

ECOS FALL 2014 NATURE WALKS

This series of walks is on Tuesday mornings. Meeting time at the trailhead is about 9:30. Carpool meeting times vary; trips involving a lengthy drive have been set at an earlier carpool meeting time. You may meet us at the trailhead at 9:30 if you're not interested in carpooling. Many of these walks are in areas that may be wet and muddy. Deer ticks and poison ivy may also be a problem. Please use appropriate precautions. See reverse side for driving directions from carpool meeting place.

Sept. 16 Champlain Canal Lock 4 Located at the junction of the Hudson and Hoosic rivers, this park is as interesting for its geology as it is for its botany. Ed Miller will introduce us to the native shrubs and trees, including mapleleaf viburnum, shad, hazlenut, sheep laurel, and spice bush. We'll also look for late summer field flowers. Meet to carpool at Crosstown Plaza opposite Vision Works at 8:30.

Sept. 23 Moreau Lake State Park Enjoy fall foliage as we walk around the scenic lake, and hike trails through the woods. Jackie Donnelly will be available to guide our walk. Meet at 8:15 to carpool from the Target near the Glenville Queen on Rt. 50.

Sept. 30 Saratoga National Historical Park (Saratoga Battlefield) Join one of the rangers to explore the natural history of the Saratoga Battlefield while enjoying a hike through the Park. We will converse about land use history, from farming to fighting invasives, and come away with a greater understanding and appreciation of this amazing site. Meet to carpool at 9:00 at Northway Exit 12. From the exit ramp go east on Dunning St, take the first right into the shopping center parking area and look for the ECOS group.

Oct. 7 Strawberry Fields Farm Strawberry Fields Farm and Nature Preserve is privately owned and stewarded by Jeff Leon, who will be our guide. It comprises 120 acres of open fields, woods, hedgerows, wetlands and ponds. In the fall fringed gentian and eight varieties of both goldenrods and asters bloom. The calciferous bedrock and Mohawk Valley views are also of interest. Meet to carpool at 9:00 at the junction of Rte 890 and Rte 5 west of Scotia at the Park & Ride.

Oct. 14 Pine Hollow Arboretum, Slingerlands Pine Hollow Arboretum's catalogued collection consists of over 3,300 unique trees, shrubs and other woody plants. The setting includes 12 ponds and a natural succession forest, all easily accessed by a network of walking trails and bridges. The arboretum is organized by geographic areas of the world, and also areas devoted to certain species, such as fir and magnolia. Meet to carpool at Crosstown Plaza opposite Vision Works at 8:45.

Oct. 21 Nancy Slack's Woods Explore Nancy Slack's property in the Glenville Hills. Easy forest trail with fall trees and shrubs; here are 15 deciduous trees and 8 conifers. Bring Ed Miller's tree book or pick one up at Nancy's. **Carpool is important, as parking space at Slack's is limited to 4 cars. See reverse for 2 carpooling options. Meet at 9:00.**

Oct 28 Featherstonhaugh State Forest Trail Clearing Help clear trails for our winter ski trips. This area can be wet and muddy so boots are recommended. You may bring your own loppers, weed whackers, small saws, but ECOS will supply some. Meet at 9:00 at Office Max.

DIRECTIONS TO FALL 2014 NATURE WALKS

These directions are given from the carpool meeting places designated on the other side. Please consult your map if driving from some other location. Please note that the carpool meeting times vary. This is to make it possible to meet at the trailhead at about 9:30, whatever the driving distance.

Champlain Canal, Lock 4 From Crosstown Plaza turn left onto Rte. 7 (the Crosstown), going east to Balltown Road. This will get you on Rte. 146; follow Rte. 146 signs to Mechanicville. Take Rte. 4 and 32 north along the Hudson to Stillwater. Turn right onto Stillwater Bridge Road. There is a large sign at this intersection announcing the park. Follow the park signs east across the bridge to the entrance road leading south to the lock and park.

Moreau Lake State Park From the Glenville Target parking lot, turn right to go north on Rte. 50 to Rte. 67 in Saratoga; turn right to Northway; go north to Exit 17S; go south to Rte. 9; turn right on Old Saratoga Rd; turn right into the park.

Saratoga Battlefield From the shopping center parking, continue east on Dunning St. to County Rte. 108 (Plains Road); turn right on 9P and follow the lake shore around to right turn on Rte. 423 (Battlefield Road); continue about 4 miles; take a left on Rte. 32 and proceed to the Battlefield which is clearly marked. Meet our guide in the Visitor Center at 9:30.

Strawberry Fields Farm Continue west on Rte 5 approximately 9 miles to Cranes Hollow Rd. Turn right (white church on the corner) and continue 0.7 miles on Cranes Hollow Rd. Look for sign on right "LEON 240 Private Road." Turn right and go up the very steep driveway until you come to the parking area on the left near the house.

Pine Hollow Arboretum Exit Crosstown Plaza, turning right onto Rte 7 (the Crosstown). Take Rte. 890 east to the NY Thruway; get off the Thruway at Exit 24; follow the signs onto Rte 90; get off at Exit 4, onto Rte 85. Continue on Rte 85 into Slingerlands, to a left turn onto maple Ave. The Arboretum Visitor Center will be on your left. Please sign in here and get your trail map.

Nancy Slack's Woods **From south and west:** Meet to carpool at the Park & Ride just west of the junction of Rte 890 and Rte 5 west of Scotia. Continue west on Rte 5 to first right, Rector Rd; drive uphill to end of Rector Rd; turn left on Ridge Rd; go about 2 miles to 3442 Ridge Rd. on right. Zip code 12302.

From north and east: Meet to carpool at the Target near the Glenville Queen on Rt. 50. From the parking lot, turn left. At the traffic light, turn right onto Van Buren, then right on Swaggertown, and left on Bolt Rd. (just after the Glenville Farm); right on Re 147 and immediately left on Church road; right at firehouse on Ridge Rd; .8 mi to Slacks, number 3442 on mailbox. Zip code 12302.

Featherstonhaugh State Forest Meet at 9:00 at Office Max across from Rotterdam Square Mall; turn left onto Campbell (Rte.337); turn left onto Putnam Road; turn right onto Mariaville Rd. at blinking light (Rte. 159); continue west 5.3 miles to Lake Rd.; go left on Lake Rd. about 3 miles to Hardin Rd.; turn right on Hardin and park along side of road.; walk along road to trail access on either side, just below brow of hill.