



December Programs at the Paul Smith's College VIC

The Paul Smith's College VIC has put together a full schedule of activities to educate and inform Adirondack Park residents and visitors about the natural wonders of the Adirondack Mountains. You can help support these programs by joining the Friends of the VIC. Membership is available at a range of levels, starting with individual memberships with a minimum of \$45 annual contribution. For information on Friends of the VIC memberships, visit <https://ecomunity.paulsmiths.edu/page.aspx?pid=427>

The VIC building is open daily 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The building will be closed 25 December for Christmas Day.

Daily, starting 7 December – Winter Wonders Art Show

Artists Nancy Brossard, Sandra Hildreth, and Edith Urban and photographers Mark Kurtz, Eleanor Sweeney, and Karla Briant are exhibiting their work at the Paul Smith's College VIC from 7 December 2013 through 29 January 2014. Free admission. Underwritten by Friends of the VIC.

Daily, VIC Map Hike

The Paul Smiths VIC has developed a Map Hike to create another way to enjoy the VIC trails. Participants purchase a kit for \$8 in the VIC Gift Shop. The kit includes a control card and a map, used to navigate to the locations indicated by the small red circles on the map. Fill in at least five control codes to be eligible for prizes and a 10% discount on a compass at Blue Line Sports in Saranac Lake. Participants may visit the controls in any order they wish. Hikers may complete the course in multiple visits. There is no time limit on completing this activity.

Daily, Adopt a Sugar Maple

Support the development of maple sugaring at the VIC by adopting a tree for \$50. We'll do the tapping, and you'll be investing in the education of an intern and the equipment to take loving care of the tree. The best part is you get a quart of maple syrup from "your tree" when it's ready! (Shipping not included.) Adoption papers are available at the VIC front desk. Makes a great holiday gift!

Paul Smith's College VIC
8023 State Route 30
Paul Smiths, New York 12970
518-327-6241 | Email: bmcdonnell@paulsmiths.edu | www.adirondackvic.org

Wednesday, 4 December – No-School Day at the VIC: Project Feeder Watch

Find life, even in the cold of Adirondack winters, in this day of winter bird discovery! Children aged 7-11 are invited to join local birding expert Brian McAllister and ecologist Michelle Berrus from noon to 4:00 PM to meet the VIC's winter resident birds: Black-capped Chickadees, American Goldfinches, and more. Learn how to use your binoculars and where you are most likely to see birds in your neighborhood. We will learn about the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Project Feeder Watch and create bird feeders to bring birds to your house. Bring your binoculars, your outdoor clothes for walking and playing in the snow, and food for snack and lunch.

Preregister by 5:00 PM, 1 December 2013 by calling 518-327-6241. The fee is \$20 per person, \$15 for Friends of the VIC.

Friday, 6 December – No-School Day at the VIC: More Project Feeder Watch

This event is designed for children aged 7-11. It can add to your experience from the previous Project Feeder Watch program or can be your first. Join local birding expert Brian McAllister and ecologist Michelle Berrus from noon to 4:00 PM for an introduction to the VIC's winter resident birds: Black-capped Chickadees, American Goldfinches, and more. You will learn how to use binoculars, experience interesting habits and sounds of Adirondack winter birds, find where they are likely to be seen, especially in your own neighborhood. You will get to create feeders to bring birds to your yard and learn about Cornell's Lab of Ornithology Project Feeder Watch. Bring your binoculars, your outdoor clothes for walking and playing in the snow, and food for snack and lunch.

Reservations are required. Preregister by 5:00 PM, 3 December 2013 by calling 518-327-6241. The fee is \$20 per person, \$15 for Friends of the VIC.

Monday, 9 December – High Tunnel School

Learn how to build and get the most out of your high-tunnel green house with Cornell Cooperative Extension. Speakers include Amy Ivy, specialist with the Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture program, and Judson Reid, specialist with the Cornell Vegetable program. Participants will learn about what crops work in tunnels and what to look for when selecting a tunnel. The program also covers irrigation basics, temperature management and ventilation, structures and site considerations, crop culture spacing, tunnel management, and the impact of snow loads and wind. Coffee and refreshments will be available at 9:30 AM. The program runs from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The fee is \$25 per person. Lunch and resource materials included in the registration fee. Please register by 1 December by calling (518) 561-7450. For more information, email Amy Ivy at adi@cornell.edu.

Tuesday, 10 December – Volunteer Potluck

VIC volunteers meet at 5:00 PM. for a potluck supper and a preview of upcoming events and activities. VIC volunteers provide visitor information, perform stewardship projects, and participate in citizen science projects. Those interested in volunteering are welcome. Bring a place setting and dish to share. Immediately following dinner, we will be having a Yankee Gift exchange. If you want to participate, please bring in a wrapped gift valued at \$10.00 or below. RSVP Karen Potts by emailing kpotts@paulsmiths.edu, or by calling 518-327-6241.

Saturday, 14 December – Winter Birds of the Adirondacks

Join us from 9:30 AM to noon to learn about birds that spend their winters in the Adirondacks. Bring binoculars and your favorite birding field guide. Birds that normally make the VIC their winter home include Blue Jays, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Black-capped Chickadees, Evening Grosbeaks, and Dark-eyed Juncos. \$10/person, \$5 for Friends of the VIC.

Saturday, 21 December – Winter Solstice Sleigh Rides

Celebrate the Winter Solstice by joining Bob Brhel and the Paul Smith's College draft-horse team for an unforgettable horse-drawn sleigh ride through the beautiful northern forest. Sleigh Rides will be offered from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Donations will benefit the PSC Draft Horse Program.

Monday, 23 December – No-School Day at the VIC: All About Snowshoes

Children aged 7-11 are invited to discover life on snowshoes from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM with VIC educator Michelle Berrus. Learn the tradition behind snowshoes, how to use your own, and how they are used today. We will explore different ways of making snowshoes and make our own mini-snowshoes for the tree or as a dream catcher. Bring your snowshoes and camera, your outdoor clothes for walking and playing in the snow, and food for snack and lunch.

Reservations are required. Reserve your spot by 5:00 PM, Wednesday, 18 December 2013 by calling 518-327-6241. The fee is \$35 per person, \$25 for Friends of the VIC. Snowshoe rentals are \$10 for those who need them.

Friday, 27 December – No-School Day at the VIC: Learning Wilderness Skills

Children aged 7-11 are invited to explore the ways of wilderness survival from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Learn to prepare and create a fire with stone and steel, build a shelter with logs and snow, and balance figure 4 traps. Choose from many options of wilderness/ traditional crafts, including cordage and dream catchers. VIC educator Michelle Berrus will lead you through wilderness scenarios in which you will work as a team to “survive” in the wilderness. Bring your outdoor clothes for walking and playing in the snow, and food for snack and lunch. Reserve your spot by 5:00 PM, 22 December 2013 by calling 518-327-6241. \$35 per person, \$25 for Friends of the VIC.

Sunday, 29 December – Father Time Snowshoe Run

This will be a 5K race. Registration will start at 9:00 AM, with the race starting at 10:00 AM. The registration fee is \$10, \$5 for Friends of the VIC. Winners will receive a handmade trophy. Hot cocoa and cookies will be provided.

Monday, 30 December – No-School Day at the VIC: Winter Tracks

Children aged 7-11 are invited to join VIC educator and ecologist Michelle Berrus from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM to discover the VIC’s winter animal residents. Learn how to see into the past by reading the movement and intent of animals by analyzing their tracks. Make your own animal tracks for decoration and reference. Bring your guide books, outdoor clothes for walking and playing in the snow, and food for snack and lunch. Reserve your spot by 5:00 PM, Wednesday, 27 December 2013 by calling 518-327-6241. \$35 per person, \$25 for Friends of the VIC.

Ski the VIC!

Over 25 miles of groomed ski and snowshoe trails



Winter Trail Fees	
Day Pass	Season Pass
Under 6 years old: Free	Under 6 years old: Free
Child (6-17): \$5	Child (6-17): \$50
Adult (18-64): \$12	Adult (18-64): \$100
Senior (65+): \$10	Senior (65+): \$80
PSC alumni: \$10	PSC alumni: \$80
Current PSC students: Free	Current PSC students: Free
Other college students: \$8	Other college students: \$80
Veteran/Current Military: \$8	Veterans/Current Military: \$80
Town of Brighton Resident: \$8	Town of Brighton resident: \$80

- * Friends of the VIC: Show your membership card & receive a 25% discount on day & season passes.
- * PSC faculty & staff are eligible for free individual Friends of the VIC membership. Bring your PSC ID to the VIC.
- * Season & Day Passes are free for Friends of the VIC Trail Blazers.
- * Guest Pass: Add an additional \$50 to any season pass & receive 10 day passes to bring a friend to the VIC anytime.
- * Family Pass: For 2 adults living in the same household, purchase 2 individual passes at the designated rate above, & children under 18 who live in the household ski free.
- * Bring your VIC trail pass with you to winter events & receive VIC Center event & program discounts.
- * Season pass holders & Friends of the VIC get a 10% discount on XC ski & snowshoe rentals from MAC'S at the VIC!




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