



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 26, 2014**

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(716) 285-0516**

## **STATE PARKS SPRINGS OUTDOORS!**

### *Niagara Region Parks release spring events schedule*

The Niagara Region of the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation has released its spring schedule of events. Registration is highly encouraged as activities do tend to book quickly.

#### **Friday, April 11: Vernal Pool Magic!**

Evangola State Park

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Don't be a fool, a toad on a stool, come discover a seasonal pool! Inflating their throats, with a balloon-like sack, an amphibian attack, with a wood frog quack. Blue-spotted salamanders perform breeding dances too, and stick their eggs to branches like glue. Feathery gills, it's part of their thrills, gee this is cool. I love vernal pools! For information and registration call (716)549-1050.

#### **Friday, April 18: Evening History Walk**

Artpark State Park

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy an evening at Artpark: See the Hopewell Indian Mound, the Joncaire trading post site, hear War of 1812 happenings and learn of early steamboat transportation in the area. For information and registration call (716) 285-0516.

**Friday, April 25: Night Buckhorn Swamp People!**

Buckhorn Island State Park

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Will 'O the Wisp, Swamp Sucker Mist. Leads us astray, along Nightjar way. Whinnied Screech Owls fright, by Niagara's flowing might. Hear a rattling snore? A Leopard Frog roars a symphibian chorus tonight, Buckhorn Theater by candlelight! For information and registration call (716)549-1050.

**Saturday, May 3, 2014**

**I Love My Park Day!**

Show State Parks some love by volunteering at any of our participating Niagara Region Parks!

Visit Parks & Trails New York website:

[www.ptny.org/ilovemypark](http://www.ptny.org/ilovemypark) for more information and online registration. This event is being organized in partnership between Parks & Trails New York and NYS Parks.

Below is a list of parks that our parks programs staff will be participating in.

**Evangola State Park**

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Please join us at Evangola State Park where we will be cleaning up the beach and parklands along with other improvement projects. For more information call (716)549-1050.

**Golden Hill State Park**

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Please come join the Friends of Thirty Mile Point Lighthouse in celebrating

I Love My Park Day. Our park will host a multi-event day: clean-up, lighthouse beautification including planting flowers and staining a split rail fence. There will be a Treasure Hunt for the younger volunteers. For more information call (716) 795-3885.

**Whirlpool State Park**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please join us at Whirlpool State Park where we will be cleaning up the parklands along the Niagara Gorge between Whirlpool and Devil's Hole State Parks. For more information call (716) 285-0516.

**Wilson Tuscarora State Park**

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Join a park naturalist in beautifying Wilson Tuscarora State Park. The day's activities will start at 10:00 a.m. and we will be planting flowers and cleaning up the beach. Come join the fun! For more information call (716) 285-0516.

**Friday, May 9: Woodland Wildflower Walk**

Wilson Tuscarora State Park

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Spring is in the air! Mother Nature awaits you with her annual display of wildflowers! Stroll through woods filled with old growth trees, listen for the birds overhead, and behold the beauty seen only this time of the year! End your evening with a Lake Ontario sunset! What a great start to your weekend! For information and registration call (716) 285-0516.

**Saturday, May 10: International Bird Migration Day**

**Lake Erie State Park**

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Evangola State Park**

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The southern shore of Lake Erie has one of the largest concentrations of colorful spring migrant bird species in North America! The sandy beaches, forests, grassland and wetland habitats are critical rest and feeding areas of the epic bird migration north. Two chances and locations to take a songbird-serenaded hike on this N.Y. State Parks and "Environment for the Americas" cooperative program. For information and registration call (716)549-1050.

**Saturday, May 10: Gorge Hiking Series/Artpark Gorge Trail**

Artpark State Park

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Come see where Niagara Falls began over 12,000 years ago. As we hike we will discuss the various rock layers and geography, as well as plants and animals in the area. For information and registration call (716) 285-0516.

**Friday, May 16: Evening History Hike**

Beaver Island State Park

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

We will cover tidbits of history: how the park was named, early archaeology finds and Grover Cleveland's life here on his uncle's farm. Learn some facts you may not know. For information and registration call (716)285-0516.

**Saturday, May 17: Niagara River Bike Ride**

Devil's Hole State Park

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Get your bikes ready and join us on a bicycle ride from Devil's Hole State Park to the Grand Island Bridge and back. This will be a leisurely ride along the river with stops along the way to view what you may miss when you travel by auto. For information and registration call (716) 285-0516.

**Sunday, May 18: Long Point Trail Trek**

Long Point State Park

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

From the tallest Cucumber Magnolia in New York State to the very tip of Long Point this moderately paced trail will explore the history and nature of this beautiful park along the shores of Lake Chautauqua. For information and registration call (716)549-1050.

**Saturday, May 24: Gorge Hiking Series/Devil's Hole Trail**

Devil's Hole State Park

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

This hike will explore the park's richness of history, geology, flora, and fauna among some breathtaking views. For information and registration call (716) 285-0516.

**Saturday, May 24: Gorge Hiking Series/Devil's Hole Trail**

Devil's Hole State Park

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

This hike will explore the park's richness of history, geology, flora, and fauna among some breathtaking views. For information and registration call (716) 285-0516.

**Saturday, May 31: Gorge Hiking Series/Whirlpool Rapids Trail**

Whirlpool State Park

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

One of our most scenic and challenging hikes! This trail will take us past the Whirlpool to see the rapids. We will discuss many of the unique features and events that took place here. For information and registration call (716) 285-0516.

**Saturday, June 7: National Trails Day-Length of the Gorge Hike**

Artpark State Park

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Come and enjoy the beautiful Niagara Gorge as we hike rim and gorge trails from the mouth of the gorge at Artpark to the American Falls! National Trails Day is an annual event celebrated across the United States. For more information on National Trails Day, go to <http://www.americanhiking.org/>

For information and registration call (716) 285-0516.

**Saturday, June 7: Bobolinks of Knox Farm**

Knox Farm State Park

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Bobolinks make the longest songbird migration in North America traveling over 6000 miles from South America to nest in the hayfields of Knox Farm! A great chance to see bobolinks, bluebirds, meadowlarks and more in the park's protected grassland habitat.

For information and registration call (716)549-1050.

**Friday, June 13: Evening History Hike**

Fort Niagara State Park

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

The hike will cover an overview of the river, the fort, the lighthouse, the POW's and New Fort Niagara. Join us for this walk and talk experience. For information and registration call (716)285-0516.

**Saturday, June 14: Gorge Hiking Series/Great Gorge Railway Loop Trail**

Suspension Bridge Trailhead

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

This hike will follow the gentle incline of the great Gorge Route with excellent views of the falls and rapids. We will return on the rim trail. For information and registration call (716)285-0516.

**Saturday, June 21: Niagara Gorge Rim Trail at**

Niagara Falls State Park

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

This hike will take us through the picturesque landscape of Niagara Falls. We will walk the rim trail to Prospect Point, Luna Island, and Terrapin Point. We will also visit Three Sisters Islands. For information and registration call (716)285-0516.

**Saturday, June 21: First Day of Summer Kayak Adventure**

Wilson Tuscarora State Park

10:00 am. – 12:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Join us as summer begins for an easy paddle along Twelve Mile Creek. Water safety, paddle techniques and wetland interpretation are among the topics. Participant MUST have their own kayak and Coast Guard Approved PDF. For information and registration call (716)285-0516.

**Saturday, June 28: End of June Kayak Adventure**

Wilson Tuscarora State Park

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Join us for an easy paddle along Twelve Mile Creek. Water safety, paddle techniques and wetland interpretation are among the topics. Participants MUST have their own kayak and Coast Guard Approved PDF. For information and registration call (716)285-0516.