



**** MEDIA ALERT****

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Savannah, NY

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Please note: this information is time-sensitive. Please use as soon as possible.

Wild Winter Programs at the Montezuma Audubon Center

Space is limited. Registration required for these programs. To register or for more information about the Montezuma Audubon Center or its programs please call 315-365-3588 or e-mail montezuma@audubon.org. *Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex receive a 50% discount for programs marked with an asterisk.*

January 7, 2012, Saturday, 1:00-2:30 PM

Hot Cocoa and Snow—Snowshoe and X-C Ski

Cross-country skiers and snowshoes are welcome to kickoff the winter season at the Montezuma Audubon Center with two guided events. Skiers will be led around the two-mile groomed trail while snowshoers will explore the signs of winter on the forest and grassland trail. Afterwards, everyone will warm up inside with a cup of hot cocoa. *Fee including snowshoe rental: \$5/child, \$7.50/adult, \$20/family; Fee without rental: \$3/child, \$5/adult, \$15/family. Skis rentals are not available.

January 11, Wednesday, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Hot Cocoa and Snow—X-C Ski at Howland's Island

Cross-country skiers will be led around Howland's Island, one of the wildest places in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex, to enjoy the beauty of this winter wonderland. Afterwards, warm up with a cup of hot cocoa at the Center. *Fee: \$3/child, \$5/adult, \$15/family (participants must bring their own skis).

January 18, Wednesday, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Cayuga Lake Birding Van Tour

Cayuga Lake is an Important Bird Area because of the large number of waterfowl during winter and migration seasons. Hop in our van for an excursion to the northern part of the lake where around 30 species of ducks, geese and swans can be seen. Participants are encouraged to bring their camera and binoculars. Fee: \$7.50/child; \$10/adult, \$30/family; \$5/person if you drive yourself.

January 21, Saturday, 2:30-4:30 PM

Owl Prowl

Owls are among the silent hunters of the night. Live owls will be on display during an indoor presentation on local owl habitats by animal rehabilitator Ron Walker. Then, join the MAC staff to search for the threatened short-eared owl in the grasslands around Montezuma. \$5/child, \$7.50/adult, \$20/family.

January 25, Wednesday, 10:00-11:30 AM

Hot Cocoa and Snow—Snowshoe at Onondaga Lake

Onondaga Lake is an Important Bird Area for wintering waterfowl and bald eagles. We'll snowshoe along the scenic western shore of Onondaga Lake that meanders through two miles of wind-sheltered woodlands. Afterwards, warm up with a cup of hot cocoa. Call for directions to the meeting location. *Fee including snowshoe rental: \$5/child, \$7.50/adult, \$20/family; Fee without rental: \$3/child, \$5/adult, \$15/family.

January 26, Thursday, 6:30-9:30 PM

Shade Grown Coffee House and Open Mic Night

The Montezuma Audubon Center hosts a coffee house/open mic featuring local music and talent. Come relax and enjoy the music or sign up to perform. Each coffee house will feature a brief presentation on a timely environmental issue. The topic this month is Wetland Habitats. Fee: Free!

January 28, Saturday, 1:00-3:00 PM

Geology Merit Badge Day

Boy scouts will complete indoor and outdoor activities for the geology merit badge. Local geological formations will be used to discuss geological history of the Finger Lakes region, surface and sedimentary processes, mineral resources, and career opportunities. Fee: \$7/scout.

February 1, Wednesday, 10:00-11:30 AM

Hot Cocoa and Snow—Snowshoe at the MAC

The white, winter carpet of fresh fallen snow captures the story of our hardy mammalian friends. Join our naturalist for a snowshoe through the forest and grassland to explore the lives of coyotes, foxes, mice, and more! Then, warm up inside with a cup of hot cocoa. *Fee including snowshoe rental: \$5/child, \$7.50/adult, \$20/family; Fee without rental: \$3/child, \$5/adult, \$15/family.

February 11, Saturday, 1:00-3:00 PM

Girl Scout Snowshoe Spectacular

Girl scouts of all ages are welcome to attend this exciting event that will include snowshoeing, arts and crafts, games and activities. Then, warm up with a cup of hot cocoa! Fee: \$10/scout (includes snowshoe rental).

February 18, Saturday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Great Backyard Bird Count Volunteer Event

Each year, tens of thousands of people throughout the U.S. and Canada take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Volunteers of all ages and all levels of bird watching experience are welcome to help with this citizen science project to count birds around the Montezuma Wetlands Complex. Lunch and hot cocoa provided. Fee: FREE!

February 18, Saturday, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Hot Cocoa and Snow: Great Backyard Birds

Birds can warm up our hearts even on the coldest, darkest winter day. Join our naturalist to learn how to identify your common backyard birds while snowshoeing through the forest and grasslands. Then, warm up with a cup of hot cocoa! *Fee including snowshoe rental: \$5/child, \$7.50/adult, \$20/family; Fee without rental: \$3/child, \$5/adult, \$15/family.

February 20, Monday, 1:00-3:00 PM

Naturalist Badge Day

Webelos scouts will complete the requirements for this badge by identifying and studying local birds and their habitats, discussing bird flyways and bird conservation. Interactive games and activities will be incorporated into the program. Fee: \$7/scout.

February 22, Wednesday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Winter Breakout!

Winter break is here and the fun is heating up! Children ages 6-12 will enjoy a winter adventure program that includes snowshoe hikes, Winter Olympics, hands-on exploration, arts and crafts. Come for the entire day (bring your lunch) or just the morning or afternoon session. Fee: \$25/full day; \$15/half day.

February 23, Thursday, 6:30-9:30 PM

Shade Grown Coffee House and Open Mic Night

The Montezuma Audubon Center hosts a coffee house/open mic featuring local music and talent. Come relax and enjoy the music or sign up to perform. The coffee house will feature a brief presentation on a open space preservation. Fee: FREE!

February 25, Saturday, 1:00-3:30 PM

Nature of Montezuma Lecture and Snowshoe: Get the Dirt on Montezuma

The Montezuma Audubon Center is proud to welcome Dr. Andrew Kozlowski, Associate NY State Geologist, for a talk about his current research in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex. Dr. Kozlowski and his colleagues have been studying Montezuma in an attempt to piece together its geological history. What's the scoop? Come find out! An optional snowshoe around Montezuma's glacial features will follow the lecture. Fee for lecture only: \$3/child, \$5/adult, \$15/family. Fee including snowshoeing: \$5/child, \$7.50/adult, \$20/family.

February 29, Wednesday, 10:00 AM—12:00 PM

Hot Cocoa and Snow—Snowshoe at Howland's Is.

Snowshoers will be led around Howland's Island, one of the wildest places in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex, to enjoy the beauty of this winter wonderland. Afterwards, warm up with a cup of hot cocoa at the Center. *Fee including snowshoe rental: \$5/child, \$7.50/adult, \$20/family; Fee without rental: \$3/child, \$5/adult, \$15/family.

March 3, Saturday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Nest Box Building Volunteer Day

Come one! Come all! Make nest boxes for birds great and small! Volunteers are wanted to help build and repair nest boxes for our most vulnerable bird species like the kestrel, wood duck, and purple martin. Lunch will be provided. Fee: FREE!

March 7, Wednesday, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Montezuma Birding Van Tour

Ducks, geese and swans are on the move as the spring migration season is upon us. Hop in our van for an excursion to Montezuma's birding hotspots where hundreds of thousands of waterfowl can be seen! Participants are encouraged to bring their camera and binoculars. Fee: \$7.50/child; \$10/adult, \$30/family; \$5/person if you drive yourself.

Montezuma Audubon Center
2295 State Route 89
Savannah, NY 13146

The Center is Open Tuesday-Saturday 10 am- 4 pm

Visit <http://ny.audubon.org/montezuma.htm> for more information about our facilities, trails, and events.

The Montezuma Audubon Center is a state-owned facility operated through a cooperative agreement between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the National Audubon Society.

Now in its second century, Audubon is dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. Our national network of community-based nature centers and chapters, scientific and educational programs, and advocacy on behalf of areas sustaining important bird populations, engage millions of people of all ages and backgrounds in conservation. www.audubon.org

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