

The Fine Print

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The eagles are back and last week I saw four of them on a sheet of ice that was floating down the Hudson River. (I was with Phyllis Bock, Director of Education at Teatown and we joked that they looked like they were on a party boat.) We also saw a few eagles perched in the trees by the river (without binoculars it looked like baseballs were in the trees).

Each winter between January and March, Bald Eagles from Canada, northern New York and New England fly south to the Lower Hudson Valley to feed on fish and waterfowl found in the unfrozen waters. In recent years, hundreds of bald eagles have been counted along the Westchester and Putnam portions of the Hudson River and nearby reservoirs.

On Saturday February 7, Teatown Lake Reservation will host the Fifth Annual Hudson River EagleFest, headquartered in heated tents at Westchester County's Croton Point Park, with additional eagle viewing sites located along the Hudson River. The event offers everyone a chance to observe our national symbol up close and in its natural setting.

Adults and children attending the EagleFest will learn about the natural history, recent recovery and habitat needs of eagles through the activities and led by local experts and environmental conservationists.

Over 28 collaborating organizations, including the Saw Mill River Audubon and Bedford Audubon, will be participating. There will also be live raptor and eagle shows, bus exploration tours, bird walks, story telling, eagle photography and two special performances by Arm-of-the-Sea Theater with their giant puppets and music telling of the formation of the New York City water system. (The event is free except for the theatre shows.)

You can also visit eagle viewing and educational sites along the Hudson River - at the Croton Train Station Boat Ramp, George's Island in Montrose and Annsville Creek Paddlesport Center in Peekskill. Eagle experts with spotting scopes, warming tents and even hot chocolate, will staff each site.

Dress Warm and Bring Binoculars! For the complete listing of eagle viewing sites, theatre and bus tour times and all of the EagleFest activities visit www.teatown.org. Info: 914 762-2912 x110.