

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

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NEWS RELEASE

Bitterroot National Forest

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Department of Agriculture
Bitterroot National Forest
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 6, 2014

FOREST ANNOUNCES 2014 MOON WALKS

Hamilton, MT. - Once a month, as the full moon glows, it seems safe to venture out into the dark while the moon makes magnificent shadows across the landscape. You can still smell the wildflowers, feel the wind blowing through the trees, hear the water running through the creek bed, and sense the bustling nocturnal life.

For the 14th year, the Bitterroot National Forest and Bitter Root RC&D presents a series of interpretive Moon Walks from June to October. These free, educational walks are based on the book *Walk When the Moon is Full*, by Francis Hammerstrom about her children and the nature walks they took every month under the full moon.

We invite you to join interpreters and naturalists for our 2014 series. The presentations begin at 7:00pm on the Saturday closest to the official full moon and last approximately 1-2 hours. Presenters include foresters, biologists, scientists, historians, poets, storytellers, and everything under the sun, or in this case - moon. Dress in layers because the weather in the Forest is often different than it is in town. Guests are also encouraged to bring a lawn chair, and a jacket.

Here are the topics that will be covered in our 2014 series:

Saturday, June 21st – Horse 101 Moon at Blodgett Campground. Join us for this educational program on things you don't know about a horse, but probably should. The program will cover horse psychology, anatomy, evolution, history of the horse in the west, horse trivia, what to do (and not do) when you meet a horse on the trail, and other equine topics. Join Fred Weisbecker with the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen for this fun and memorable presentation.

Saturday, July 12th – Native Plant Moon at Hieronymus Park in Hamilton. Learn all about plant identification, native plants and insects, and the role they play in a healthy ecosystem. Join a botanist from the Bitterroot National Forest for a walk through the park to observe plants, insects, and wildlife. We will also discuss noxious weeds and ways to help minimize their establishment.

Saturday, August 9th – Cold Water Moon at Kiwanis River Park in Hamilton. Join us for a stroll through the park and learn about the importance of riparian vegetation to the Bitterroot River. Just what is “riparian vegetation”? What roles does it play in watershed health? How can it keep our water cold? Learn the answers to these questions and much more during this fun and educational event! Hosted by the Bitter Root Water Forum.

Saturday, September 13th – Photography Moon at Blodgett Overlook Trail in Hamilton. Photographs make some of the best memories from our journeys outside. Bring your camera and tripod and join a few local Bitterroot photographers on a hike up Blodgett Overlook to learn how to take your photos up a notch, specifically focused on outdoor photography. Capture the perfect landscape, colorful sunrise, hiking trail, wildflower, or star-filled sky.

Saturday, October 25th - Ghost Moon at Wood’s Cabin at Lake Como near Darby. Join us for ghost stories at the historic Wood’s Cabin on the shores of Lake Como. We will meet historic Bitterroot Valley ghosts and hear stories of their lives and some of their untimely deaths. Costumes encouraged!

The 2014 Moon Walk Series is sponsored by the Bitterroot National Forest and Bitter Root Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D). For more information including directions to events, visit our website at www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot and click on *Special Places* or call (406) 363-7100.

Stay in touch with the Bitterroot National Forest through www.facebook.com/DiscoverTheBitterroot and www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF.

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