



Winter 2009/2010

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Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Inc.

Pennsylvania Winter Recreation and Museum Ideas for Families

Visiting Pittsburgh with Kids

Pittsburgh offers a number of entertaining activities for families with children during the winter months. From museums to outdoor fun, this western Pennsylvania city has more than enough options for kids of all ages.

Pittsburgh Museums

There are a number of Pittsburgh area museums that offer exhibits, classes, and more for kids. These include specialized museums that focus on natural history, art, science, children's

play, and local history.

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History: Located in the Oakland area of Pittsburgh, this museum offers a variety of permanent and special exhibits covering the natural world and human existence. Kids will enjoy the igloo in Polar World, the Hall of Native American Indians, and of course the dueling T-rexes in the dinosaur display. Young children will also love "digging" for fossils in the Bonehunters Quarry. The Frick Art and Historical Center: Visit the

former home of industrialist Henry Clay Frick for a trip back in time as well as to view a fantastic collection of artwork. This museum offers a variety of programs for kids and families of all ages.

The Carnegie Science Center: Experiment with water, sound and more during a visit to this North Side attraction. Young kids will have a blast in this science center's unique water table area, while older kids can delve into the

(continued on page 4)

Conservation Inside Your Home

Light up your life with the sun! Artificial lighting makes up about 15% of a household's electricity use. During the day, use the sunlight from windows to

brighten the room and give your lights a break. Also, switch it up... replace those inefficient incandescent bulbs with long-lasting, high efficiency compact fluorescents.

Be shower savvy!

Switch to an ultra low-flow showerhead. This could save you as much as 2.5 gallons every minute you shower. (continued on page 2)

Conservation Inside Your Home (continued)

Take shorter showers -- try to keep them to less than five minutes.

When taking a bath, start filling the tub with the drain already plugged, instead of waiting first for the water to get warm. Adjust the temperature as the tub begins to fill. Perhaps, take a short shower instead of a

bath. While a five minute shower uses 12 to 25 gallons of water, a full tub requires about 70 gallons.

Amp up your appliances! When buying new appliances, compare energy efficiency ratings and annual operating costs. Look for the energy star logo.

But there are plenty of ways to save watts with your existing appliances. Run washing machines, clothes dryers, and dishwashers with a full load. Periodically vacuum your refrigerator coils. Make sure you turn off lights, air conditioners, radios, etc. when you leave the house. Appliances such

as televisions and microwaves use energy even when they are turned off, so unplug them when leaving for long periods of time. Try washing your clothes on the gentle cycle -the motor won't have to work as hard. Use cold water for wash-

ing and rinsing clothes to reduce electricity usage. Give the dryer a rest and let nature do the work - use a clothesline.

Go on an energy diet!

A programmable thermostat can better regulate the temperature in your home and de-

crease energy use by automatically turning on and off the heat/air conditioner in the mornings and at night. Turn down the thermostats. Install plastic window energy conservation kits in the winter to reduce the cold air coming in from the outside. Beef up the insu-

lation in your walls and attic. Buy green energy or consider installing a more efficient and earth-friendly heating and cooling system.

Be your own clean machine! Make your own household cleaning products. For instance, baking soda is

an all-purpose cleaner especially effective on glass coffee pots and glassware and for removing red-wine stains from carpeting. A baking soda paste (made with water) can shine stainless steel and silver, and remove

tea stains from cups and saucers. Substitute a vegetable-based liquid soap for the water, add a drop of essential oil (tea tree or lavender), and clean sinks, countertops, toilets and tubs. Lemon juice can be used as a bleaching agent on clothing and to remove grease from

your stove and countertops. Corn starch can be used to deodorize carpet.

Furnish for the future! Buy wood that has been sustainably-harvested. Look for certification from the [Forest Stewardship Council](#). Support local arti-

sans and furniture manufacturers. Adorn your interior with items made from reclaimed or salvaged materials. From barnwood and old wine barrels, there are vendors with products that can make yesterday look like tomorrow. (continued on page 3)



Reduce, reuse, and recycle! Don't buy it if you don't need it. Avoid excessive packaging. Stop junk mail. Reduce the amount of wasted paper in junk mail by registering online for the national Do Not Mail list. Use rags for clean-up, not paper towels. Use cloth diapers instead of disposable ones. Write school or business notes on the back of scrap paper. Take a lunch box instead of bags. Donate unwanted clothes and household goods to charity. Avoid buying aerosol cans; they can't be reused or recycled. Use containers to store food in your refrigerator instead of saran wrap or aluminum foil. Buy in bulk if it decreases the amount of packaging. Compost food scraps. Purchase reusable razors. Use rechargeable batteries. Take your own canvas shopping bag to the grocery store. Buy products made from recycled materials. Wrap gifts in newspaper, magazines, or old posters. Don't throw away paints, solvents, used motor oil or other household chemicals, take them to a county or community hazardous waste collection day.

Source: iconservepa.org

Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Mission Statement

To promote and foster, by all lawful means, the protection and conservation of our renewable wildlife resources through hunting and fishing, together with all pertinent natural resources and to promote the improvement of hunting, fishing, and competitive shooting. The ACSL shall make every effort to work in cooperation with the respective federal and state wildlife agencies, competitive shooting organizations and our member clubs to comply with this article and policies as defined by the delegates of the member clubs. To encourage among its' members and among organizations with like or kindred objectives good fellowship and cordial cooperation toward achieving these ends. To defend and protect, by means of educating public officials and the general public, the Constitutions of the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, especially the Second Amendment and Article 1, section 21, respectively.

All efforts, activities and objectives of the officers and Delegates of the ACSL shall be for altruistic purposes towards these goals and shall not be performed for the private gain of any one person or club.

science behind robotics, weather, and even food.

The Mattress Factory: As contemporary art space, this museum offers a number of permanent and special exhibitions. Look for special youth and children's programs that may fit with specific family interests.

Winter Outdoor Recreation in Pittsburgh

A mid-winter vacation to Pittsburgh can be filled with fun outdoor recreational activities. Local and nearby parks and resorts provide a variety of offerings such as skiing, ice skating, and sledding or tubing.

For low cost outdoor recreation visit one of the many public parks in Pittsburgh and the surrounding areas:

Pittsburgh Parks: Pittsburgh's Schenley Park (located near the campuses of the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University) offers an outdoor ice skating rink that is open to the public seven days a week.

Allegheny County Parks: Allegheny county offers multiple parks with a variety of outdoor winter recreation opportunities. South Park (located in Pittsburgh's South Hills area of Bethel Park) offers outdoor ice skating, a nature center with children's and youth outside activities, and hiking. North Park (in Pittsburgh's North Hills area) has outdoor ice skating and hiking. Boyce Park (in the Monroeville area just outside of Pittsburgh) offers snowboarding, skiing, and snow tubing.

For families looking for more of a resort option, these attractions are located within a fairly close proximity to the Pittsburgh area. Call first for specific rates, activities, and accommodations.

Source: By Erica Loop

An Adventure With Wolves

Some forty years ago I passed the winter in the wilderness of northern Maine. I was passionately fond of skating, and the numerous lakes and rivers, frozen by the intense cold, offered an ample field to the lover of this pastime.

Sometimes my skating excursions were made by moonlight; and it was on such an occasion that I met with an adventure, which even now I cannot recall without a thrill of horror.

I had left our cabin one evening just before dusk, with the intention of skating a short distance up the Kennebec, which glided directly before the door. The night was beautifully clear with the light of the full moon and millions of stars. Light also came glinting from ice and snow-wreath and incrustations on branches, as the eye followed for miles the broad gleam of the river, that like a jeweled zone swept between the mighty forests that bordered its banks.

And yet all was still. The cold seemed to have frozen tree, air, water, and every living thing. Even the ringing of my skates echoed back from the hill with a startling clearness; and the crackle of the ice, as I passed over it in my course, seemed to follow the tide of the river with lightning speed.

I had gone up the river nearly two miles, when, coming to a little stream which flows into the larger, I turned into it to explore its course. Fir and hemlock of a century's growth met overhead, and formed an archway radiant with frostwork. All was dark within; but I was young and fearless, and I laughed and shouted with excitement and joy.

My wild hurrah rang through the silent woods, and I stood listening to the echoes until all was hushed. Suddenly a sound arose, --it seemed to come from beneath the ice. It was low and tremulous at first, but it ended in one long wild howl.

I was appalled. Never before had such a sound met my ears. Presently I heard the brushwood on shore crash as though from the tread of some animal. The blood rushed to my forehead; my energies returned, and I looked around me for some means of escape.

The moon shone through the opening at the mouth of the creek by which I had entered the forest; and, considering this the best way of escape, I darted toward it like an arrow. It was hardly a hundred yards distant, and the swallow could scarcely have excelled me in flight; yet, as I turned my eyes to the shore, I could see several dark objects dashing through the brushwood at a pace nearly double in speed to my own. By their great speed, and the short yells, which they occasionally gave, I knew at once that these were the much-dreaded gray wolves.

The bushes that skirted the shore now seemed to rush past with the velocity of lightning, as I dashed on in my flight to pass the narrow opening. The outlet was nearly gained; a few seconds more, and I would be comparatively safe. But in a moment my pursuers appeared on the bank above me, which here rose to the height of ten or twelve feet. There was no time for thought; I bent my head, and dashed wildly forward. The wolves sprang, but, miscalculating my speed, they fell behind, as I glided out upon the river!

I turned toward home. The light flakes of snow spun from the iron of my skates, and I was some distance from my pursuers, when their fierce howl told me they were still in hot pursuit. I did not look back; I did not feel afraid, or sorry, or glad; one thought of home, of the bright faces awaiting my return, and of their

(continued on page 6)

An Adventure With Wolves (continued)

tears if they never should see me, --and then all the energies of body and mind were exerted for escape.

I was perfectly at home on the ice. Many were the days that I had spent on my good skates, never thinking that they would one day prove my only means of safety.

Every half-minute a furious yelp from my fierce attendants made me but too certain that they were in close pursuit. Nearer and nearer they came. At last I heard their feet pattering on the ice; I even felt their very breath, and heard their snuffing scent! Every nerve and muscle in my frame was strained to the utmost.

The trees along the shore seemed to dance in an uncertain light, my brain turned with my own breathless speed, my pursuers hissed forth their breath with a sound truly horrible, when all at once an involuntary motion on my part turned me out of my course.

The wolves close behind, unable to stop, and as unable to turn on smooth ice, slipped and fell, still going on far ahead. Their tongues were lolling out, their white tusks were gleaming from their bloody mouths, their dark shaggy breasts were flecked with foam; and as they passed me their eyes glared, and they howled with fury.

The thought flashed on my mind that by turning aside whenever they came too near I might avoid them; for, owing to the formation of their feet, they are unable to run on ice except in a straight line. I immediately acted upon this plan, but the wolves having regained their feet sprang directly toward me.

The race was renewed for twenty yards up the stream; they were almost close at my back, when I glided round and dashed directly past them. A fierce yell greeted this movement, and the wolves, slipping on their haunches, again slid onward, presenting a perfect picture of helplessness and disappointed rage. Thus I gained nearly a hundred yards at each turning. This was repeated two or three times, the baffled animals becoming every moment more and more excited.

At one time, by delaying my turning too long, my bloodthirsty antagonists came so near that they threw their white foam over my coat as they sprang to seize me, and their teeth clashed together like the spring of a fox-trap. Had my skates failed for one instant, had I tripped on a stick, or had my foot been caught in a fissure, the story I am now telling would never have been told.

I thought over all the chances. I knew where they would first seize me if I fell. I thought how long it would be before I died, and then of the search for my body: for oh, how fast man's mind traces out all the dread colors of death's picture only those who have been near the grim original can tell!

At last I came opposite the cabin, and my hounds--I knew their deep voices--roused by the noise, bayed furiously from their kennels. I heard their chains rattle--how I wished they would break them! --Then I should have had protectors to match the fiercest dwellers of the forest. The wolves, taking the hint conveyed by the dogs, stopped in their mad career, and after a few moments turned and fled.

I watched them until their forms disappeared over a neighboring hill; then, taking off my skates, I wended my way to the cabin with feelings, which may be better imagined than described. But even yet I never see a broad sheet of ice by moonlight without thinking of that snuffing breath, and those ferocious beasts that followed me so closely down that frozen river.

CRITTERS Word Search

C	R	B	O	B	C	A	T	G	B
X	O	A	A	S	D	J	O	P	J
F	N	Y	G	D	H	C	T	O	L
S	J	Y	O	K	G	S	T	R	K
L	K	C	L	T	X	E	E	C	N
R	S	U	M	D	E	E	R	U	O
A	W	S	N	O	E	T	R	P	M
C	T	W	Q	K	S	A	T	I	P
O	U	O	Y	U	J	O	U	N	I
O	R	L	I	A	I	P	P	E	H
N	K	F	K	A	S	R	D	P	C
F	E	E	G	H	M	J	R	K	O
F	Y	L	F	B	C	I	V	E	B
N	O	M	A	U	E	W	N	E	L
G	R	X	W	C	T	A	Y	K	U
I	R	M	N	K	O	P	G	A	S
D	F	O	W	E	A	S	E	L	
H	J	U	U	K	L	C	V	B	E
N	M	S	E	S	R	T	Y	U	I
S	D	E	F	G	E	H	J	K	L

COYOTE	TURKEY	DEER
JAKE	BEAGLE	WOLF
OPOSSOM	FAWN	OTTER
PORCUPINE	SQUIRREL	GROUSE
BUCK	SKUNK	RACCOON
CHIPMONK	MOUSE	MINK
RAT	BADGER	BOBCAT
FOX	WEASEL	LYNX

All of these critters can be found in Pennsylvania.

Upcoming Events

Allegheny Sport, Travel & Outdoor Show returns to Monroeville
At The
Monroeville Convention Center

February 17 - 21, 2010

The Allegheny County Sportsmen's League will, once again, have Beef Jerky Booths set up throughout the Show, manned by Member Clubs of the ACSL. Profits from Jerky sales goes to Youth Education.

Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Annual

Sportsmen of the Year Awards Banquet

March 20, 2010

Futule's Harmar House
1321 Freeport Road, Cheswick, PA 15024

Appetizers and Social hour is at 4 p.m.,
Program and Entertainment at 5 p.m.,
Beef and Chicken buffet and Awards presentation at 6 p.m.

Tickets will be available at the January League meeting

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