



Bitterroot National Forest

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NEWS RELEASE



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“ANCESTRAL TREE MOONWALK”

Hamilton, Montana —The Bitterroot National Forest continues the **“Walk By the Light of the Moon”** series with the **“Ancestral Tree Moon”** scheduled for **Friday, July 2nd** beginning between **8:00 and 8:30 p.m.** at the **Bitterroot National Forest’s Stevensville Ranger District** office in Stevensville.

Folks throughout the valley are invited to attend an introduction to the Trees of Stevensville – A Walking Arboretum, developed by the Stevensville Garden Club. This outdoor educational experience was the creation of the late Marion Gebhart, local teacher.

Members of the Stevensville Garden Club will guide small groups to various native and non-native trees located along a 15-block tour of entries found in the Arboretum brochure. In addition, Chip Jasmin and associates will provide folk music throughout the evening. This event is being held in conjunction with Stevensville’s First Friday.

This walk is being held on the night of the first of two full moons in the month of July – which means the full moon on July 31st will be a “blue moon”, as in “once in a blue moon”. The last blue moon occurred in November, 2001.

The Stevensville Ranger District Office is located at the junction of the Eastside Highway and Main Street in Stevensville.

Moonwalks have a staggered, flexible start and end time to allow visitors to participate at their own pace, in smaller more intimate groups. This particular walk will be led by Stevensville Garden Club guides. Participants may want to bring a flashlight, in case the moon does not cooperate, and anticipate the weather and dress accordingly. Participants with questions or special needs can call the Bitterroot National Forest @ (406) 363-7100.

“Ancestral Tree” Moon pins, as well as pins from prior walks will be available for a small donation. The Bitterroot National Forest would like to thank the Stevensville Garden Club and Chip Jasmin for their contributions to this walk.

The schedule of 2004 walks is available at each of the moonwalks, at each Forest Service office on the Bitterroot National Forest, or on the web site at www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot/recreation.

