



Programs & Events Winter 2023

Eddy Discovery Center at Waterloo

Winter Hours of Operation: Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday: noon to 5 p.m.

Gerald Eddy Discovery Center, 17030 Bush Rd., Chelsea, MI 48118

Lantern-Lit Hike, Ski, and Snowshoe

Friday, Jan. 13, 7 to 9 p.m.

Embrace the Pure Michigan Winter with a healthy, lantern-lit activity. One half-mile loop lit for skiers, unless snow levels prevent skiing, and one half-mile loop lit for walking and snowshoeing. There will also be a fire ring for warm up, in between laps. A few pairs of snowshoes available to borrow. Cost: Free.

Winter Games

Saturday, Jan. 14, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Using a GPS receiver, navigate the trails at the Discovery Center to find hidden caches of “treasures.” Compete for snowball throwing accuracy, learn to build a winter survival shelter, create snow graffiti. Activities semi-dependent on snow cover. Cost: Free.

How do Birds Fly?

Sunday, January 22, 2 to 3 p.m.

Learn the answer to this question while observing the flight adaptations of live raptors brought to you by Michigan Avian Experience. See the miracle of flight in action as a red-tailed hawk flies over your head. Find out how feathers, wing shapes and body shapes allow these natural hunters to survive in the wild. Cost: \$2/person or \$5/family. Please register in advance at 734-475-3170.

Lantern-Lit Hike, Ski, and Snowshoe

Friday, Jan. 27, 7 to 9 p.m.

Embrace the Pure Michigan Winter with a healthy, lantern-lit activity. One half-mile loop lit for skiers, unless snow levels prevent skiing, and one half-mile loop lit for walking and snowshoeing. There will also be a fire ring for warm up, in between laps. A few pairs of snowshoes available to borrow. Cost: Free.

Make a Kid Friendly Ice Fishing Jig Stick

Saturday, Jan. 28, 1 to 3 p.m.

Put together your own stick with line and tackle for lots of winter fun! If there are six inches of ice, we will go to Mill Lake and drill a few holes for fishing. Bring warm winter gear and a 10-gallon bucket to sit on. Participants ages 17 and older must possess a valid fishing license. Cost: Free.

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All programs are free unless otherwise noted; however, a Recreation Passport is required for entry to the park.



Animal Tracks

Sunday, January 29, 2 to 3 p.m.

Are you curious about the tracks you see on winter walks? Join Naturalist Robert Ayotte for an illustrated discussion of animal tracking in Michigan. We will focus on print patterns found in snow and learn about track stride and straddle. We will also review some common mammal signs and scats. If there is snow, we will add a one-hour hike on Discovery Center trails to look for tracks and other signs. Be prepared for icy trails. Cost: \$2/person or \$5/family. Please register in advance at 734-475-3170.

Lantern-Lit Hike, Ski, and Snowshoe

Friday, Feb. 3, 7 to 9 p.m.

Embrace the Pure Michigan Winter with a healthy, lantern-lit activity. One half-mile loop lit for skiers, unless snow levels prevent skiing, and one half-mile loop lit for walking and snowshoeing. There will also be a fire ring for warm up, in between laps. A few pairs of snowshoes available to borrow. Cost: Free.

Cross Country Ski Outing

Saturday, Feb. 4, 1 to 3 p.m.

Meet at the Mill Lake Boat Launch off McClure Rd. This is an informal group ski for those with traditional skis on non-groomed hilly terrain. Wear wicking layers and a waterproof shell that can be adjusted for comfort. We will ski two loops and host an après-ski campfire with hot tea, cocoa, and snacks. Bring a camp chair to sit by the fire après-ski. If we do not have enough snow, we will still hike and provide refreshments. Cost: Free.

Winter Orienteering

Sunday, February 5, 2 to 4 p.m.

Bring the family and challenge yourselves to an afternoon adventure in the forest with outdoor enthusiast Meg Gower. Winter is a great time of year for learning how to use a compass to find your way in the woods. This program is suitable for all ages and skill levels. Compasses will be provided or bring your own. Cost: \$2/person or \$5/family. Call to reserve a space at 734-475-3170.

Snowshoe or Winter Boot Hike to the Bog

Saturday, Feb. 11, 9 to 11:30 a.m.

A 1.5-mile hike through forests and wetlands to a habitat most often found farther north. Bogs occur in some of the pitted outwash regions of Waterloo. We will talk about the adaptations of bog species to handle cold snowy winters. Wear sturdy boots and studs (like Yaktrax) or snowshoes with four or more inches of snow. Cost: Free.

Ark Animal Encounters

Sunday, Feb. 12, 2 to 3 p.m.

Join us for a fun and educational afternoon with Rebecca Barrett and her engaging live animals. Everyone will have the opportunity for a special hands-on experience with each of these creatures while learning about their lifestyles, characteristics, and personalities. Cost: \$2/person or \$5/family. Program limited to 40 people. Call to reserve a space at 734-475-3170.

Great Backyard Bird Count: A Citizen Science Project.

Saturday, Feb. 18, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Help us count birds around the Visitor Center and we will submit the data to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society in a worldwide count of the earth's avian species. To date, over 180,000 checklists have been turned amassing a tally of 28-million birds and 6,455 species. Join scientists in this massive collection of data. Cost: Free

Vernal Pool Patrol

Sunday, February 19, 2 to 3 p.m.

From frozen frogs to floating fairies and fragile fingernail clams, Master Naturalist Doug Jackson shares the wonders of our enchanted woodland pools. Learn about the fascinating creatures that inhabit these pools and find out how you can participate in a statewide program collecting data about them. Your data will help to protect these often overlooked, yet delicate and important, ecosystems referred to as the coral reefs of the Midwest. Register for this program at 734-475-3170. Cost: Free.

Lantern-Lit Hike, Ski, and Snowshoe

Friday, Feb. 24, 7 to 9 p.m.

Embrace your Pure Michigan Winter with a healthy, lantern-lit activity. One half-mile loop lit for skiers, unless snow levels prevent skiing, and one half-mile loop lit for walking and snowshoeing. There will also be a fire ring for warm up, in between laps. A few pairs of snowshoes available to borrow. Cost: Free.

Snowshoe or Winter Boot Hike Oak Woods Trail

Saturday, Feb. 25, 9 to 10 a.m.

This 1.8-mile hike over rugged terrain follows glacial topography beside beautiful Mill Lake along the Waterloo-Pinckney trail. Wear sturdy boots with studs (Yaktrax) or, snowshoes with four or more inches of snow. Approximately 1.5 hours. Cost: Free.

Owl Prowl

Friday, Feb. 25, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Bundle up for a hike to call in the owls of Waterloo. We will start in the visitor center learning about these fierce birds, then prowl the trails, calling in some curious birds to observe. Cost: Free.

Winter Woody Plants

Sunday, February 26, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

How do you tell the dogwoods apart? By their bark, of course! Join Naturalist Robert Ayotte for a basic introduction to the identification of our local trees, shrubs, and vines during winter. We will focus on buds, branching patterns, tree silhouettes, and bark. The illustrated introduction will be followed by an exploratory hike in the woods around the Discovery Center. Be prepared for icy trails. Cost: \$2/person or \$5/family. Please register in advance at 734-475-3170.

Michigan's Amphibians and Reptiles

Sunday, March 5, 2 to 3 p.m.

Nature Discovery will bring live snakes and turtles that can be found in Michigan. Observe these intriguing creatures up close as you learn about their diverse lifestyles and how they survive in our state. Following the program, you will have the opportunity to handle some of them and watch them eat. Cost: \$2/person or \$5/family. Please register in advance at 734-475-3170.

Maple Sugaring Festival

Saturday, Mar. 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It's time for that traditional rite of spring; tapping maple trees. Take a guided walk to see various methods of collecting sap and learn how to boil it down to make syrup. Antique equipment for making syrup will be on display from the Waterloo Farm Museum, and maple products will be available for purchase. Cost: Free.