

Community Calendar



Signs of Wildlife Program will be held on December 31 at 10 a.m. at the Thacher Nature Center. Animals leave behind lots of signs that tell us where they've been, what they eat, and where they take shelter. We will talk about animal signs and what to look for, then go outside and see what we find. When we return we'll make a delicious fake scat treat to eat. There is a \$1 fee for supplies. For more information or to register, call 872-0800.

Thursday, December 25

Merry Christmas

Friday, December 26

A Holiday Break Open House will be held from Dec. 26 through Dec. 31. Visit the Nature Center and explore its fun and creative activity stations. Take a winter walk on the trails and warm up with a hot chocolate. All activities are free of charge. Snowshoes are available to rent. For more information, call 872-0800.

The Cookie Burner Stroll will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center, 195 New Karner Road in Albany. Looking for a way to work off those cookies and other holiday treats? The "cookie burner stroll" is a fun way to get outside for some fresh air and exercise. We will hike approximately 2 miles over easy to moderate terrain through the Karner Barrens East region of the Albany Pine Bush, taking breaks along the way for rest and water. If there is snow, we will snowshoe. Dress for the weather with appropriate footwear and bring plenty of drinking water. Cost is \$2 per person and \$5 per family, and free for children under 5. For more information or sign-up, call 456-0655 or visit www.albanypinebush.org and click on "Get Involved."

Saturday, December 27

"Wish it Would" Snowshoe Walk will be held at 10 a.m. at Thacher Nature Center. Will wishing make it snow? Then we will snowshoe. If there is no snow, we'll take a winter walk. Bring the kids for some outdoor exercise. Snowshoes are available to rent and may be reserved in advance. For more information, to confirm trail conditions, or to register, call 872-0800.

A Field Study of the Natural History of Christmas Trees and the wildlife that depends upon these evergreens for food and shelter will be conducted at 10 a.m. at Five Rivers Center, 56 Game Farm Road in Delmar. In case of inclement weather this program may be canceled. For more information, call 475-0291.

Winter Wildlife Adaptations Walk will be held at 10 a.m. at Five Rivers Center, 56 Game Farm Road in Delmar. On this outdoor foray, Center naturalists will lead participants in a search along Center trails to look for tracks, dens, chewed cones and other seasonal signs of wildlife use. In case of inclement weather an indoor program will be presented. For more information, call 475-0291.

Save the Pine Bush Holiday Ice

Skate Outing will be held through a major dune field area in the Pine Bush. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at SUNYA Campus Circle Bus Stop, 1400 Washington Avenue in Albany, or meet at 10 a.m. at the Discovery Center Parking Lot, 195 New Karner Road in Albany.

"Arctic Tale" will be shown at 1 p.m. at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center, 195 New Karner Road in Albany. A story of unsinkable family devotion, unfolding courage and extraordinary survival, "Arctic Tale" takes audiences of all ages on an epic adventure inside an icy kingdom at the very top of the earth. For more information or sign-up, call 456-0655 or visit www.albanypinebush.org and click on "Get Involved."

Sunday, December 28

The Schoharie County Musicians will be gathering for an "Eyes on the Prize" concert at 2 p.m. at the Middleburgh United Methodist Church to raise money for Reggie Harris. Suggested donations are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students and \$40 for families. Reggie Harris and his wife, Kim, have performed all over the world bringing songs of social justice, unity, and peace to audiences of all ages. Recently Reggie had a liver transplant and the music community has joined together to help raise funds to assist with his medical bills. Featured musicians are: Speed the Plough, Tom Wadsworth, John Scarpulla, Christina Johnson, Geoff Armlin, Bernie Neuman, and Magpie. Brian Kaiser and Sonny Ochis will be the Master of Ceremonies. There will also be a drawing. For more information, contact Rick Hill at 295-8931.

Sunday Four Poetry Open Mic will be held at 3 p.m. at Old Songs Community Arts Center, 37 South Main Street in Voorheesville. Tom Corrado will perform and read from his new work. For more information, contact dsullivan6@nycap.rr.com.

Discover the Pine Bush from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center, 195 New Karner Road in Albany. Come join us on a journey to discover the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, the best example of an inland pine barrens. We will be hiking 1 mile over rolling topography. Wear sturdy walking shoes, light colored long pants and bring drinking water. Cost is \$2 per person and \$5 per family, and free for children under 5. For more information or sign-up, call 456-0655 or visit www.albanypinebush.org and click on "Get Involved."

Monday, December 29

The 12th Annual Capital Holiday Lights in the Park, at Washington Park in Albany, open nightly now through Jan. 3. Hours for the 2008 show are Sundays through Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 6 to 10 p.m. Children will be counting the animals through this two-mile illuminated journey that starts with Santa's Safari. This safari excursion takes visitors through a world filled with giraffes, elephants and monkeys, with Santa riding in a Jeep filled with wild creatures. When the youngsters have counted all the animals, they can enter at the Lake House to win a special prize. New this year are free kiddie rides by the Lake House. While driving along the historic carriage paths in the park with more than 125 displays and scenes, visitors encounter Santa's Toy Land, filled with all kinds of toys for good girls and boys. At Capital Holiday Lights' new Home for the Holidays has Santa visiting special spots around the world including London Bridge, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Eiffel Tower, Big Ben and the Statue of Liberty. Plus, there's a special Victorian Village with an enormous ice castle, a snowflake arch, skaters, skiers, sledgers and more. At the end of the drive, the Lake House is open most evenings (closed Dec. 31 through Jan. 3) with a craft show for holiday shopping, great refreshments. There are also visits from special friends including Frosty and Rudolph. Discounted admission tickets may be purchased exclusively at any Hannaford Supermarket for \$10. These tickets are good for admission to the show on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Carriage rides through the Lights are available Thursday through Sunday. On Saturday evenings, carriage rides are available from 5:30 to 7 p.m. by advance reservation only. For more information and the most up-to-date schedule of events at Capital Holiday Lights, visit www.albanycapitalholidaylights.com. Admission prices are \$15 per car, \$25 per limousine or 15-passenger van, and \$75 per bus, with all proceeds benefiting the youth programming of Albany PAL.

First Night Saratoga is the YMCA's premiere family event. A non-alcoholic New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts, First Night Saratoga brings together musicians, dancers, theater groups, magicians and any other act you can think of for one giant evening of celebration. For more information, visit www.ymcasaratoga.org/firstnight.

can be purchased in advance from members of the chorus. Tickets will also be available at the door on the evening of the concert.

CSI Pine Bush: Critter Scene Investigation will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center, 195 New Karner Road in Albany. How are your detective skills? Do you have what it takes to be on a team of nature investigators, solving Pine Bush mysteries, by examining evidence? Join us for a 30 minute indoor introduction followed by a 60 minute outdoor trek to look for clues and evidence of what lives in the Pine Bush. Our trek will be on snowshoes if enough snow is available. Dress for outdoors. Cost is \$2 per person and \$5 per family, and free for children under 5. For more information or sign-up, call 456-0655 or visit www.albanypinebush.org and click on "Get Involved."

Wednesday, December 31

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The Schoharie Valley Hayshakers will hold a special New Year's Eve mainstream level western square dance at the Middleburgh Dutch Reformed Church Fellowship Hall, Rote 30 just north of the Middleburgh village center. Dancing from 8 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. with a buffet dinner served at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per couple in advance; \$30 per couple at the door. The caller is Ray Taylor and the cuer is Dolores Randall. Please wear soft sole shoes. For more information, call 827-5762 or visit www.geocities.com/schohariehayshakers.

Ring in the New Year with Captain Squeeze and the Zydeco Moshers at the Rensselaerville Meeting Center, Carriage House Restaurant, 63 Huyck Road in Rensselaerville. The evening will begin with a buffet dinner at 8 p.m.; and dancing will start along with the Captain Squeeze and the Zydeco Moshers band at 9 p.m. As the New Year approaches late-night hors d'oeuvres will be served, door prizes given, and at midnight there will be a champagne toast. The meeting place offers a variety of packages from \$39 to \$218. For more information, call 797-5100 or e-mail frontdesk@meetingcenter.com.

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Thursday, January 1

The Guilderland YMCA will be open New Year's Day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will be waiving their joiner fee for all new members on this day. The Guilderland YMCA is a full family health facility that includes an indoor 25 yard 8 lane pool, complete exercise center with Star Trac treadmills with individual TVs, cardio theatre and four 42 inch flat screen TVs. There is a running/walking track and over 30 group exercise classes including yoga, pilates and spinning. Members can enjoy free babysitting while they work out. Senior rates, programs and scholarships are available. For membership rates and more information, call 456-3634.

Friday, January 2

The Medusa Fire Company Clam Chowder Sale will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Medusa Firehouse on Main Street. You may eat at the Firehouse or take-out. Pre-order or late pick-up, call 797-3455.

Saturday, January 3

A Snowshoe Walk will be held at 10 a.m. at Thacher Nature Center. This is the first of its weekly snowshoe walks in January and February. Bring your own snow-

shoes or rent them there. If there is not enough snow, there will be a hike. Snowshoes may be reserved in advance. For more information, program confirmation, or to register, call 872-0800.

Sunday, January 4

Geology, Landscape, and the Iroquois Homeland Program will be held at 2 p.m. at Thacher Nature Center. The bedrock of New York and superficial geological processes that acted on it created the landscape in which the Iroquois peoples made their home. It influenced their territorial boundaries and defenses, settlement patterns, trail systems, soils and agriculture, and the availability of key natural resources. NYS Museum Scientist, Dr. Chuck Ver Straeten, will discuss geologic landscape features across the state and how they influenced the Iroquois. For more information, call 872-0800.

Westmere Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary Brooks' Chicken Barbecue will be held from noon to 3 p.m. at the Firehouse, 1741 Western Avenue. Cost is \$9 for chicken dinner, \$6 for half-chicken. Drive-through only.

Paul and Mary Liz Stewart will present "People of Courage, People of Hope, Seekers of Justice: The Underground Railroad in the Capital Region of New York State" at 2 p.m. at the New Scotland Historical Association meeting at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center in New Salem. This is a free program and open to the public. For more information, call 768-2933.

Movie Day at the Albany Pine Bush will feature "Winged Migration" at 2 p.m. at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center, 195 New Karner Road in Albany. Amazing cinematography and gorgeous music fill this documentary-adventure created by French filmmakers Jacques Cluzaud, Michel Debat and Jacques Perrin. Presented with almost no narration and filmed primarily from a bird's perspective, this study of the lives and habits of migrating birds re-creates as nearly as possible the experiences of the birds themselves. For more information, call 456-0655 or visit www.albanypinebush.org and click on "Get Involved."

Invaders Exhibit now through March 15, 2009 at the New York State Museum. Hundreds of species of non-native plants, animals, and viruses live here in New York State. These invasive species come from all over the world on boats, in crates and planting containers, even in or on the bodies of other animals. Some you may have heard of, such as zebra mussels or West Nile Virus. Others may surprise you and could be living right in your backyard. The Museum is located on Madison Avenue in Albany. Parking is available in the two lots adjacent to the Museum and is free after 3 p.m. and on weekends. Open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Admission is free (suggested donation of \$2 per person or \$5 per family. For more information, call 474-5877.

THE ALTAMONT
Enterprise
Visit us on the web at
www.altamontenterprise.com

The deadline to submit listings for the *Community Calendar* is Monday at 1 p.m. Make sure to include a brief description, location, event dates/times and applicable admission fees. Please mail them to *The Enterprise*, Box 654, Altamont, NY 12009, fax them to 861-5105, or e-mail them to altamontenterprise@csdsl.net. All events are open to the public and free, unless otherwise noted.