

## **BKAA 2012 Calendar of Events**

All events free & open to the public!

**Saturday, January 21, 10am**

### **Cross Country Skiing with Mike Medley**

Flat terrain on D&H Canal towpath great for beginners and intermediates. Dress in layers; bring water. Excursion lasts at least 3 hours. Weather permitting, meet at Haven Road DEC parking lot (209 side). Call Mike to register and/or check snow conditions at (845)754-0743).

**Sunday, February 12, 10am**

### **Take Your Valentine Cross Country Skiing with Mike Medley**

Enjoy the Basha Kill's beauty once again on the D&H Canal towpath. Dress in layers; bring water. Excursion lasts at least 3 hours. Weather permitting, meet at Haven Road DEC parking lot (209 side). Call Mike to register and/or check snow conditions at (845)754-0743).

**NEW**

**Saturday, March 24, 8am**

**(Alternate date, Sunday, April 1 if a late deep freeze)**

### **"Wonderful Waterfowl"**

Join birder extraordinaire John Haas at the Haven road DEC parking lot (209 side). You will see an array of migrating waterfowl and learn to differentiate between the many species who stop here on their way north. Boots may help as we also will walk the Birch Trail (can be wet this time of year) from South Road boat launch to see ducks, geese, mergansers from this productive locale. Call John to register and/or check outing's status at (845)888-0240.

**Saturday, March 31st, 9:30am-12 noon**

### **Nature Watch Training**

Become a BKAA Volunteer at the Basha Kill! Come to this training to learn about bald eagle biology and the Basha Kill ecosystem so you can volunteer with the Nature Watch Program. If you love the Basha Kill and like to talk with people, this program is for you! Training includes a variety of presentations with slideshow on wildlife and plants of the Basha Kill and explanation of the program. After training, you sign up for three shifts (three hours each) on Saturdays and Sundays from mid-April through early July. Please call Maryallison Farley at 845-888-0261 to register.

**Saturday, April 14, 7:45pm  
(Rain date Saturday, April 21)  
Star Walk with Bob Fiore**

Very dependent on weather! Meet at Haven Road DEC parking lot (209 side). Call Bob to register and/or check trip's status at (845)498-9001.

**Saturday, April 21, 9:30-10am  
(Registration and site assignments)  
31<sup>st</sup> Annual Basha Kill Clean-up**

Celebrate Earth Day! Enjoy a walk and fresh spring air while ridding the wetlands of debris. Garbage bags are provided. Wear boots, work gloves, and insect repellent. Bring chairs as lunch, supplied by the BKAA, will be eaten al fresco in the Haven Road DEC parking lot (209 side); also event's registration site. BKAA merchandise will be on sale and door prizes awarded. Call Paula Medley at (845)754-0743 for further information.

**Weekends from Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> through Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>  
Nature Watch at the South Road Boat Launch**

Join trained BKAA Nature Watch Volunteers at the South Road boat launch to learn more about many residents of this amazing wetland. View the nesting bald eagles and other birds. Equipped with two powerful spotting scopes and lots of information, the Volunteers will help you get to know the Basha Kill a little better. Bring your children, other family members and friends of all ages for some fun in the outdoors! From 10:00am to 4:00pm every Saturday and Sunday between April 21<sup>st</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>. Call Maryallison Farley at 845-888-0261 or Patricia Diness at 845-386-5024 for more details.

**Saturday, May 5, 8am  
Spring Bird Migration with John Haas**

Join John Haas at the Haven Road parking lot (Orchard and Stop Sign Trail-South Road side) to view spring migrants, ranging from Warblers to Vireos, Orioles, and more. We begin our walk here, then move to the Nature Trail off South Road, past the main boat launch. Call John to register and/or for more information at (845)888-0240.

**Saturday, May 19, 10am**

**Hike to Gobbler's Knob with Mike Medley**

Enjoy views of a beautiful 650 acre Shawangunk Ridge property, which is also site of the proposed Basherkill Subdivision. The hike gains 450 vertical feet from the parking area to the Knob, which is almost 1,000 feet high. Wear comfortable, sturdy shoes; bring water. Trip takes two hours. Meet at the South Road fishing platform (Westbrookville end). To register or for more information, contact Mike at (845)754-0743.

**Sunday, May 20, 10am**

**Spring Wildflowers with John Kenney**

See first blossoms of the season. You will be delighted! Meet at Haven Road DEC parking lot (209 side). Call John to register and/or for more details at (845)436-6046.

**Sunday, June 3, 10am**

**Happy for Herps with Bill Cutler**

Join herpetologist Bill Cutler on a search for amphibians and reptiles. Kids as well as adults love learning about them. Meet at the Haven Road DEC parking lot (209 side). Call Bill to register and/or for additional information at (845)807-0291.

**Sunday, June 24, 10am**

**Blooms and Butterflies with John Kenney**

See the next wave of wildflowers and a beautiful array of butterflies. Meet at Haven Road DEC parking lot (209 side). Call John to register and/or for further information at (845)436-6046.

**NEW Tuesday, July 3, 8:30pm**

**Moonlight Canoe/Kayak Adventure  
with Scott Graber and Mike Medley**

Experience the Basha Kill from a unique perspective! Must bring your own vessel. Meet at South Road Boat Launch. Should register and check trip's status with Mike at (845)754-0743.

**Saturday, July 7, 10am**

**History of D&H Canal with Gary Keeton**

Join Gary for a walk through time. Ever wonder about local stone walls and foundations? Curious about how people farmed the rocky soils or the relationship between the Basha Kill and Pine Kill? Oh, and learn about the canal, too! Meet at the DEC access road on Route 209 across from the Pinekill Deli in Westbrookville. Contact Gary at (845)386-4892 for particulars.

**NEW**      **Saturday, July 14, 8am to 10am**  
**Natural History Walk with Jack Austin**

Stroll 2-3 miles on level terrain with naturalist Jack Austin as you see and listen to what is nesting, growing, and maturing in mid-summer. Wear good walking shoes as there may be wet areas and bring insect repellent. Meet at the Stop Sign parking area, off Haven Road (South Road side). For information, contact Jack at (845)856-0706 or cell at (845)649-8720.

**Saturday, August 4, 10am**  
**History of the D&H Canal with Gary Keeton**

A reprise of the June walk. Meet at DEC access road on Route 209 across from the Pinekill Deli in Westbrookville. Contact Gary at (845)386-4892 for details.

**Saturday, August 11, 6am**  
**Sunrise Walk with Gary Keeton**

Rise and shine! Enjoy the Basha Kill's wonders from a different view. Meet at Haven Road DEC parking lot (209 side). Call Gary at (845)386-4892 for information.

**Friday, August 31, 8:15pm**  
**Moonlight Walk with Gary Keeton**

Amble along Haven Road and the Railroad Trail. Enjoy moonrise over the ridge as you discuss the area's natural history. Meet at the Haven Road DEC parking lot (209 side). Contact Gary at (845)386-4892 for additional facts.

**Saturday, September 22, 10am**  
**Canoe/kayak the Basha Kill**  
**with Scott Graber and Mike Medley**

Join naturalists Scott and Mike for a late season venture on this first day of autumn. Bring your own vessel. Meet at the South Road Boat Launch. Call Mike at (845)754-0743 to register & for more details.

**Sunday, September 30, 9:30am**  
**Hike the Shawangunk Ridge with Mike Medley**  
Moderately difficult hike, lasting 4-5 hours. Wear comfortable sturdy shoes and bring water and lunch. Meet at the D&H Canal Kiosk at the

Pat Moore Memorial Picnic Grove on Sullivan Street in Wurtsboro.  
Must register by calling Mike at (845)754-0743.

**New                    Sunday, October 7, 9:45am**  
**Hike the Minisink Trail at Huckleberry State**

**Forest in the Town of Greenville with Mike Medley**

Join Mike on a beautiful 5 mile loop hike on the Shawangunk Ridge. Wear comfortable sturdy shoes and bring water and lunch. There are two ways to reach the trailhead. 1. Travel independently. Find directions to the trailhead and the hike's description on the NY/NJ Trail Conferences website, [www.nynjtc.org](http://www.nynjtc.org) - type "Minisink Trail" in the site's search box. 2. Carpool or travel in a caravan led by Mike. Meet at South Road fishing platform (Westbrookville end) at 9:00am. Absolutely must register for this trip by calling Mike at (845)754-0743.