

# \* NATURE PROGRAMS \*

~ Winter 2010 ~

## Naturalist Guided Programs Galena Creek Recreational Area



The Great Basin Institute and Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space present the 2010 Nature Programs Series, ranging from classroom crafts for kids to naturalist-led hikes.

Programs are free, with a suggested donation to support the Great Basin Institute, our non-profit sponsor. There is a fee for most Workshops. Please check the following schedule for details. See you there!



Call **775.674.5486**  
for more information  
& to register for programs.  
View more details at:

[www.thegreatbasininstitute.org](http://www.thegreatbasininstitute.org)

**TEACHERS:** We tailor environmental education school programs (meeting State standards) to fit your needs. Please call for information about how we can work with you!

*\*All children must be accompanied by an adult. Due to the anticipated number of participants, no dogs please.*

### Important Abbreviations:

GCRP = Galena Creek Regional Park  
GBI = Great Basin Institute (for classroom).  
Classroom at 16750 Mt. Rose Highway, Suite 103.

### Series (January through March 2010):

- **Star Party:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays, 7-9 pm @ GCRP, all ages, free: Join the local Astronomy club enthusiasts viewing the night sky with telescopes! 1/15, 2/19, 3/19/2010
- **Library Family Fun Series:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 pm @ South Valleys Library, all ages, free: Join Naturalists to explore hands-on environmental education activities! 1/19, 2/16, 3/16/2010
- **Snowshoe Series:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 12-3 pm (see individual listings)
- **Guided Naturalist Hikes:** 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, Noon (see individual listings)
- **Full Moon Hikes & Dark Moon Astronomy** (see individual listings)

### ~ JANUARY 2010 ~

- **Before There Were Video Games: Pioneer and Native Crafts Day**  
*When: Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-3:00 pm*  
*What: Join us for an afternoon of candle making, cider drinking, corn husk doll crafting, and much more! Who: Families with children ages 3+. Where: GBI Classroom. Cost: Suggested donation of \$2 per participant.*
- **Snowman Building Contest**  
*When: Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-3:00 pm*  
*What: Celebrate a day with family! Drop-in to Galena Creek Regional Park to participate in crafting a community of snow-people and snow-forts! Galena Creek will provide the snow; participants must bring anything else they wish to use. Prizes will be given for the most creative snow creations. Who: All ages. Where: GCRP, North Entrance by restroom area. Cost: Suggested donation of \$5 per contest entry—all proceeds from this event will be put into a scholarship fund for summer camp participants.*

- **Guided Naturalist Hike Series: Galena Creek Trail**

*When: Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> 12:00-1:30 pm*  
*What: This hike at Galena Creek Trail features naturalizing: learn about local wildlife, plant life, and history along the way. Suggested snowboots/crampons, snowshoes (optional). Who: Adults and children age 13+ Where: Galena Creek Trailhead, off Callahan Road—meet at kiosk. Cost: free, but donations welcomed.*

- **Snowshoe Series: Beginning Snowshoeing & Winter Survival**

*When: Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-3:00 pm*  
*What: Come snowshoe together. This one is for beginners and learning the basics of winter survival with activities! Bring what you think are the 10 winter essentials. Please bring your own snowshoes and water bottle, and dress in layers. Who: All ages- Adults, families with children (recommended ages 9+). Where: GCRP, meet North Entrance at restrooms. Cost: free, but donations welcomed*

- **Full Moon Hike**

*When: Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:30 pm*  
*What: Take a hike with a naturalist in the park under the magnificent light of the full moon! Learn about night time sensory, about the moon, and what animals do at night! Please dress warmly in layers. This time we will explore the Bitterbrush Trail (rating: easy). Who: Adults, Families with children ages 10+ Where: GCRP, meet North Entrance at restrooms. Cost: free*

### ~ FEBRUARY 2010 ~

- **Winter Family Bird Feeder Workshop & Hike**

*When: Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-2:30 pm*  
*What: Learn about local bird ecology and create your very own bird feeder to attract feathered friends to your own front yard. Who: Families with children ages 3+. Where: GBI Classroom. Cost: Suggested donation of \$2 per participant.*

- **Dark Moon Astronomy**  
*When: Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:00 pm*  
*What:* Explore the nighttime sky where we learn how to find our way at night, like sailors less the water, by learning different constellations and their fascinating stories! Please note, this is not a hike. Suggested to bring: binoculars, warm layers, red light. *Who:* All ages. *Where:* GCRP, North Entrance, by restrooms. *Cost:* Suggested donation of \$3 per person, \$5 per family.

- **Natural and Recycled Materials Crafts**  
*When: Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-2:00 pm*  
*What:* Learn from a naturalist how to make inexpensive recycled Valentine's Day gifts for your friends and family! *Who:* Families with children ages 3+. *Where:* GBI Classroom. *Cost:* Suggested donation of \$3 per participant.

- **Orienteering: Map & Compass Family Scavenger Hunt**  
*When: Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-3:00pm*  
*What:* With fun clues and puzzles, find your way along the scavenger hunt with a map and compass! Drop-in anytime on this President's Day Holiday, but plan to give yourself at least 1 hour to complete this exciting learning adventure. *Who:* All ages, families with children. *Where:* GCRP, meet North Entrance at restrooms. *Cost:* Suggested donation of \$3 per person, \$5 per family.

- **Sweet Baskets Workshop with Cat Mena**  
*When: Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am-1:00 pm*  
*What:* Learn how to make a simple, "sweet style" basket using twining technique. Leave the workshop with a finished basket! *Who:* Adults, Families with children ages 10+ (children need to be accompanied by an adult). *Where:* GBI Classroom. 16750 Mt. Rose Hwy. Suite 103. *Cost:* \$35 includes all materials.

Look for our Spring Programs!

- **Guided Naturalist Hike Series: Lower Thomas Creek Trail**  
*When: Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-3:00 pm*  
*What:* This naturalist-led hike begins at Lower Thomas Creek (eastside): learn about the local wildlife, plant life, and history along the way. *Who:* Adults, children ages 13+. *Where:* Lower Thomas Creek Trailhead (east) off of Arrowcreek Parkway. *Cost:* free; donations welcome.

- **Snowshoe Series: Winter Ecology**  
*When: Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-3:00 pm*  
*What:* Come snowshoe together! What do animals and plants do in the winter to survive? Find out! On this walk we'll learn about winter ecology while having fun snowshoeing in the northern area of the park. Please bring your own snowshoes, water bottle, and warm clothing. *Who:* All ages- Adults, Families with children (recommended ages 9+). *Where:* GCRP, North Entrance—meet by restrooms. *Cost:* free; donations welcome.

~ MARCH 2010 ~

- **Dark Moon Astronomy: Harry Potter Style!**  
*When: Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30pm*  
*What:* Are you a Hogwarts fan?! Come explore the celestial stars of the stars of Harry Potter and where their names came from in the nighttime sky! This is not a hike. Suggested: binoculars, warm layers, red light, your excitement and anything Harry Potter! *Who:* All ages. *Where:* GCRP, North Entrance restroom area. *Cost:* Suggested donation of \$3 per person, \$5 per family.
- **Pysanky Egg Decorating Workshop**  
*When: Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-1:00 pm*  
*What:* Create your own uniquely decorated Pysanky Egg, just in time for Easter! *Who:* Adults & children ages 10+ (children need to be accompanied by an adult). *Where:* GBI Classroom. *Cost:* \$40 includes all materials.

- **Spring Equinox Celebration!**  
*When: Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3:30pm*  
*What:* Celebrate the changing of winter to spring by exploring activities and a hike option at various stations in the park! *Who:* All ages. *Where:* GCRP, North Entrance by restrooms. *Cost:* Suggested donation of \$3 per person, \$5 per family.

- **Guided Naturalist Hike Series: Lower Whites Creek Trail**  
*When: Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 12:00-3:00 pm*  
*What:* This one follows Lower Whites Creek Trail and back with naturalizing: learn about the local wildlife, plant life, and history along the way. *Who:* Adults, children ages 13+. *Where:* Lower Whites Creek Trailhead (east) off of Killington Drive. *Cost:* free.

- **Berry Pickin' Basketry Workshop with Cat Mena**  
*When: Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am-1:00 pm*  
*What:* Make your very own berry pickin' basket while using three different weaving techniques- twining, three-rod wale, and randing! *Who:* Adults & children ages 10+ (children need to be accompanied by an adult). *Where:* GBI Classroom. *Cost:* \$35 includes all materials.

- **Snowshoe Series: Trails Exploration**  
*When: Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-3:00 pm*  
*What:* Come snowshoe together! Explore a new trail while snowshoeing, plus fun activities! Please bring your own snowshoes and water bottle & dress in layers. *Who:* All ages- Adults, Families with children recommended ages 9+. *Where:* Browns Creek Trailhead, off Joy Lake Road; meet at parking lot across from trailhead. *Cost:* free; donations welcome.

- **Full Moon Hike**  
*When: Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:30-8:30 pm*  
*What:* Under the brilliant full moon, this time we will explore the new Visitor Center Loop Trail (rating: easy). *Who:* Adults, Families with children ages 10+. *Where:* GCRP, meet North Entrance by restrooms. *Cost:* free