

HIAWATHA NATIONAL FOREST NEWS RELEASE

USDA – Forest Service

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Hiawatha National Forest announces this week's programs!

The Hiawatha National Forest, Rapid River/Manistique Ranger District, together with Wildlife Unlimited of Delta County and the Hiawatha Interpretive Association, are pleased to announce this week's line-up of outdoor programs. All programs are free of charge and will be held rain or shine.

This Thursday, August 14th, the employees from the Rapid River/Manistique Ranger District will be staffing the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Pocket Park between noon and 6:00 PM. The Pocket Park, nestled within the UP State Fairgrounds, offers youngsters the opportunity to try their hand at the fishing pond and at the archery and pellet ranges, or tag a monarch butterfly. Entrance to the Pocket Park is free along with all of the activities inside, and Smokey Bear will be on hand to give hugs, high fives, **and** free goody bags to all of the youngsters! Joe Rogers from the Wildlife Recovery Association will also be on-hand with his live raptor presentation! The Pocket Park is GREAT fun for *everyone* and parents are encouraged to bring their youngsters to the fairgrounds to see Smokey Bear and try their hand at all of the activities.

On Friday evening, August 15th, Tom and Kris Kastle will be appearing at the Peninsula Point Lighthouse at 7:00 PM. This program is sponsored by Wildlife Unlimited of Delta County. Tom and Kris are singer-songwriters and storytellers who have been internationally acclaimed for their rich harmonies, varied instrumentation (guitar, octave mandolin, concertina and whistles) and captivating stories. In the event of rain, the Kastle program will be moved indoors to the Stonington Community Hall. The Peninsula Point lighthouse is located 18 miles south of US Highway 2 on County Road 513. Please note that the last 0.8 mile of road to the lighthouse is single lane with pull-offs and is not recommended for recreational vehicles or trailers over 16 feet long or 8 feet high. A parking area for larger vehicles can be found at the beginning of the final mile of road, and folks are welcome to walk the road or the nature trail to the lighthouse.

Following Kastle's performance, volunteers with the nationally award winning Monarch Butterfly Project will be on hand to show the public how to tag Monarchs before they begin their 1900 mile flight to Mexico for the winter. Over the past 15 years, 21 monarchs tagged at Peninsula Point have been recovered in Mexico! It appears that the Monarchs are beginning to congregate at the Point – over 400 butterflies were observed at the Point on Monday morning.

On Saturday, August 16th, Hiawatha National Forest Archaeologist John Franzen will be presenting a program entitled “History of the first Nahma Sawmill, 1848-1855”. This program will be held at 2:00 PM at the Nahma Hall in the village of Nahma. John will present historical and archaeological research relating to a water-powered sawmill built on the Sturgeon River in 1848. In addition to the Saturday afternoon program, archaeologists will be conducting digs at the former mill site during the week prior to the program, and the public is invited to stop by the site to visit with them to ask questions and learn about the project. The digs will be conducted in the immediate vicinity of the new bridge over the Sturgeon River on County Road 497, and the public is encouraged to stop Tuesday through Friday (August 12-15) between the hours of 10 AM and noon, and from 1 PM until 3 PM.

The last campground program of the year will feature Neil Woodward, who will bring Michigan history and culture to life with his acclaimed original songs, traditional ballads and dance tunes. Neil will be appearing at 7:00 PM on Friday, August 22nd at the Camp 7 Lake Campground. Neil has been called “the most versatile of guardians of the traditional music from the Great Lakes.” The Camp 7 Lake Campground is located on Delta County Road 442, 8 miles east of Forest Highway 13 or 4 miles west of CR437. Folks are asked to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets to spread out on the grass to enjoy the program.

For more information on any of these programs, contact the Rapid River District office at 474-6442 or the Manistique District office at 341-5666.

Note: digital photographs have been attached to this email to accompany the text.

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