

Hikes are Thursdays at 1:00pm. Hikers should be parked and ready to leave the trailhead promptly at 1:00pm. Registration *is* required; only those registered will be notified in the event of a cancellation. Call the Senior Center at **(231) 922-4911** to register. Make up hikes are not scheduled when there is a cancellation. Hikes vary in length, location, and surface type. Please arrive prepared for the weather and environment. Animals are not permitted on hikes unless they are a service dog and/or emotional support animal.

### **Thursday, January 8, 2026 - Upper Manistee Headwaters (formerly Camp Tapico)**

#### **Part 1**

**Facilitators:** Barb Bedbury (989) 832-7532 & Curt Bedbury (989) 430-9290

**Level:** Easy, relatively flat.

**Directions:** Take M-72 toward Kalkaska. At the traffic light, continue straight (passing Burger King) for 8.7 miles. The last section of the road is gravel. Turn left at the sign "Upper Manistee Headwaters". Park before the gate.

**Distance:** You will have the option of hiking, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing if there is enough snow. Note, that if you decide to hike in boots, you may find it difficult to keep up with the group. Last year they had twice as much snow as Traverse City did. If you need snowshoes, we have a couple extra pairs that you can borrow. Call us to let us know if you'd like to borrow a pair. The hiking/snowshoeing trail is about 2 miles long. The cross-country skiing trail is about 4 miles long. You will need to bring your own cross-country skis and poles.

**Description:** We will be hiking or skiing the east side of the Upper Manistee Headwaters property. This property is unique in that there are nearly no invasive species found here.

### **Thursday, January 15 - Skegemog Lake Wildlife Area**

**Facilitator:** Ken Beck (313- 969-1158 Cell) or (231-943-2334 Home)

**Level:** Easy, may be good for cross country skiing.

**Distance:** 2 miles total (out and back)

**Directions:** Take M-72 toward Kalkaska to McNulty Road and go left until it ends at Rapid City Road and turn left. Go to Schneider Road and go left. Schneider ends at the North Shore Pathway parking lot.

**Description:** A flat walk through a thick pine forest that takes you to two lookouts on Lake Skegemog. The views of the snow on the trees are breathtaking.

**Bathrooms:** None.

**Thursday, January 22, 2026 - Upper Manistee Headwaters (formerly Camp Tapico)**

**Part 2**

**Facilitators:** Barb Bedbury (989) 832-7532 & Curt Bedbury (989) 430-9290

**Level:** Easy, relatively flat

**Directions:** Take M-72 toward Kalkaska. At the traffic light, continue straight (passing Burger King) for 8.7 miles. The last section of the road is gravel. Turn left at the sign "Upper Manistee Headwaters". Park before the gate.

**Distance:** You can hike 2 miles or snowshoe 4 miles.

**Description:** We will be walking / snowshoeing the west side of the Upper Manistee Headwaters property. This unique property has virtually no invasives species.

**Bathroom:** Vault style outhouse.

**\*Bring: Hiking boots or snow boots and snowshoes (if you have them)**

**Thursday, January 29 - (Rescheduled from Jan 1) Alligator Hill, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore**

**Facilitator:** Seth Stein (847) 308-3806 [sstein666@gmail.com](mailto:sstein666@gmail.com)

**Level:** Moderate.

**Distance:** We'll hike or snowshoe, depending on conditions. It's a 3-mile round trip to the Islands lookout, via a gentle uphill through Maple-Beech Forest on an old roadbed. The view from the lookout is outstanding. You can see North and South Manitou Islands and Sleeping Bear Point. Bring hiking boots or snow boots, poles, and snowshoes (if conditions warrant).

**Directions:** From the 22/72 interchange, take M-72 W about 19 miles to S. Benzonia Trail and go right for 3.4 miles. Turn right onto M-22 north for .5 miles. Turn left onto W. Day Forest Road for 1.9 miles. Turn right onto Stocking Road for .7 miles. Destination will be on the right. Google maps can find the trailhead at *VXQH+R8 Empire, MI 49630*. If there's interest, we can carpool from Tom's West Bay at noon.

**Bonus:** This is a great way to start the Trail Trekker Challenge in which you earn a sticker by hiking each of the 13 mainland trails in the National Lakeshore

(<https://www.nps.gov/slbe/planyourvisit/trail-trekker-challenge.htm>)

**Bathrooms:** Pit toilet

**Note:** National Park Pass required for drivers