

Winter Weekend 2018  
Workshop and Activity List

Workshops and Crafts

**Amazed by What They Do**, Adam Gollwitzer; Outdoor Science Teacher

This workshop is for anyone who has facilitated outdoor learning activities and come away with the feeling that the student products or understandings did not measure up to the expectations. With all of the planning and coordination that goes into fieldwork, sub-par student performance can leave a leader feeling lackluster about their efforts or even discouraged. Through years of teaching outdoor science, the strategies that have worked the best will be the ones that are shared. Students want to perform and rise to our expectations. They want to succeed in outdoor settings and demonstrate their propensity for adventure. This workshop will equip an educator at any level with tools that are indispensable to fostering that degree of achievement and exploration.

**Animal Life in Winter**, George Steele; Independent Environmental Educator

Explore the Taconic woodlands and fields looking for signs of animal life in winter. Mammals, birds, insects oh my. The woods are full of life. Let's see what we can find!

**Birch Bark Basket-making**, Jared Kapsiak; Outdoor Education Consultant

Plaited birch bark baskets are a beautiful, practical, and durable craft & tool. Birch bark's properties of flexibility, toughness, and water repellency make it an ideal crafting material for lightweight, strong baskets that last for years. We will focus on building a small plaited basket in class, in addition to a discussion on harvesting material, preparing for the project, and how to maintain your finished basket over time. Excellent craft, survival, nature immersion, forest-learning skill.

**Making Cordage: Reverse-Wrap technique**, Jared Kapsiak; Outdoor Education Consultant

We will practice one of the oldest traditional skills common to human cultures worldwide. The Reverse-Wrap technique uses a minimum of material and yields a high-strength, durable, working tool. Handmade cordage can be incorporated into tool-making, survival skills, clothing production, handcrafts, and traditional living skills. There will be hands-on practice & examples of a variety of natural and human-made materials for people to work with. This is a crossover skill for nature education, team-building, historical technology, traditional skills, and survival workshops.

**Craft of the Woods Runner**, Andy Angstrom; Director Ashokan Campus,  
Retired

Hands-on and pass-around discussion-demonstration of artifacts, reproduction tools and crafts of the Native American peoples of the New York State region through time. This will include examples of tools and utensils that are relatively easy to reproduce in the school or home environment for hands-on learning opportunities in social studies, and the natural and physical sciences.

**Dem Bones Gonna Rise**, Rick Glatz; Retired Teacher/Naturalist

Ever put together an entire skeleton? Here's your chance with a moose! Other mammal bones will also be investigated. .... and along the way you will learn something about vertebrate anatomy. Information, handouts, and tips for using bones with groups and how to get your own bones will be provided.

**Creating Cute Cork Critters**, Eileen Beare; Retired Educator

Craft a cork animal or make a charm pin. Cork animals can be made into ornaments. We will be using recycled corks. Glue guns will be used.

**Make Your Own Kaleidoscope**, Karen Robertson; NYSOEA Membe

Make and customize your own kaleidoscope recycling materials found around your home. This is a fun project for all ages!

**Knotted Tassels**, Jane Rausch; Outdoor Educator

We'll be making beaded knotted tassels along with twisted cord. The tassels can be used for ornaments, or for lamps pulls, hung off dresser knobs or on a backpack or anyplace!

**Fire By Friction**, Eric Stone; Director: The Rewilding School

Learn how to make fire the old way using only natural materials. Great for storytelling, social campfires or to deepen the experience of a campfire. Carve your own friction fire kit and learn how to use it.

**Nurturing Nature**, LoraKim Joyner; Co-Director: One Earth Conservation

This workshop helps you love and connect more deeply to nature, including human nature. Participants will get an overview of 5 natural intelligences (emotional, social, multispecies, ecological, and spiritual) that can be incorporated in any learning or experiential environment to promote awareness of, connection to, and caring for life.

### **Soap Making 101, Megan Hoffman; Garden Educator, Hudson Valley Seed**

Do you need a new hobby for those long, dark winter nights? Soap making is just the thing! Come learn about the equipment and safety procedures necessary for making cold process soap, while working together as a group to make a batch of soap. Each participant will get to take a bar of the soap home on Sunday!

### **T-shirt Yarn Crochet, MaryLynne Malone; Outdoor Education Consultant**

Take old t-shirts and create colorful balls of “yarn,” the rest is up to your imagination! T-shirts and large crochet hooks will be available to participants. No crochet experience necessary. Participants will also get directions on how to make “yarn” from old plastic shopping bags.

### **The Art of Wandering, Josh Teeter; Environmental Educator for the Finger Lakes Region of NYS Parks**

This session will require both your academic brain and the most curious version of yourself. We will head outside and see where we are drawn physically and cerebrally. Along the path that unfolds we might discuss winter adaptations of plants and animals, follow a set of tracks or discuss how to train our bodies to become more cold tolerant. You may find answers to long time questions or leave the session with more questions than you came with. The session will end with a discussion on ways to facilitate future wanderers for yourself and others.

### **Tracks, Trees, and Tricks of Winter Naturalists, Tom O’Dowd and Julie Seyfert Lillis; Hudson Valley Naturalists**

Join nature buds Julie and Tom on a jaunt through the forest in winter. There is so much life to find signs of in the animal and plant communities, and beyond. How to identify animals using gait patterns and scat? How to identify trees using buds and bark? How to keep an audience alive, awake, alert, and enthusiastic? We'll explore all of these on a relaxed walk through the woods.

# Activity Descriptions

## TRADE BLANKET

Saturday Evening

In this Winter Weekend tradition, anyone interested in trading or observing the trading gathers Saturday evening around a trade blanket. Someone starts by offering one item for trade. Each person in the circle is offered a chance to offer something in trade for that item if they are interested. The person offering the item can choose to make the deal, at which time they make the trade or pass and remove the item they had offered. The trading then goes on to the next person in the circle. So bring some things to trade and get involved in this fun and relaxed evening activity. Some examples of items traded include handmade goods, interesting specimens and other gear for teaching outside, books and interesting articles of clothing.



## BROOM BALL

Saturday 3-5PM

Hope for cold weather so you can enjoy some outdoor time on Duck Pond. This fast paced game will have you slipping and sliding while you try to score a goal for your team. The game is similar to ice hockey, except your stick is a broom, the puck is a small ball and you don't wear ice skates. If you get involved in the game you will surely heat up as you run around the ice. Bring shoes with good traction and clothes you don't mind getting wet.

## CROSS COUNTRY SKIING, SNOWSHOEING, TUBING

Sunday 9AM-12PM

You can head over to the Fahnestock Winter Park located just down the road from Taconic Outdoor Education Center. We will have passes provided at breakfast Sunday for those that are interested. You can bring your own, or rent cross country skis, snowshoes or inner tubes to enjoy a wintery morning. For more information, trail maps and rates visit:

<http://nysparks.com/parks/147/details.aspx>

