

PO Box 122
Port Republic, MD 20676

New Homes for a New Year

Several denizens of the Cypress Swamp Nature Sanctuary celebrated the new year by moving into new habitats specifically designed to meet their needs. The new terrarium provides a climate controlled environment for the Green Treefrog (*Hyla cinerea*), the Cope's Gray Treefrog (*Hyla chrysoscelis*), and Fowler's Toad (*Anaxyrus fowleri*).

The most noticeable to visitors to the Nature Center is the turtle exhibit. One half of the open air aquarium provides shelter for the Red-eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) and Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta*). A glass partition provides protection from the other resident, the 21-year-old albino Eastern Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina serpentina*).

A new Eastern Screech Owl exhibit was built onto the terrace. The owl (*Megascops asio*) is now visible from the main floor interior of the Nature Center.

BCNES and Calvert County provided funding for the exhibits, **Stop by the Nature Center and visit these animals in their new homes!**

Park staff admire the new frog habitat; the Fowler's Toad admires its home on top of the Bullfrog model; and volunteer Dudley Lindsley shows the turtle exhibit to school children.



THE PEEPER

Battle Creek Nature Education Society

www.calvertparks.org



February 2013

When you find a baby animal...

Look Twice Before You Leap to the Rescue

With spring around the corner and the rise in temperatures, we see a rise in questions about how to care for baby animals. The best thing to do is often nothing at all. Licensed animal rehabilitators are trained to properly take care of baby animals. If you find a baby and are concerned, call the Nature Center for a list of rehabilitators that can help.

Baby Birds

Most baby birds out of nest do not need to be rescued. Just like our children have to crawl, stumble and toddle before they can walk, birds have to learn to fly. What should you do with a bird out of the nest? First, keep your pets, especially cats, indoors so they do not inadvertently harm the baby bird. Watch it from a distance for an hour to make sure the adult birds return to feed the chick. Does the bird have feathers? If it does, then it is a fledging and learning to fly. Did you notice any adult birds around? The parent birds are usually nearby ready to protect their baby.

What if a bird builds a nest in an unsafe place, like the barbecue grill? Most often those are wrens, and they do tend to put their nests in odd spots, like the wreath on your front door. The birds have built the nest in a place they consider safe, and they *will* abandon that nest if it is moved to a different site.

As for the belief that if you touch the baby bird the mother will abandon it? That is an old wives tale. Birds don't have a sense of smell, so they won't smell your scent on the baby. If you find an un-feathered nestling and can find the nest it came from, if you can safely do so, return it to the nest. Be aware that if there are still babies in the nest, your presence may cause them to jump out of the nest.

Baby Mammals

Mammals, like rabbits and squirrels, have more than one litter in a year and stop caring for the older offspring as soon as possible. If its eyes are open and it is up and out and moving around, it can be on its own; remember, keep your pets, especially cats, indoors. If you do find a baby mammal with its eyes closed, do not

touch the babies until you are certain it is abandoned. Any new smell may cause the mother to abandon her young. Female rabbits feed their young only a few times a day, so absence of an adult rabbit does not mean it is abandoned.

Baby Turtles

As soon as turtles hatch they can make it on their own. They do not need our care in any way. We do them a disservice by taking them out of their environment. You can release the hatchling in the nearest stream or pond from where you found it.

Remember what animals need to survive: air, water, shelter, space and food. Find out what an animal needs before you take it from the wild. Like any other living creature, wild animals require specialized care that a licensed rehabilitator can provide. Also, if you are worried that a fox will eat an animal you don't rescue, remember that fox babies need to eat too!

— Shannan Bisese, Naturalist



Adult and baby screech owls peek out of a nesting box.

Change is Good...

With the new year, much is happening at BCNES and the Calvert County nature parks.

Your Membership Has New Benefits

Your BCNES member dues keep Calvert County Nature Parks running. Tax-deductible gifts help BCNES educate and raise awareness of our natural world, as helps support the county as it preserves and maintains these landscapes. As a member you are a part of a growing community of individuals, businesses, and organizations that support Calvert County's nature parks. To renew by mail (using check or credit card) use the enclosed envelope, or go online to www.calvertparks.org/join.html.

BCNES member benefits include the following:

- Quarterly issues of The Peeper, our newsletter
- Monthly news (email) – **NEW!**
- Program schedule updates
- Notification of special events
- Invitations to member-only programs
- Discounts on summer camp
- Regular nature programs are free of charge for members. – **NEW!**

Program Fees Have Changed, for the Better

A new feature is our update of the member fee structure. Starting on April 1, most nature programs are free for members and include significant member discounts for special events, camps and other programs. For nonmembers, most fees will be in the \$8–\$12 range.

Everyone, regardless of membership status, can register ahead of time, online, by phone or mail, but there is no charge for members unless noted. Payments can be made using our online PayPal service or cash or check payments. We hope that these new changes, and the upgrades to our website (calvertparks.org) will streamline your registration. See page 3 for more details on how to register online for these programs.

As always, if you have any questions, please email me at anne@calvertparks.org.

—Anne Sundermann, Executive Director

WANTED: Summer Camp Counselors

Camp counselors help park naturalists run summer camp programs at our parks.

Must be 16 to apply.

For more information, contact Senior Naturalist Andy Brown at brownaj@co.cal.md.us.



Park Update

The past few months have been very busy at the nature parks. Visitation is up by 15%. Some of this increase was opening Flag Ponds on Fridays and Mondays, yet, the Cypress Swamp and Kings Landing experienced more visitors in the past six months.

Flag Ponds will continue to be open, with no entrance fee, on Fridays and Mondays (regular entrance fees on weekends still) until Memorial Day. When the summer hours become effective, daily fees will be charged. Next time you visit the park, pick up your annual permit—only \$15 for county residents.

School programs, family programs, campfires, pizza parties, summer camps, scout badge project, puppet shows...the naturalists have kept busy with a wide variety of programs: over 270 programs, serving 10,300 people—just since July! Over the coming months you'll see some changes in our programs, offering new and different programs for children and adults. We are striving to provide nature education programs that serve the membership, but to also introduce nonmembers to the wonders of the natural world. If you have suggestions for topics let us know.

Also, if you belong to a group that would be interested in scheduling a private program, give us a call; if staff are available, we can provide a customized program for your church group, hiking club, or even book club.

—Karyn Molines, Division Chief

The Battle Creek Nature Education Society (BCNES) is dedicated to the development of a responsible environmental ethic by providing opportunities for environmental education and compatible recreation; and the preservation of the natural heritage of Calvert County primarily within the mission of the Calvert County Natural Resources Division.

BCNES Staff & Board of Directors:

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Shannon Steele, *Naturalist*
Jackie Waymire, *Park Manager*
Connie Sutton, *Park Manager*
Jerry King, *Building & Grounds Maintenance Worker*

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Visit BCNES online at www.calvertparks.org.

Thank you, from BCNES

Thanks to the staff and management of the Greene Turtle for hosting BCNES on their Funds for Friends day on December 4. Steve Cooper, owner/manager of the Prince Frederick eatery, sets aside one day a month to support local charities as a part of the restaurant's Funds for Friends program. The Greene Turtle donated a percentage of the evening's profits to BCNES, Thanks also to Hangmans' Faire and friends for providing great music.

Many thanks to the fourth grade students from North Chevy Chase Elementary School for their very generous donation to replace the seine nets at Flag Ponds Nature Park.

Along with the new exhibits, the parks received donations of mounted and taxidermied specimens from Joe Altemus of Owings. Calvert Marine Museum also donated several waterfowl displays, which can be seen at the different parks.

We appreciate these donations and thank everyone for their generosity!

Sarah's Corner

Spring is in the air!

This season is filled with emerging beauty of plants surfacing and animals coming out of hibernation to greet the warm spring air. What better way to enjoy a beautiful spring day than to come out and explore the nature parks of Calvert County!

Here at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, the swamp is re-awakening from its winter rest and has come alive with the songs of birds, frogs and insects, the sunning of reptiles and amphibians and the budding and coloring of a variety of plants. If you are able to pay us a visit this season, stop in our nature center to get a list of plants and animals to look out for; the nature center also offers model and live exhibits of native life to observe up close. The gift shop has an array of field guides, books and handy foldouts that can help with identification and give plentiful information on the nature around you!

Wherever you may be, I hope that you take the time to notice the amazing beauty around you during these warm months. Spring is the perfect time to view and enjoy the natural world and all of the wonder it can offer – hope to see you soon!

—Sarah Arias, Nature Center Aide

Farewell and Thank You to Naturalist Shannan Bisese

Most recently, we have had to wish a fond farewell to naturalist Shannan Bisese, who left the Division at the end of January.



A familiar face to visitors to Battle Creek Cypress Swamp and Flag Ponds Nature Park, Shannan started working for Calvert County Natural Resources Division in March 2000. Says Shannan. "This has been my home for most of my adult life. I have grown as an educator and learned so much while here. I will miss my co-workers, the volunteers, the school children and the program participants who I have come to know. Many of them have become personal friends outside of the working field."

"We are so grateful for Shannan's hard work and her love of the children who attended our programs, and her appreciation for nature. We will most certainly miss her bright smile and generosity. She is a great naturalist and a wonderful coworker," said Karyn Molines, Division Chief. "We wish her the best in her new life."

As with every leave-taking, there is sadness, but in many ways, this will be a homecoming. Shannan, her husband Bill and son now reside in Columbia, Connecticut, and have moved into her family home, built by her grandfather. We wish them the great happiness in their new endeavors.

Volunteer News

It always comes with great appreciation when we tally the number of hours that our volunteers donate each year.

In 2012, volunteers logged more than 1700 hours of service to our parks and programs. We were able to conduct 505 programs that were attended by 9,026 participants.

Several volunteers reached hourly milestones in 2012. Those reaching the 500 hour mark were **Jack Brown** and **Bev Steadman**. And, of special note, **Lloyd Hepburn** crossed the 9,000 hour threshold in 2012.

We cannot express our sincere gratitude efficiently for the work and dedication our volunteers provide. We cannot do it without you.

—Andy Brown, Senior Naturalist

Love Nature? Volunteer!

Calvert County Nature Parks Need You

Assisting at the parks is a rewarding way to raise awareness of the importance of our natural lands. Use your experience to help preserve our future in Calvert County by becoming a volunteer. **To volunteer, contact cypressswamp@co.cal.md.us.**

Here are some of the ways you can help:

Teach

Work with a naturalists teaching our Nature Discovery programs. Weekend opportunities may include work with small groups in the "loft" or on the trail.



Outreach

Organize and promote our sites and programs at special events such as PRAD, The Green Expo, Children's Day.

Events

Raise money for BCNES. Assist in organizing and running events, including the herb sale and other events.

Research

Collect data for ongoing research projects. Interested in bluebird, kestrel, or barn owl nest box projects? How about amphibian and reptile distribution and population studies? We need help with these and various other projects.

Animal Care

Care for live animal collections. Job includes feeding animals, cleaning enclosures, or transporting injured wildlife.

Receptionist/Host

Greet the public for a few hours at one of the sites. You can answer the phone and assist with sales. Weekdays and weekends available.

Administrative

Use your special talents: media, word processing, or public speaking skills, etc., to help us expand the reach of our programs.

Park Maintenance

Get down to earth! Help build trails, clear roads and hiking paths, and generally beautify our parks' trails and gardens.



SPRING 2013 PROGRAMS

Calvert County Natural Resources Division
Battle Creek Nature Education Society



Online Registration

You can now register online for programs at www.calvertparks.org. You will be able to pay registration fees online, as well.

Registrations are also accepted by mail.

Call 410-535-5327 or email CypressSwamp@co.cal.md.us to register for programs that are free.

To register online, your membership profile must have your current email address.

Please verify your email and your membership status before you try to renew or register. Here's how:

- Log on to calvertparks.org using your email and password.
- Click "forgot password" if you have never logged in before.
- If your email is not found call the office at 410-535-5327 or email Anne Sundermann at anne@calvertparks.org to update your records.

SUPPORT CALVERT'S NATURE PARKS...

JOIN BCNES!

The Battle Creek Nature Education Society is a 501(c) 3 non-profit "friends" organization that supports the quality environmental education programs offered by Calvert County Natural Resources Division.

Join or renew today online at www.calvertparks.org.

BCNES MEMBER BENEFITS:

Most of the programs listed in this program are free to BCNES members. Members receive discounted rates on summer nature camps and special events. "Members Only" activities are scheduled throughout the year. In addition members receive the quarterly newsletter and program schedule in advance of the general public.

NEW Program Fees Starting April 1

BCNES MEMBERS RECEIVE DISCOUNTS ON ALL PROGRAMS

Unless noted, programs are FREE for Battle Creek Nature Education Society (BCNES) members, whereas nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

When you join BCNES you can register at the member price. Members pay a reduced fee for kayak trips, camps, and other special events.

Nonmember fees are raised and are charged per 'family', that is, one or more child and a parent or an adult guardian.

We adjusted the program fees to reflect a stronger benefit for our current members and to encourage membership, particularly for individuals and families who attend more than one program.

Your membership and program fees support the nature parks.

We encourage you to explore our website (calvertparks.org) to renew and register for events online.

Thank you!

FOR AGES 5 AND UNDER

Most events include outdoor activities; please dress accordingly. Parent/guardian must attend with children 5 or under. Except where noted, programs in this section are free for BCNES members; \$8/family for nonmembers. Registration required.

Cottontails

Monday, April 1, 10:00–11:00 a.m.
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
Ages 18 months to 5 years



Hop on over to Cypress Swamp where the puppets will teach you about wild cottontails. There will also be some fun indoor activities and a meet-and-greet with a real, live rabbit.

Footprint Casts

Tuesday, April 2, 10:00–11:30 a.m.
Kings Landing Park
Ages 3 to 5

Join the ranger as we search for animal footprints. Learn to make a cast of the many feet that come and go in the park. Warm treats for all little animal trackers!

Polliwog Party

Thursday, April 4, 10:00–11:30 a.m.
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
Ages 3 to 5

Let's grab some nets and head to the pond to see what the frogs are up to. Wear comfortable walking shoes, clothes that can get muddy, and dress for the weather.

Pond Creatures

Thursday, April 11, 10:00–10:30 a.m.
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
Ages 18 months to 3 years



Who lives in the pond? The puppets will tell us. We will see some real live pond animals up close, and then head outdoors to see who might be hiding in our pond!

Wildlife Count

Tuesday, April 16, 10:00–11:30 a.m.
Kings Landing Park
Ages 3 to 5

Some animals are beginning to emerge from their winter sleep and some are on the move back to their normal homes. Come to the park as we take our own wildlife count to see just how many creatures there are.

Flower Power

Thursday, April 25, 10:00–11:30 a.m.
Kings Landing Park
Ages 3 to 5

Fee per family: \$5 for BCNES members; nonmembers, \$13

Come explore our fields and learn about pollination and the important role butterflies and bees play in making new flowers. Learn how to press flowers to preserve their beauty; you'll get to take home your very own flower press. The program fee includes one flower press per family. Extra presses are \$5 each.

Rainbows

Monday, May 6, 10:00–11:00 a.m.
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
Ages 18 months to 5 years



We will explore how to make a rainbow, using art, matching and stories. Listen to the puppets and a story, then go outdoors to look for rainbows and make one of our own!

Nesting Supplies

Tuesday, May 7, 10:00–11:30 a.m.
Kings Landing Park
Ages 3 to 5

In spring our feathered friends are looking to build nests. We'll gather and leave nesting supplies for the birds.

Mud

Thursday, May 9, 10:00–10:30 a.m.
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
Ages 18 months to 3 years

Mud is important for many animals because they use it to make their homes! Take a hike looking for animals' mud houses. Please dress in clothes that can get dirty; bring a spare set to change into or a plastic bag to put on your car seat.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Thursday, May 16, 10:00–11:30 a.m.
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
Ages 3 to 5

Join us for this fun class in which we'll explore different plants parts like seeds, flowers, and leaves. Come dressed for a hike and bring a small pot or recycled container to bring home your very own seeds.

Wildlife Scrapbook

Tuesday, May 21, 10:00–11:30 a.m.
Kings Landing Park
Ages 3 to 5

Keep a memory of the critters you see and the adventures you'll have at the park by creating your own wildlife scrapbook. Treats for all little hikers!

Wonderful Water

Monday, June 3, 10:00–11:00 a.m.
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
Ages 18 months to 5 years



We use water every day in so many ways – drinking and cleaning, painting and swimming. How do animals use water? Come find out more about water through playing and puppets. Dress in clothes that can get wet and dirty.

New fees start on April 1. See page 3.

Join BCNES to get member discounts!

LIST OF EVENTS, BY DATE

All programs are listed at www.calvertparks.org.

Monday, April 1, Cottontails, BCCS
Monday, April 1, Nature Photography for Ages 10–13, BCCS
Tuesday, April 2, Footprint Casts, KLP
Thursday, April 4, Polliwog Party, BCCS
Thursday, April 11, Pond Creatures, BCCS
Friday, April 12, Planet Party, KLP
Sunday, April 14, Pollywogs, FPNP
Tuesday, April 16, Wildlife Count, KLP
Saturday, April 20, Spring Edibles Walk, BCCS
Thursday, April 25, Flower Power, KLP
Saturday, April 27, Mother Daughter Getaway, BGHF & BCCS
Saturday, May 4, Kayak Trip, KLP
Monday, May 6, Rainbows, BCCS
Tuesday, May 7, Nature Photography for Ages 10–13, FPNP
Tuesday, May 7, Nesting Supplies, KLP
Thursday, May 9, Mud, BCCS
Friday, May 10, Campfire: Twilight on the Beach, FPNP
Saturday, May 11, Adults-Only Bluebird Trail Hike, KLP
Thursday, May 16, How Does Your Garden Grow?, BCCS
Saturday, May 18, Tree Tour. TBD
Sunday, May 19, Kayak Trip, KLP
Sunday, May 19, Butterfly Gardens, BCCS
Tuesday, May 21, Wildlife Scrapbook, KLP
Sunday, June 2, Kayak Trip, KLP
Sunday, June 2, Blue Crabs, FPNP

Monday, June 3, Wonderful Water, BCCS
Tuesday, June 4, Photography for Ages 10–13, KLP
Thursday, June 6, Bugs, BCCS
Saturday, June 8, Kayak Trip, KLP
Thursday, June 13, Welcome Summer!, BCCS
Friday, June 14–Saturday, June 15, Horseshoe Crab Campout, FPNP
Monday, June 24–Friday, June 28, Herpetology Camp, FPNP
Monday, June 24–Friday, June 28, Walk on the Wet Side, FPNP
Monday, July 8–Friday, July 12, Camp Skills: Earth, Air, Fire, Water, FPNP
Wednesday, July 10–Friday, July 12, Hand in Hand – Discovery Trails, BCCS
Monday, July 15–Friday, July 19, Outdoor Adventure Camp for Girls, FPNP
Monday, July 15–Friday, July 19, Sons of the Forest, FPNP
Monday, July 22–Thursday, July 25, Yuckology, BCCS & FPNP
Monday, July 22–Friday, July 26, Nature Photography Camp, FPNP, BCCS, & KLP
Monday, July 29–Friday, August 2, From the Mountains to the Bay, BCCS, FPNP, KLP, and western Maryland
Monday, August 5–Friday, August 9, Our Animal Friends, BCCS

PROGRAM KEY



PARKS

BCCS—Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
BGHF—Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
FPNP—Flag Ponds Nature Park
KLP—Kings Landing Park

NATURE PARK INFORMATION

Mailing Address

Calvert County Natural Resources
175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary

2880 Grays Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Office & Reservations: 410-535-5327
Hours: Mon.–Fri., 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Memorial Day–Labor Day
Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Sunday, 1:00–6:00 p.m.
Labor Day–Memorial Day
Saturday, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Sunday, 1:00–4:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

1525 Flag Ponds Parkway
Lusby, MD 20657
Park Office: 410-586-1477
Reservations: 410-535-5327
Hours: Memorial Day–Labor Day
Weekdays, 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Weekends, 9:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.
Labor Day–Memorial Day
Weekends, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Mondays & Fridays, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

3255 Kings Landing Road
Huntingtown, MD 20639
Park Office: 410-535-2661
Reservations: 410-535-5327
Hours: Memorial Day–Labor Day
Daily, 9:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.
Labor Day–Memorial Day,
Daily, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

2695 Gray's Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Information: 410-535-5327
Hours: Call office for details.

CAMPOUTS AND OVERNIGHTS

*Most events include outdoor activities; please dress accordingly.
Parent/guardian must attend with children 5 or under.
Fees are as noted below. Registration required.*

Campfire: Twilight on the Beach

Friday, May 10, 6:00–8:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Fee: BCNES members, free; nonmembers, \$12 per family.

Have a relaxing evening with your family at Flag Ponds Park after hours. Go seining with a naturalist, look for shark's teeth, or simply relax and enjoy the view as the sky changes colors over the bay. Bring a blanket or chairs and a picnic supper. We will provide the s'mores. Only registered participants will be provided entry into the park.



Horseshoe Crab Campout

Friday, June 14, 6:30 p.m. through Saturday, June 15, 9:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Fee: Per family: BCNES members, \$5; nonmembers, \$15.

Looking to introduce your family to camping? Want to see some horseshoe crabs spawning on the beach by starlight? Join us for this chance to see Flag Ponds at night! Includes a beach night walk—with luck we will see horseshoe crabs spawning at the water's edge or maybe bioluminescent comb jellies in the water. Later, we'll have a campfire (s'mores fixin's will be provided). Sunday morning, a light breakfast provided.



The Junior Ranger Corps

Kings Landing Park

Ages 10 to 16

Fee: Free!

Junior Rangers is looking for new members with a strong interest in the environment and the great outdoors are encouraged to join. A strong emphasis on park stewardship and outdoor recreation, activities include hiking, backpacking, kayaking, canoeing, camping along with trail sponsorship, survival training, and plant/animal identification. Local history and conservation practices are taught. Self-confidence, independence, community spirit and a respect for nature and open spaces are just a few of the traits our Jr. Rangers take away with them. Meetings are generally held every second and fourth Saturday of the month, throughout the school year.

SPECIAL EVENTS

*Most events include outdoor activities; please dress accordingly.
Fees are as noted below. Registration required.*

Photography for Ages 10-13

Monday, April 1, 2:00–4:00 p.m.,

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center

Tuesday, May 7, 6:00–8:00 p.m.,

Flag Ponds Education Building

Tuesday, June 4, 6:00–8:00 p.m.,

Kings Landing Pool Parking Lot

Fee per program: BCNES members, free; nonmembers, \$12 per person.

What can you do when not in school? Capture the splendor of Calvert County Parks on camera as you have fun exploring the outdoors. Bring a point-and-shoot camera so that you can take pictures of amazing landscapes and cool plants and animals (some which you will catch yourself). Photography tips, themes and locations will vary every month. Space is limited, so tell your friends and register early.

Adults-Only Bluebird Trail Hike

Saturday, May 11, 9:00–11:30 a.m.

Kings Landing Park

Fee: BCNES members, free; nonmembers, \$8 per person.

Tag along as we check the nest box trail and record findings. The naturalist will discuss the important aspects of being a bluebird landlord and share stories from 30 plus years of working with this beloved songbird. The trail is an easy flat walk along trails, roadways and wood edge.

Tree Tour

Saturday, May 18, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Fee: BCNES members, \$25; nonmembers, \$30 per person.

Adults and older teens

Grab a friend or family member and enjoy a fun and educational day on this unique tour which blends natural and human history. Calvert County has an amazing amount of both natural and human history - including important War of 1812 sites. Join speakers Tania Gale, Kirsti Uunila, and Steve Stadelman as we explore what the landscape might have looked like during the early 1800s and what people's lives may have been like at that time. Lunch and Champion Tree tour booklet will be provided. Payment must be received at time of registration.



FOR AGES 5 AND UNDER (cont'd)

*Most events include outdoor activities; please dress accordingly.
Parent/guardian must attend with children 5 or under.
Except where noted, programs in this section are free for BCNES members; \$8/family for nonmembers. Registration required.*

Bugs

Thursday, June 6, 10:00–10:30 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Ages 18 months to 3 years

We will hear about where bugs live, what they eat, and how they move from the puppets. Then go out on our own bug hunt! End with a song and dance.



Welcome Summer!

Thursday, June 13, 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Ages 3 to 5

In honor of the coming of spring, we will light a campfire and try our hand at cooking our own snacks. We'll enjoy outdoor games and fort-building while we wait for the food to cook.



NEW PROGRAM FEES

BCNES members free; \$8 per family for most programs. For discounts, join BCNES.

Register online at www.calvertparks.org.

FOR AGES 6 to 9

*Most events include outdoor activities; please dress accordingly.
Parent/guardian participation is encouraged.
Programs in this section are free for BCNES members; \$8/family for nonmembers. Registration required.*

Pollywogs

Sunday, April 14, 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Following a brief presentation about tadpoles and amphibian metamorphosis, we will take a half-mile hike to the swamp boardwalk. With dip nets and buckets in hand, we will attempt to catch and release some pollywogs and frogs, and with a little luck, we might even find some amphibian eggs. Afterward, we will hop back for some tasty treats.

Butterfly Gardens

Sunday, May 19, 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Explore the nature center garden as you learn what types of plants will attract butterflies. Be prepared to roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty as you plant some seeds and clippings in a container so that you can begin to attract butterflies at home.

Blue Crabs

Sunday, June 2, 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Join a naturalist at the beach where we will use a seine net to capture and release blue crabs and other small animals that seek refuge near shore. A bathing suit, water shoes, towel, and sunscreen are recommended.

FOR ALL AGES

*Most events include outdoor activities; please dress accordingly. Parent/guardian must attend with children 5 or under.
Except where noted, programs in this section are free for BCNES members; \$8/family for nonmembers. Registration required.*

Planet Party

Friday, April 12, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Ever wondered what our Earth and the planet Jupiter have in common? Bring the family out to learn via hands-on activities inside Tom Wisner Hall before venturing outside to view Jupiter's cloud-tops and its Galilean satellites through telescopes. Enjoy views of the Great Orion Nebula, laser constellation tours and try to catch a view of the waxing crescent moon before it sets.



Spring Edibles Walk

Saturday, April 20, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Spring is full of fresh, new, green growth! We will continue

with our investigation of edibles, this time exploring our meadow, trying things like greenbriar or chickweed! You may think they taste great, or terrible, but it's a good thing to know what is edible and what is not.

Mother Daughter Getaway

Saturday, April 27, 2:00-7:00 p.m.

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm & Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

This is a great opportunity for women to reconnect and have fun with a significant woman in their lives—be it a mother, daughter, aunt, sister or friend. We will meet at Nature Center and caravan/carpool a short distance to the Biscoe Gray Heritage farm. The afternoon will be spent hiking and exploring this new property, then we will head back to Battle Creek to make dinner over a campfire.



SUMMER CAMPS

Hand in Hand – Discovery Trails (Ages 3-5; with one adult per child)

Wednesday, July 10–Friday, July 12, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Fee: BCNES members, \$45; nonmembers, \$55

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

This camp is designed to be a special time for a young child to explore and discover hand-in-hand with a playful adult.

We will use both structured activities (like stories, dramatic play, and crafts) and unstructured activities (like exploring the creek and the pond) to investigate and observe the mysteries of the world around us. One child per adult.

Our Animal Friends (ages 4 and 5)

Monday, August 5–Friday, August 9, 9:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m.

Fee: BCNES members, \$65; nonmembers, \$85

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Come to our camp, meet some animal friends, and learn what makes each special, from tiny bugs to large mammals. Using stories, songs, crafts, hands-on experiences and adventures, we will learn about the animals around us.

Herpetology Camp (entering grades 1 and 2)

Monday, June 24–Friday, June 28

9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Fee: BCNES members, \$125; nonmembers, \$140

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Explore the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians as you play games and use seine nets, dip nets, and traps to safely view these incredible animals. Investigate their differences and learn why herps are important to us. Daily animal encounters will provide you the opportunity to observe a variety of live turtles, frogs, salamanders, lizards, and non-venomous snakes. You will have a chance to safely handle some of these animals too.

Yuckology (entering grades 1 and 2)

Monday, July 22–Thursday, July 25, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Fee: BCNES members, \$75; nonmembers, \$90

Battle Creek (Mon. & Tues.); Flag Ponds (Wed. & Thurs.)

It's true—there are tons of yucky, but really cool things in nature. We'll search the mud for creepy, crawly creatures, study animal scat (poop), and watch decomposers in action! If you like to get down and dirty looking for awesome animals – then this is the camp for you!

Outdoor Adventure Camp for Girls (entering grades 2-4)

Monday, July 15–Friday, July 19, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Fee: BCNES members, \$125; nonmembers, \$140

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Join other girls your age for a week of excitement and adventure at Flag Ponds Nature Park. Discover your hidden talents as you broaden your knowledge of the outdoors. Find out how to use a compass, identify plants and animals, tie knots, and cook over a fire. Boost your self-confidence and build friendships as you face fun new challenges every day.



Sons of the Forest (entering grades 2–4)

Monday, July 15–Friday, July 19, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Fee: BCNES members, \$125; nonmembers, \$140

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Build, hike, dig and crawl; become a son of the forest! If you are active and like to be outdoors, this is the camp for you. We will get down and dirty exploring, building, and learning about the habitats at Flag Ponds, spending most of our time outdoors. On the last day you can show what you learned!

Walk on the Wet Side (entering grades 3–5)

Monday, June 24–Wednesday, June 26, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.;

Thursday, June 27, 6:00 p.m., overnight through Friday,

June 28, 9:00 a.m.

Fee: BCNES members, \$125; nonmembers, \$140

Flag Ponds Nature Park

This week we will wade into some marvelous wet places like the creek, the swamp, and the Bay. As we go, we will see and learn firsthand about the animals and plants that depend on water – including ourselves. We'll end the week with an overnight so we can discover some watery places by the light of the stars. Come prepared to get wet! Tents and breakfast for the overnight provided, as well as hot dogs and burgers for the potluck cookout.

Camp Skills: Earth, Air, Fire, Water (entering grades 3-5)

Monday, July 8–Friday, July 12, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Fee: BCNES members, \$125; nonmembers, \$140

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Come to this camp to learn survival skills like finding food, building shelters, lighting fires and cooking over the campfire. We will spend time at the beach, in the water, deep in the woods and everywhere in between! Be ready for adventure and to take what you learned home to your next campout.

BCNES MEMBERS RECEIVE DISCOUNTS ON ALL PROGRAMS

Battle Creek Nature Education Society is a non-profit "friends" organization that helps to provide quality education programs through Calvert County Natural Resources Division.

Members receive discounted rates on programs, including summer camps, and participate in "Members Only" activities. In addition, members receive the quarterly newsletter and program schedule in advance of the general public.

Join today by going to our website, calvertparks.org.

SUMMER CAMPS (cont'd from page 7)

Nature Photography Camp (entering grades 4-6)

Monday, July 22–Friday, July 26, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

July 26, potluck and photo presentation, 3:00 p.m.

Fee: BCNES members, \$125; nonmembers, \$140

Flag Ponds Nature Park (Mon., Thurs., Fri); Kings Landing Park (Tues.); Battle Creek Cypress Swamp (Wed.)

Capture the natural wonders of Calvert County Parks on camera. In addition to the fun camp activities, you will learn camera basics and picture-taking tips, and will have a blast exploring the bay, the river, the cypress trees, and more. After camp on Friday families are invited to a potluck feast to celebrate and admire campers' work. Campers are required to provide their own digital camera.

From the Mountains to the Bay (entering grades 6 - 8)

Monday, July 29 – Friday, August 2

Monday through Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.;

Thursday, 7:00 a.m. through Friday, 6:00 p.m.

Fee: BCNES members, \$160; nonmembers, \$185

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Flag Ponds Nature Park, and Kings Landing Park and overnight trip to western Maryland

This week we will explore all things aquatic and learn the basics of getting around on the water using a variety of watercraft. We'll explore different aquatic habitats as we retrace the path that water takes from the mountains to the Bay – in reverse. The last two days will be an overnight adventure to western Maryland to visit Antietam Creek (for tubing) and the Shenandoah River (for rafting). Come prepared to get wet and have fun! Transportation to and from western Maryland, food for the overnight, outfitters and camping fees are included.

FOR SCOUTS ONLY

Each month we offer a program just for Scouts! These programs are open to boys or girls who belong to a scout troop. We ask that each family in a troop sign up individually. Most events include outdoor activities; please dress accordingly.

Fee per family: BCNES members, free; nonmembers, \$8 per family.

Adult participation is not required. Reservations and payment are required.

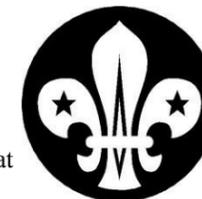
Fossils

Saturday, April 20, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

All ages

Meet at the beach to find out about many of the fossils we have at Flag Ponds Park. Learn about the Miocene Epoch and the animals that lived during that time. After the instructional time, use your observational skills in an outdoor setting to try and find some fossils on the beach that you can take home yourself!



Natural Playground

Saturday, May 4, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

All ages

Let's get outside and play! Come learn some new games that require just you and your imagination. Bring ideas of other games to share. We are creating a natural playground here at the Cypress Swamp and you can help us to make it better! We will play games and build more natural play zones in our natural playground!

KAYAKING TRIPS

Explore the fascinating natural world of Kings Landing Park by kayak. Kayaks, life jackets, paddles and trip leaders will be provided. Wear shoes that can get wet and bring water, hat and sunscreen. Participants must be at least 9 years of age to accompany an adult in a double kayak, and at least 12 years old to ride in a single kayak. Those under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations and payment are required in advance. Meet in the parking lot by the King's Landing pool. Fee per program: BCNES members, \$10; nonmembers, \$20, per person.



Kings Landing Kayak Trips:

Saturday, May 4, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 19, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 2, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 8, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

New program fees start in April. For discounts, join BCNES
www.calvertparks.org