

For Immediate Release: September 25, 2019

Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Kerhonkson, NY

Palisades Interstate Park Commission

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**NEWS RELEASE:
Public Programs at Minnewaska State Park Preserve
and Sam's Point for October 2019**

Pre-registration is required for participation in most public programs. Please call the Park Preserve Office at 845-255-0752, unless otherwise noted. For outings, please wear appropriate clothing and footwear and bring snacks and water. A parent or guardian over the age of 18 must accompany children wishing to participate in any programs.

Please pre-register for all public programs by calling the Park Preserve Office or the Sam's Point Visitor Center where noted, seven days per week, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Attempted email pre-registration is not a guarantee of participation in any

program. Internet service on site is not reliable, education staff is not able to monitor individual email accounts every day and emails may not be received in a consistent and timely manner. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Minnewaska Nature Center Hours:

The Minnewaska Nature Center will be open Saturday, Sunday and Holidays from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., with a closure for lunch, from Memorial Day until Columbus Day. Staff will either be at the Nature Center or out in the Park Preserve leading public programs during these time slots. When the building is closed, an information center will be available on the porch to assist patrons with questions about the Park Preserve.

Sam's Point Visitor Center and Gallery Hours:

The Sam's Point Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The following public programs will be offered at Minnewaska State Park Preserve and Sam's Point Area in October:

Sam's Point Gallery Spotlight for October: *Sacred Ground: Pastel Paintings* by Marlene Wiedenbaum, Master Pastelist

Sacred Ground is an ongoing series of pastel paintings that has been exhibited at numerous Hudson Valley galleries since 2008. As Marlene Weidenbaum, the artist, explains, "During the past twenty-five years of painting in the Hudson Valley, I have

become keenly aware of the loss of nature and the diminishing American landscape. I have also discovered hallowed grounds, those sacred areas respected and protected from population growth and the resulting developmental ruin. In collaboration with preservation organizations, this project pays tribute to and supports land preservation and planned development while increasing the public's understanding of preservation.” For more information, please visit www.wiedenbaum.com. **Pre-registration is NOT required.**

Tuesday, October 1, 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Hike to the Shingle Gully Ice Caves

Explore the Shingle Gully Ice Caves, where ice persists into summer in deep crevice caves. These caves are in a primitive area in Minnewaska State Park Preserve. This rugged, protected landscape is accessible only on guided tours led by park staff and volunteer docents. This all-day, strenuous adventure ascends and descends 1,500 feet, includes off-trail bushwhacking and steep rock scrambles, and is only appropriate for experienced hikers. **Pre-registration is required by calling Sam's Point at 845-647-7989. Pre-registration deadline: September 26th.**

Saturday, October 5, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Slower Paced Hike to the Shingle Gully Ice Caves

Explore the Shingle Gully Ice Caves, where ice persists into summer in deep crevice caves. These caves are in a primitive area in Minnewaska State Park Preserve. This rugged, protected landscape is accessible only on guided tours led by park staff and volunteer docents. This all-day, strenuous adventure ascends and descends 1,500 feet, includes off-trail bushwhacking and steep rock scrambles, and is only appropriate for experienced hikers. **Pre-registration is required by calling Sam's Point at 845-647-7989. Pre-registration deadline: September 30th.**

Saturday, October 5, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Millbrook Mountain Hike at Minnewaska

Join a park educator for this modestly challenging, five-mile roundtrip hike along the Millbrook Mountain Footpath and Millbrook Mountain Carriage Road. Panoramic views of the Wallkill Valley in its finest autumnal colors are abundant from the top of Millbrook Mountain. The footpath section of this outing traverses through forests, over a stream and over rock slabs, with sustained downhill and uphill sections. Some participants may find this uneven terrain challenging. The return trip on the meandering Millbrook Mountain and Lake Minnewaska Carriage Roads is easier, with scenic views of the Palmaghatt Ravine below. Participants should bring water, snacks and lunch and wear appropriate hiking shoes. Meet at the Minnewaska Nature Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

Sunday, October 6, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Morning Hike around the Lake and along Beacon Hill Footpath at Minnewaska

Join Laura Conner, Environmental Educator, for a three-mile hike along the Lake Minnewaska Carriage Road, Beacon Hill Footpath and Beacon Hill Carriage Road. We'll walk the picturesque route around the Lake from West to East, stopping along the way for a short detour to a scenic vista of the Catskills. Then, we'll hike the Beacon Hill Footpath, which follows along the top edge of an east-facing escarpment and gets bathed in the warm, morning light. This walk will offer beautiful views of the brilliant foliage below in the Rondout and Wallkill Valleys and the Catskill Mountains to the north. The carriage roads are relatively easy walking; however, the footpath does include some hills and tricky footing. Meet at the Minnewaska Nature Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

Monday, October 7, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Hike to the Shingle Gully Ice Caves

Explore the Shingle Gully Ice Caves, where ice persists into summer in deep crevice caves. These caves are in a primitive area in Minnewaska State Park Preserve. This rugged, protected landscape is accessible only on guided tours led by park staff and volunteer docents. This all-day, strenuous adventure ascends and descends 1,500 feet, includes off-trail bushwhacking and steep rock scrambles, and is only appropriate for experienced hikers. **Pre-registration is required by calling Sam's Point at 845-647-7989. Pre-registration deadline: October 2nd.**

Tuesday, October 8, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.: Tuesday Trek: Out and Back to Gertrude's Nose at Minnewaska

Join Elizabeth Axley, Student Conservation Association/AmeriCorps Member, for an adventurous, six-mile hike to Gertrude's Nose and back on the same route. This footpath, which traverses an escarpment edge, offers one of the most expansive views in Minnewaska. From our start at Lake Minnewaska, this route will follow Millbrook Mountain Carriage Road to Gertrude's Nose Footpath, which offers broad views of the Wallkill Valley, Taconic Mountains and beyond. This modestly challenging hike includes a steep rock scramble, a few hills and some tricky footing. Participants must bring water, snacks and lunch and wear appropriate hiking shoes. Meet at the Minnewaska Nature Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

Saturday, October 12, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Hamilton and Castle Point Loop Hike at Minnewaska

Join a park educator for an approximately eight-mile, loop walk loaded with breathtaking, cliff-edge views of the Fall foliage in all its beautiful colors. Starting on the Lake Minnewaska Carriage Road, we'll walk until we get to the Hamilton Point Carriage Road. From there, we will continue back on the Castle Point Carriage Road. Along the way, we will enjoy views of the Palmaghatt Ravine below and Lake Awosting. The carriage roads at Minnewaska feature a firm, stable surface that many find easier to

traverse. If you've hesitated to join a trail hike, but still want to get out in the woods to see the glorious Fall colors, this outing may be a good fit for you. Participants should pack water and food and wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Meet at the Minnewaska Nature Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

Saturday, October 12, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Owl Pellet Investigation at Sam's Point

Owls are fierce birds of prey who hunt small rodents, insects, and even small birds during the late hours of the night. Owls swallow their food whole, and what cannot be digested is turned into a small pellet that they expel. Examination of these pellets is a fun, hands-on, and educational activity for people of all ages. After opening and going through the pellets, we will try to identify which animals the bones came from by measuring the skull and other bones found. This program is recommended for children between the ages of six to twelve years old, but all are welcome. All children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian over the age of 18. **Pre-registration is required by calling Sam's Point at 845-647-7989.**

Saturday, October 12, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Gallery Reception - Meet the Artist: Marlene Wiedenbaum, *Sacred Ground* at Sam's Point

Join Master Pastelist, Marlene Wiedenbaum at Sam's Point Visitor's Center in Cragmoor and view her pastel paintings of Hudson Valley Preserves, State Parks, and Conservation Areas. For over 25 years, Marlene has explored the Hudson Valley with a palette of soft pastels, sanded paper, an easel and a kneaded eraser, often working "en plein air" in these protected areas. Her "Sacred Ground" Exhibits began in 2008 and continue at Sam's Point. In a collaboration with several organizations, including the Minnewaska State Park Preserve, the Mohonk Preserve, The Nature Conservancy and Scenic Hudson, "Sacred Ground" pays tribute to and supports land preservation and

planned development and hopefully increases the public's understanding of preservation. Marlene's award-winning paintings have been exhibited internationally, and her work is among other Master Pastelists featured in text books commissioned by the Taiwanese government. She has been profiled in Art Times, American Artist, and various other arts journals. She is a Signature Member of Master Pastelist status of the Pastel Society of America and is currently on their Board of Governors. Her work is in private and public collections throughout the country and is represented in the tri-state area. **Pre-registration is NOT required.**

Sunday, October 13, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Kids Make Your Own Animal Track Drop-In Program at Minnewaska

Bring your children to the Minnewaska Nature Center to make their own plaster animal track to bring home. While the plaster hardens, participants can explore the Nature Center and nearby trails. This activity is recommended for children over the age of six years old, accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Siblings of any age are welcome; however, younger siblings may need parental assistance. **Pre-Registration is NOT required.**

Monday, October 14, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Fall Foliage Walk: Views across the Ravine at Minnewaska

Join Laura Conner, Environmental Educator, for a morning stroll along the Castle Point and Millbrook Mountain Carriage Roads to reach Kempton Ledge and Patterson's Pellet. Views of the colorful leaves of autumn should be gorgeous from these cliff-edge viewpoints. These two scenic vistas are located across the Palmaghatt Ravine from each other. If conditions are favorable, we should be able to see one from the other and perhaps even the tower at High Point State Park in New Jersey. Meet at the

Minnewaska Nature Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

Monday, October 14, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.: Holiday Hike – Citizen Science! at Sam's Point

When do the flowers bloom? When do the leaves fall? We are very curious to find out! In this program, you will learn all about phenology, the study of how plants and animals change throughout the seasons, while working as a citizen scientist to collect information about the plants in our park. We will be offering this hike once a month at Sam's Point to monitor seasonal changes in plants along the Loop Road. Along this carriage road, you will encounter a variety of flowers, ferns, shrubs, and trees which change as you move up in elevation. This program is recommended for children over the age of eight, but everyone is welcome to join us. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Meet at the Sam's Point Visitor Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Sam's Point at 845-647-7989.**

Monday, October 14, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Holiday Hike to the Shingle Gully Ice Caves

Explore the Shingle Gully Ice Caves, where ice persists into summer in deep crevice caves. These caves are in a primitive area in Minnewaska State Park Preserve. This rugged, protected landscape is accessible only on guided tours led by park staff and volunteer docents. This all-day, strenuous adventure ascends and descends 1,500 feet, includes off-trail bushwhacking and steep rock scrambles, and is only appropriate for experienced hikers. **Pre-registration is required by calling Sam's Point at 845-647-7989. Pre-registration deadline: October 9th.**

Thursday, October 17, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.:

Homeschoolers Adventures: Ice Caves Hike at Sam's Point

Come join other homeschoolers to explore the trails and crevice caves at Sam's Point. This hike includes approximately three-and-a-half miles of hiking on old woods roads and a half mile of hiking on the Ice Caves Footpath, which includes steep stone stairs, ladders, boardwalks and slippery surfaces. Participants are encouraged to wear appropriate footwear for these conditions. If time allows, we'll take the scenic route to return along the Loop Road, enjoying views of Lake Maratanza along the way. This program is recommended for children between the ages of seven and twelve years old, accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Meet at the Sam's Point Visitor Center. *This program was initially scheduled for October 31, but has been rescheduled for this date with an additional session added in the morning.* **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

Saturday, October 19, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Citizen Science Hike on Beacon Hill at Minnewaska

Become a citizen scientist and learn all about phenology, the study of how plants and animals change throughout the seasons. We will be offering this hike once a month to monitor seasonal changes in plants along the Beacon Hill loop hike. This two-mile hike offers beautiful views of the Rondout and Wallkill Valleys as well as the Catskill Mountains. Our route follows along carriage roads as well as a footpath, which does include some hills and tricky footing. This program is recommended for participants over the age of eight, but everyone who can hike the distance is welcome to join us. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Meet at the Minnewaska Nature Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

Sunday, October 20, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Fall Foliage Bonanza Hike to Echo Rock at Minnewaska

Join Laura Conner, Environmental Educator, for an approximately four-mile round trip walk along two carriage roads to reach the picturesque Echo Rock. Ancient Eastern hemlock trees line the edges of this route, which offers expansive views of the colorful fall foliage. From the top of this scenic lookout, visitors peer down into the pristine Palmaghatt Ravine, where vultures often glide below. Meet at the Minnewaska Nature Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

Tuesday, October 22, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Hike to the Shingle Gully Ice Caves

Explore the Shingle Gully Ice Caves, where ice persists into summer in deep crevice caves. These caves are in a primitive area in Minnewaska State Park Preserve. This rugged, protected landscape is accessible only on guided tours led by park staff and volunteer docents. This all-day, strenuous adventure ascends and descends 1,500 feet, includes off-trail bushwhacking and steep rock scrambles, and is only appropriate for experienced hikers. **Pre-registration is required by calling Sam's Point at 845-647-7989. Pre-registration deadline: October 17th.**

Tuesday, October 22, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Millbrook Mountain Hike at Minnewaska

Join a park educator for this modestly challenging, five-mile roundtrip hike along the Millbrook Mountain Footpath and Millbrook Mountain Carriage Road. Panoramic, scenic views of the Wallkill Valley in its finest autumnal colors are abundant from the top of Millbrook Mountain. The footpath section of this outing traverses through forests, over a stream and over rock slabs, with sustained downhill and uphill sections. Some participants may find this uneven terrain challenging. The return trip on the meandering

Millbrook Mountain and Lake Minnewaska Carriage Roads is easier, with cliff-edge views of the Palmaghatt Ravine. Participants should bring water, snacks and lunch and wear appropriate hiking shoes. Meet at the Minnewaska Nature Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

Friday, October 25, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.: Hike to the Shingle Gully Ice Caves

Explore the Shingle Gully Ice Caves, where ice persists into summer in deep crevice caves. These caves are in a primitive area in Minnewaska State Park Preserve. This rugged, protected landscape is accessible only on guided tours led by park staff and volunteer docents. This all-day, strenuous adventure ascends and descends 1,500 feet, includes off-trail bushwhacking and steep rock scrambles, and is only appropriate for experienced hikers. **Pre-registration is required by calling Sam's Point at 845-647-7989. Pre-registration deadline: October 20th.**

Saturday, October 26, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.: Rainbow Falls and Lake Awosting Hike at Minnewaska

Join park educators for an exciting excursion on an assortment of historic carriage roads and footpaths to explore some of the lesser-traversed sections of the Park Preserve. For this approximately ten-mile hike, participants will hike Mossy Glen Footpath, Lower Awosting Carriage Road, Rainbow Falls Footpath, Scenic Trail Footpath and Lake Awosting Carriage Road. We'll begin our hike on Mossy Glen Footpath and make our way over to Rainbow Falls Footpath via Blueberry Run Footpath, Jenny Lane Footpath and Lower Awosting Carriage Road. Rainbow Falls features interesting backcountry terrain and has a spectacular view of the Catskill Mountains. At the intersection of Castle Point, we'll wander down to the Scenic Trail, walking past Margaret Cliff and Murray Hill on the way to the southwest end of Lake Awosting. From here, we'll continue around Lake Awosting on the Lake Awosting

Carriage Road and return on Lower Awosting Carriage Road, which is an easy stroll back to the parking area. This outing includes some hiking over rock slabs, tree roots, a stream crossing and a rock scrambling section, which some hikers may find challenging. Participants must come with appropriate footwear and enough food and water to sustain themselves for the day. Meet in the Awosting Parking Area. **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

Sunday, October 27, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.: Fall Foliage from Gertrude’s Nose at Minnewaska

Join Laura Conner, Environmental Educator for an adventurous six-mile hike to Gertrude’s Nose and back on the same route. This footpath, which traverses an escarpment edge, offers one of the most expansive views in Minnewaska. From our start at Lake Minnewaska, this route will follow Millbrook Mountain Carriage Road to Gertrude’s Nose Footpath, which offers broad views of the Wallkill Valley, Taconic Mountains and beyond. This modestly challenging hike includes a steep rock scramble, a few hills and some tricky footing. Participants must bring water, snacks and lunch and wear appropriate hiking shoes. Meet at the Minnewaska Nature Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

Monday, October 28, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Last Chance Hike to the Shingle Gully Ice Caves

Explore the Shingle Gully Ice Caves, where ice persists into summer in deep crevice caves. These caves are in a primitive area in Minnewaska State Park Preserve. This rugged, protected landscape is accessible only on guided tours led by park staff and volunteer docents. This all-day, strenuous adventure ascends and descends 1,500 feet, includes off-trail bushwhacking and steep rock scrambles, and is only appropriate for experienced hikers. This will be the last Shingle Gully hike in 2019. **Pre-registration**

is required by calling Sam's Point at 845-647-7989. Pre-registration deadline: October 23rd.

For more information and to register for programs at Minnewaska, please call the Park Preserve Office at 845-255-0752. For more information and to register for programs at the Sam's Point Area, please call the Sam's Point Visitor Center at 845-647-7989. Minnewaska State Park Preserve is open from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., until Tuesday, October 8 when the closing time switches to 6:00 p.m.

The fee for parking is \$10 per vehicle or a valid Empire Pass may be used. To learn more about the Empire Pass and other admission programs, please visit: parks.ny.gov/admission. All fees are subject to change. There are no additional fees for public programs, unless noted otherwise.

Minnewaska State Park Preserve consists of over 23,000 acres of wild and scenic land located on Route 44/55, five miles west of the intersection with Route 299 in Gardiner, New York and includes the Sam's Point Area, located in the hamlet of Cragmoor, south of Route 52.

The Palisades Interstate Park Commission administers 30 parks, parkways and historic sites for the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in New York as well as the Palisades Interstate Park and parkway in New Jersey. For more information about New York State Parks, please visit parks.ny.gov

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Minnewaska State Park Preserve

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