

Winter Outings 2020

Winter Outing Series General Information:

- Outdoor recreation in Potter & Tioga Counties
- Events are free
- Limited equipment is available to use free of charge
- All ages are welcome with adult supervision
- Most activities are for beginners and make it easy to try something new
- Limited snow cover may alter the events, but when possible, an alternative program will be offered
- XC ski track will be set for all ski events if conditions allow
- Series events, updates, trail conditions and more at www.stepoutdoors.org or call 570-724-0300

**** Registration required for some events**

2020 Events:

Wednesday January 1 – First Day Hike / First Day 5K

1PM-2:00PM – Hills Creek State Park – Beach parking area

Two options and two very different paces! Everyone should wear proper footwear, dress in layers, and bring water and a snack.

1. Start out on the right foot in 2020 with a short hike, exploring nature in winter at Hills Creek. This slow-paced, family-oriented hike will be less than 1.5 miles in length. If conditions warrant, limited snowshoes or traction devices will be available (or you are encouraged to bring your own). We will cheer on the 5K runners and start the hike just following their 1pm start. Come early or stay late – the sledding hill is nearby or you can explore more trails or the plowed roads throughout the park.
2. Challenge yourself with the no-frills, NO-COST, First Day 5K! Simply run around the lake on a mix of roads and trails as fast as you can. No frills = no awards, no aid stations, and you even write down your own time! Runners must register just prior to start. Registration opens at 12:30.

Wednesday January 1 – First Day Hike

1PM – 3PM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office & Wildlife Center

Start the New Year on the right foot with an easy 2.5-mile guided hike on fairly level trails. Scout around for dens, nests, and other animal traces as you learn about additional outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the coming year. Dress for the weather and bring water. Well-behaved dogs on short leashes are welcome. No pre-registration required. Meet at Wildlife Center. No pre-registration is required.

Wednesday January 1 – First Day Hike

1PM – 2:30PM – Lyman Run State Park – Lower campground parking

A family nature hike with easy walking in search of signs of winter activity by animals along with stream ecology and winter tree identification.

Thursdays All Winter – Tyoga Running Club Thursday Night Run

6PM-7PM – Wellsboro – Packer Park Lot

Come on out for a group run. Multiple pace groups for almost any ability level. Yes – it's dark, so bring a headlamp / lights. Yes, the group runs in almost any conditions. Distances vary. Look up the club on Facebook for more info.

Saturday January 4 – Snowshoeing Basics (registration required)

12PM – 2PM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office & Wildlife Center

Snowshoeing is a great way to explore your favorite trails in winter. New to the sport? No problem! Park staff will help you get started. Snow shoes and trekking poles will be provided. Program will begin indoors with an introduction to snowshoeing equipment and styles, followed by a guided practice instruction on level ground, then a short excursion on the trail. If snow depth is insufficient for snowshoeing, the indoor portion of the program will still be held, followed by a 2- to 3-mile nature hike. Program is free, but pre-registration is required by Thursday 1/2. Register online through the DCNR Calendar of Events. Meet in classroom of Wildlife Center at Sinnemahoning.

Sundays all Winter – Sunday Funday Snow-biking Series

9AM-varies – Asaph – US Geological Survey Parking (sometimes varies)

Weekly mountain or snow-bike riding series usually starting at the lab in Asaph with updates weekly at <https://www.facebook.com/OswaldCycleWorks/>

Sunday January 5 – Eagle Watch

1PM-2PM – Ives Run Mixing Channel – Ives Run Recreation Area

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Join us for an eagle watch at perhaps the best location in our area to view them in winter. Local expert, Matt West, will be leading the watch and answering questions about these amazing raptors. Bring binoculars if you have them or a limited number of spotting scopes and binoculars will also be on hand.

Directions from Wellsboro (18 miles):

Take Route 287 north for 17 miles to Tioga (past Ives Run Recreation Area). Turn right onto S. Main St., follow to the end and wind past the park entrance gate and to the top of the hill where the road ends at the mixing channel parking lot.

Saturday January 11 – Women’s Intro to Ice Fishing (registration required)

9AM-3PM – Wellsboro Comm. Ctr & Hills Creek State Park

Ladies, want to try "Ice Fishing and see a preparation and cooking demonstration"? PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED AS SPACE IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 20 REGISTRANTS - REGISTER by January 2, 2020! You are in luck! PA Fish and Boat Commission, several local businesses and fishing instructors are teaming up to provide PFBC's First "Women's Intro to Ice Fishing and cooking demonstration program"! We will provide the fishing license waiver for the program, the fishing gear and the instruction for FREE! We will spend the morning indoors learning about ice fishing gear, safety, target fish and ways to utilize those fish in recipes! Then we will travel to Hills Creek State Park to learn how to prepare and cook the fish. After the demonstration we will hit the ice to try out your new skills. (Hot Cocoa will be provided) REGISTRATION LINK - <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/152344>

Saturday January 11 – XC Skiing for Beginners (registration required)

12PM – 2PM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office & Wildlife Center

Join experienced ski instructor, Curt Weinhold, for a fun lesson on the popular sport of cross-country skiing. All equipment, including skis, poles, and boots (adult sizes) will be provided. Program will begin indoors with an introduction to cross country skiing equipment and styles, followed by a guided practice instruction on level ground, then a short excursion on the trail. If snow depth is insufficient for skiing, the indoor portion of the program will still be held, followed by a 2- to 3-mile nature hike. Program is free, but pre-registration is required by Thursday, 1/9. Register online through the DCNR Calendar of Events. Meet in the classroom of the Wildlife Center at Sinnemahoning State Park.

Saturday January 18 – Hills Creek Winterfest

10AM-3PM – Hills Creek State Park – Beach Parking Area

Free Family Fun! Activities being planned include: XC skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, ice fishing, sledding, kids crafts, displays, guided hike/snowshoe excursion, educational programs, 1700 pioneer demonstration and more! Enjoy hot chocolate and hot dogs - FREE while they last! Skis, snowshoes and skates provided in limited quantities or bring your own. Don't forget your sled. There's fun for the entire family.

***If by chance there is limited snow or ice, some activities may be altered ***

Saturday January 25 – Winter Adventure Hike

9AM-11AM – Lyman Run State Park – Day use parking

Take this great opportunity to get outside in the colder months and see the winter beauty at Lyman Run. Be prepared with good hiking boots, hiking poles/sticks, and water.

Saturday January 25 – Winter in the Lumber Camp

10AM-3PM – PA Lumber Museum – Main Parking Area

Pennsylvania forests provide endless possibilities for winter-time outdoor recreation. Visit the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum to try your hand at a variety of outdoor activities. Bring your sled and slide on our hills, make a snowman and then warm-up with some hot drinks in the program room. We will provide cross-country skis, snowshoes and ice skates (conditions permitting), and volunteer instructors to get you started on how to use them. Then, hit the trail at 1 Pm for a short guided (snowshoe) hike on the museum's Sustainable Forestry Trail. Equipment and instruction is free. Museum admission and snacks available for a nominal cost.

Sunday January 26 – Kayak Club Open House

6:00PM-8:00PM– Mansfield University – Decker Pool

Come try kayaking INSIDE at the pool so you're ready for Spring! All ages welcome. Kayaks, paddles and related equipment provided at no charge by the MU Kayak Club. A swimsuit and a towel are all that's needed. Non-swimmers welcome! Kids must be accompanied by a responsible adult (that doesn't need to go in the water).

Saturday February 1 – Family Climbing Day

10AM-3PM– Mansfield University – Kelchner Fitness Center

Family friendly climbing geared towards kids and beginners. We have all the gear and staff ready to get climbing newcomers off the ground.

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Sunday February 2 – Snowshoe / Hike / Sledding Hill

1PM-3PM – Nessmuk Recreation Area – Parking Area

Take a guided tour of the trails at Nessmuk. Hike or borrow limited snowshoes if conditions allow. Limited hiking traction devices will also be available if conditions warrant. There will be a hike if snow is limited. Kids can also make some runs on the sledding hill behind the pavilion!

February 7-9 – Winter Women in the Wilds (registration required)

Sinnemahoning State Park – Pre-register online!

Ladies- beat cabin fever this winter while trying something new during this fun weekend of outdoor recreation and environmental education. Sessions include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, winter bird identification, fire starting, open hearth cooking and more. Program fee is \$70 per person and includes three full catered meals and participant's choice of up to 6 classes. Group size is limited. Pre-register with the PA Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) by Friday, 1/24. Meet at the Wildlife Center at Sinnemahoning State Park.

Saturday February 8 – Winter Fun: XC Ski, Snowshoe, Ice Skate & Sled

9AM-11PM – Hills Creek State Park – Beach Parking Area

Try out XC skis and snowshoes during a short mini-clinic where you will learn the basics, then test your skills on the park trails and groomed track. Conditions permitting. Ice Skates will be available if conditions permit for skating. Bring your own sled. Limited sleds or tubes may be available. Dress in layers for the weather, but to be active. All equipment provided for adults and youth of almost all sizes.

February 14-16 – Snow-mobility Weekend

10AM-3PM – PA Lumber Museum – Main Parking Area

Ride your snowmobile to the museum all weekend-long. Cross-country ski/ hike to the museum on Saturday (ONLY) for a Pancake Breakfast from 9:30 am until 1:30 pm. Documentary films will be shown in the program room during breakfast.

Saturday February 15 – Wellsboro Winter Celebration - Family Fun on the Green

12noon-3PM – The Green – Wellsboro

Kids can try out cross-country skis or try mini-golf in the snow. Tubing races will be back again at this popular in-town event as part of the Wellsboro Winter Celebration. More info on the entire weekend at wellsboropa.com

Sunday February 16 – Mt. Tom Challenge

9AM-Noon – Mt. Tom Trails – Darling Run Parking Area

Challenge yourself to climb the steepest and tallest in the area – Mt. Tom! <https://sites.google.com/site/mttomchallenge/home>

Wednesday February 19 –Bird Conservation Talk

7PM-8PM – Wellsboro High School

Join special guest, Jeff Larkin, who will discuss the importance of landscape-scale bird conservation across private and public forestlands in Pennsylvania. Several studies have recently examined nesting and post-fledging habitat selection of many at-risk, forest-dependent songbirds. Collectively, this research provides a substantial body of evidence that suggests forest bird conservation is intimately tied to landscape context and configuration and within-stand structural complexity, regardless of nesting guild. As such, strategically increasing forest age class diversity has become an important focus of many forest-bird conservation efforts. This presentation will provide examples of successes and insight as to how a well-funded and well-organized partnership can overcome the many constraints that can often inhibit large-scale conservation implementation. The talk will be geared toward a diverse audience from private landowners, birders, and conservation organizations.

Saturday February 22 – Canyon Sled Dog Challenge

9AM-Noon – Pine Creek Trail – Darling Run Parking Area for spectators

Watch teams of 6 and 8 dogs pull sleds down and back in the canyon! New this year will be one and two dog skijoring categories. Spectators, please leave your pets at home! The only spectator area is Darling Run parking area to watch this fast-paced down-and-back format. Hot chocolate, coffee, and snacks will be available for purchase benefitting Second Chance Animal Sanctuary. Club page: <https://www.pasleddogclub.com/races-events-source/2019/2/23/canyon-sled-dog-challenge>

Saturday February 22 –Snowshoeing Basics (registration required)

12PM – 2PM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office & Wildlife Center

Snowshoeing is a great way to explore your favorite trails in winter. New to the sport? No problem! Park staff will help you get started. Snow shoes and trekking poles will be provided. Program will begin indoors with an introduction to snowshoeing equipment and styles, followed by a

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guided practice instruction on level ground. Participants are then encouraged to explore the park on snowshoes in the afternoon. If snow depth is insufficient for snowshoeing, the indoor portion of the program will still be held from 11:00-11:30, and a 2- to 3-mile nature hike will be offered following the instruction. Program is free, but pre-registration is required by Thursday 2/20. Register online through the DCNR Calendar of Events. Meet in classroom of Wildlife Center at Sinnemahoning.

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Saturday February 22 – Winter Adventure Hike

9AM-11AM – Lyman Run State Park – Day use parking

Take this great opportunity to get outside in the colder months and see the winter beauty at Lyman Run. Be prepared with good hiking boots, hiking poles/sticks, and water.

Leader(s): Chip Harrison, [John Halter](#)

Saturday February 29 – Explore the Canyon Snowshoe / Hike

9AM-11:30AM – Pine Creek Rail Trail – Darling Run Trailhead

Sponsor(s): Forestry

One morning with two great options to explore the canyon.

Climb to the vista: Climb over 1100 feet to one of the most scenic vistas in our area, offering views of Ansonia and the upper Pine Creek valley.

Experience and conditioning is required for this strenuous snowshoe hike. Dress in layers. Bring a snack and water. Limited snowshoes or traction devices are available. Due to snow and/or ice, traction aiding devices (such as snowshoes or simple boot cleats) may be required.

Winter Hike along the rail trail, one of the most beautiful, yet accessible sections of the canyon. Limited snowshoes may be available if conditions warrant.

Leader(s): [Tom Oliver](#), other TBD

Saturday February 29 –Planetarium Open House

6PM-8PM – Strait Planetarium – Mansfield University

Sponsor(s): Mansfield University, PA State Parks

Explore the winter night sky, Orion's belt, and distant galaxies, all from the comfort of the planetarium with a short program suitable for all ages then take a brief trip outdoors to look through a telescope if conditions allow.

Leader(s): [Dr. Farkas](#), [Tim Morey](#)

Saturday March 7 – Animal Tracks & Traces Hike

1PM – 3PM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office & Wildlife Center

Sponsor(s): PA State Parks

Discover the animals that live at Sinnemahoning State Park and the tracks and traces that they leave behind. Program will begin indoors with a brief talk about the mammals and birds that are active in the park in late winter, then head out for a 2- to 3-mile hike to practice locating and identifying signs of those animals. Adults and children ages 8 and up. No pre-registration required for this free program. Meet in the classroom of the Wildlife Center at Sinnemahoning.

Leader(s): [Kim Lott](#)

Sunday March 8 – Charter Day

9AM-5PM – PA Lumber Museum – Free Admission

Sponsor(s): Lumber Museum, PALMA

Free admission to the museum in celebration of Pennsylvania's birthday.

Leader(s): [Josh Roth](#)

Saturday March 14 – Intro to Night Sky Photography

4:30PM-6:30PM – PA Lumber Museum

Sponsor(s): Lumber Museum, PALMA

Join PA Wilds Juried Artisan and Photographer, Curt Weinhold, for a presentation and discussion about the equipment and knowledge you need to get started taking pictures of the night sky. Plan to go outside following the program if the weather cooperates.

Leader(s): [Curt Weinhold](#), [Josh Roth](#)

Saturday & Sunday March 21-22 – Maple Open House Weekend

See www.pamaple.com for times and locations

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Friday March 27 – Owl Prowl

6:45PM-7:45PM – Lyman Run State Park – Schott Pavilion

Join the Environmental Education Specialist as we soar through the night and learn about our feathered friends, owls! After talking about what makes owls special, join us on a short walk where we will play owl calls hoping to get a call back. Dress accordingly for the weather as we will be outside for the duration of this program. If bringing a flashlight, make sure it is red or grab some cellophane when you get here to cover white lights. Dave Hauber may be joining us on this walk. He has been banding Saw Whet owls in the area for over 30 years!

Leader(s): [Hannah Bell](#) - prior to 3/13/20, contact [Tim Morey](#)

Saturday March 28 – Winter Adventure Hike

9AM-11AM – Lyman Run State Park – Day use parking

Take this great opportunity to get outside in the colder months and see the winter beauty at Lyman Run. Be prepared with good hiking boots, hiking poles/sticks, and water.

Leader(s): Chip Harrison, [John Halter](#)

Saturday March 28 – Cross Fork Outdoor Show

9AM-3PM – Cross Fork – Kettle Creek Hose Co.

Includes a variety of vendors, food and a nationally-sanctioned turkey calling contest.

Leader: [Mary Hirst](#), 814-435-2218