjoy public fossil collecting. State parks will have a display and activities under the tent. ***For information contact Penn Dixie at (716) 627-4560.***

**Sunday, October 12**

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Fun Day - Whirlpool State Park**

Celebrate Fall at this fun event for all ages. Wear your Halloween costume! Enjoy live acoustic music in the background as you make arts & crafts, followed by apple cider & doughnuts. Afterwards, walk around our scenic state park and take in the fall foliage. **Call (716) 282-5154 to register for program.**

**Sunday, October 12**

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Christmas at the Lighthouse - Golden Hill State Park**

This annual event sponsored by *Friends of Thirty Mile Point Lighthouse* will include lighthouse tours, basket auction, souvenirs for sale, local wineries, music and a state park display. There will be food available including a chicken barbeque. Admission to the park & lighthouse is FREE. Don't miss the annual arrival of Santa and his elves. **For information call (716) 795-3885.**

**Sunday, October 12**

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Fall Fitness Sundays - Wilson Tuscarora State Park**

Tired of going to the same gym every day? Want to try something new and exciting? This series offers just that! Get out, be active, and enjoy the benefits of hiking and take in the beautiful scenery of autumn. This week's program will be at Wilson Tuscarora State Park. **Call (716) 282-5154 to register for program.**

**Sunday, October 12**

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

**Fall Colors Photo Shoot and Owl Prowl - Knox Farm State Park**

Bring your camera to capture beautiful sunset pictures on a hike through Knox. Stay for the evening or join us at 8p.m. on an owl prowling to explore the unfamiliar sights and sounds of night!

**Call (716) 549-1050 to register for program.**

**Saturday, October 18**

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Three Point Five Part II - Whirlpool State Park**

Continue the length of the gorge from the Whirlpool to Niagara Falls (Part I of this hike is offered on Saturday, October 11.) **Call (716) 282-5154 to register for program.**

**Saturday, October 18**

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Fall Foliage Hike in the Woods - Beaver Island State Park**

Join us for a walk through the woods with brilliant colors of red, yellow and orange. **Call (716) 282-5154 to register for program.**

**Sunday, October 19**

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Fall Fitness Sundays - Fort Niagara State Park**

Tired of going to the same gym every day? Want to try something new and exciting? This series offers just that! Get out, be active, and enjoy the benefits of hiking and take in the beautiful scenery of autumn. This week's program will be at Fort Niagara State Park. ***Call (716) 282-5154 to register for program.***

**Saturday, October 25**

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Monarch Mysteries - Evangola State Park**

Have you ever wondered where this little butterfly goes for the winter and how it knows to get there? Find out about this mystery and learn about their diminishing population. ***Call (716) 549-1050 to register for program.***

**Saturday, October 25**

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Halloween Spooktacular - New York Power Authority**

Happy Halloween! Ghosts, ghouls and goblins...oh my! State parks will take part in this event at the New York Power Authority's visitor center. Join us for a ghoulish fun time and make a Halloween craft!

***For information contact NYPA at (716) 286-6661.***

**Sunday, October 26**

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Fall Fitness Sundays - Artpark State Park**

Tired of going to the same gym every day? Want to try something new and exciting? This series offers just that! Get out, be active, and enjoy the benefits of hiking and take in the beautiful scenery of autumn. This week's program will be at Artpark State Park. ***Call (716) 282-5154 to register for program.***

**Saturday, November 1**

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Fall Gorge Loop Hike - Artpark State Park**

Join us on a hike on our trails at the mouth of the gorge, which will include the new trail connection which was completed this summer. ***Call (716) 282-5154 to register for program.***

**Sunday, November 2**

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Fall Gorge Loop Hike - Devil's Hole State Park**

The trails in the gorge and along the rim present sparkling water, multicolored leaves, and panoramic views. Bring along a camera and capture this breathtaking scenery along the gorge. ***Call (716) 282-5154 to register for program.***

**Saturday, November 8**

10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Gorge at Low Water - Whirlpool State Park**

Enjoy the Niagara Gorge after the volume of water in the Niagara River is reduced by 25%. Join us for a guided hike that will take you past the Whirlpool to the site of the Great Gorge Route station and beyond. ***Call (716) 282-5154 to register for program.***

**Saturday, November 8**

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Black Bear Madness - Evangola State Park**

Have your bird feeders been emptied or your garbage cans been tipped over at night? Well this could be the sign that the black bear has moved into your neighborhood. Sightings of the black bear have been dramatically increasing in our area so come and learn about their natural habits in the wild. **Call (716) 549-1050 to register for program.**

**Saturday, November 15**

10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Gorge at Low Water - Whirlpool State Park**

See description under November 8<sup>th</sup> Gorge at Low Water hike. **Call (716) 282-5154 to register for program.**

**Saturday, December 6**

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Deck the Halls - New York Power Authority**

Bring the family to a holiday celebration of fun at the New York Power Authority's visitor center. State parks will provide a craft for the children. **For information contact NYPA at (716) 286-6661.**

**Saturday, December 13**

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Niagara Falls Winter Walk - Niagara Falls State Park**

We will view the Three Sisters Islands, Horseshoe and American Falls. We can't promise a snowy walk, but you'll see pictures of Ice Bridges and snow-covered trees. **Call (716) 282-5154 to register for program.**

**Saturday, December 13**

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Great Lake Erie Sunsets! - Evangola State Park**

National Geographic Magazine calls Lake Erie one of the top 10 places in the world to see colorful sunsets! View spectacular sunsets of the past followed by a shoreline sunset hike. **Call (716) 549-1050 to register for program.**

**Sunday, December 28**

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Long Point Cross Country Ski - Long Point State Park**

History and nature, old growth trees and more, ski the scenic views along the lakeshore! Bring your cross country skis for a guided tour. **Call (716) 549-1050 to register for program.**

**Upcoming Winter Events**

**First Day Hikes**

**Thursday, January 1, 2015**

What a better way to kick off the New Year than by joining a park naturalist and others across New York State and the Nation out on the trails on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of 2015!

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Trails Day**

**Saturday, January 10, 2015**

Winter Trails Day offers children and adults new to snow sports the chance to try snowshoeing and cross country skiing for free, and to discover the great fitness and social benefits with these easy-to-learn winter sports.