

# HIAWATHA NATIONAL FOREST NEWS RELEASE

USDA – Forest Service

*For more information, contact Anne Okonek at 906-474-6442 x. 119 or at [aokonek@fs.fed.us](mailto:aokonek@fs.fed.us)*

## **Hiawatha National Forest announces upcoming Campground 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 summer's line-up of campground programs beginning in July. All programs begin at 7:00 PM and are free of charge. Folks are asked to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets to spread out on the grass to enjoy the programs. Programs will be held rain or shine!

The first of the Hiawatha's Campground Programs begins this Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at the Camp 7 Lake Campground. Reg Pettibone, a full-blooded Native American Champion Dancer from the Ho-Chunk Nation will provide the audience with a better understanding of true Native American culture through dance, song, narration, and an artifacts display with a strong environmental emphasis. Audience participation is an engaging part of the program. 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.

On Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup> and Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, Joe Rogers from the Wildlife Recovery Association will be appearing at both the Colwell Lake Campground (Thursday) and at the Camp 7 Lake Campground (Friday). Joe's presentation features live birds of prey that have been injured in such a way that they can never again survive in the wild. Join us for this special live presentation with Joe and his current captive friends! This program is particularly well-suited for youngsters who will be fascinated by Joe's narration and will be able to view the birds close up and personal! If you can only make one campground program this summer, this is the program to see! The Colwell Lake Campground is located on M94, 25 miles north of Manistique, or 8 miles south of Shingleton. 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.

On Friday, August 8, Matt Watroba will be appearing at the Camp 7 Lake Campground. Many know Matt as the voice of folk music in Michigan for his work in public radio. As producer of the "Folks Like Us" program, Watroba has come in contact with every aspect of folk music and culture. This has helped shape a repertoire and presentation that is unique on stages across the state and country. Please join us for a special musical presentation from Matt! 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.

On Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, Tom and Kris Kastle will be appearing at the Peninsula Point Lighthouse. 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, 18 monarchs tagged at Peninsula Point have been recovered in Mexico!

On Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 on Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Camp 7 Lake Campground. Neil has been called "the most versatile of guardians of the traditional music from the Great Lakes."

The Rapid River/Manistique Ranger District also invites parents to bring their youngsters to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Pocket Park during the UP State Fair on Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. 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. All of the activities within the Pocket Park are free, and Smokey Bear will be on hand to give hugs, high fives, **and** free goody bags to all of the youngsters! The Pocket Park is GREAT fun for *everyone*! Smokey Bear and the Forest Service staff will be at the Pocket Park from noon until 6:00 PM. See you there!

For more information on any of the Campground Culture programs or about the Pocket Park, 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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