



# Winteroriginals

Unique, ORIGINAL things to do and see in Illinois' Rockford Region this winter.

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## Old Man Winter Hosts End-of-Season Bash in the Rockford Region

*Celebrate the coming of spring with these weekend events*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 17, 2010**

**ROCKFORD, IL** — Old Man Winter's bags are packed, and he's ready to head up north to his "summer" house in colder climates. But this cool weatherman isn't leaving without a big wintery bash to end his reign over the Rockford Region. It's one big end-of-winter celebration in Rockford this weekend, and Old Man Winter is pumped for his last hurrah of the season!

Come celebrate with Old Man Winter during these weekend events in Rockford:

### **Saturday, March 20**

#### *Too bubblicious for you?*

Do you have to force your kids to get out of the bathtub before they turn into giant prunes? Then you won't want to miss **Discovery Center Museum's Bubble Fest from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday**. Discovery Center is celebrating "National Bubble Week" with sudsy science fun and live performances by "bubble celebrity" Geoffrey Akins at 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. (the 10 a.m. show is sold out). You'll be amazed at the intricate shapes and forms of bubbles Geoff creates during his captivating bubble show. And be sure to test your own soapy skills with bubble art and activities for the whole family in the Bubble-Palooza Playground. Get your tickets early, as the bubble shows will take place in the 90-seat theater. Tickets are \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. Museum admission not included. Discovery Center Museum is located at 711 N. Main St. inside Riverfront Museum Park. For more information, visit [discoverycentermuseum.org](http://discoverycentermuseum.org) or call 815.963.6769.

#### *How brainy was Jane?*

Was Jane – the world's most complete juvenile *T. rex* – a ditzzy dino? It's a common belief that dinosaurs had tiny brains and were, *like*, not very smart. **Burpee Museum of Natural History**, home of Jane, is offering kids ages 6 and older the opportunity to get up close to animal brains to learn more about how they work during **Dino Brains from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday**. Admission is \$15 per participant, and preregistration and payment is required. This workshop is for an adult working with one or two children. Admission for the adult is free as an adult is required to attend. Burpee Museum is located at 737 N. Main St. For more information, visit [burpee.org](http://burpee.org) or call 815.965.3433.

#### *How do you hog-tie a Texan?*

You crush 'em into the ice first! The **Rockford IceHogs** AHL hockey team will wrangle up the Texas Stars at **7:05 p.m. Saturday at the Rockford MetroCentre**, 300 Elm St. Experience the rush of non-stop hockey action as the IceHogs slam their way across the ice and bring Rockford to victory. There's no stopping this hockey team when they see red! Fans of all ages get caught up in the excitement at these

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family-friendly games, with the MetroCentre's quality facilities and wide selection of concessions offering a full evening of entertainment. The first 5,000 fans to enter the arena will receive an IceHogs car flag courtesy of U.S. Cellular. Tickets are \$10-25, with season and group tickets and packages still available. For tickets or more information, call 815.968.5222 or visit [icehogs.com](http://icehogs.com).

*What gift do you give for someone's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary?*

Stumped? Don't worry, the **Rockford Symphony Orchestra (RSO)** has you covered. The RSO is celebrating the anniversaries of three significant composers, all with ties to Great Britain, at **"God Save the King" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Coronado Performing Arts Center**, 314 N. Main St. A part of the RSO's 2009-2010 Classics Series, the concert will feature a guest appearance by the Mendelssohn Chorale as they perform choral works by Mendelssohn and Handel, with the RSO also performing Haydn's Symphony No. 101 "The Clock." 2009 is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of George Frideric Handel, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Joseph Haydn and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Felix Mendelssohn's birth. Single tickets are \$18-54 and can be purchased by calling 815.965.0049 or at [rockfordsymphony.com](http://rockfordsymphony.com).

## Sunday, March 21

*Does Mickey Mouse party like a rock star?*

Mickey may not rock a Mohawk or play the guitar, but he will be presenting his own musical party on the Rockford MetroCentre stage where many other music sensations, such as Daughtry and Carrie Underwood, have performed. Mickey and his friends from the "Mickey Mouse Clubhouse," as well as the "Little Einsteins," "Handy Manny" and "My Friends Tigger and Pooh," will come together for two performances of **Playhouse Disney Live! at 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the MetroCentre**. The original storyline follows this colorful cast as they set off in their own unique ways to create and contribute songs and music for an unforgettable musical party at Mickey's Clubhouse. Tickets are \$15-\$50 and can be purchased by calling 815.968.5222 or at [metrocentre.com](http://metrocentre.com).

*Are you a girl with a star-spangled heart?*

The members of the Women's Army Corps during World War II sure were! Learn about these often-forgotten World War II veterans at **Midway Village's Winter Lecture Series at 2 p.m. Sunday**. Dr. Penelope Blake of Rock Valley College will present the program **"A Personal History of the Women's Army Corps During World War II."** Dr. Blake will detail the history of the first female military officers in American history, who were trained at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, in 1942, paving the way for thousands of other women who served in non-combat roles in order to free thousands of men to fight in the front lines. Midway Village Museum is located at 6799 Guilford Road. Admission is \$6. For more information, call 815.397.9112 or visit [midwayvillage.com](http://midwayvillage.com).

**For more fun things to do in the Rockford Region, including events, attractions and winter specials, be sure to visit [winter.gorockford.com](http://winter.gorockford.com).**

*Rockford, IL, is located approximately 60 minutes west of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport off Interstate 90. For information on accommodations and things to do, visit [www.gorockford.com](http://www.gorockford.com). RACVB is a private, non-profit organization established in 1984 to champion efforts to promote the Rockford Region as an overnight visitor destination. The RACVB generates positive economic impact for our community through investments in tourism.*

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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