



SUMMER 2015 PROGRAMS



Calvert County Natural Resources Division Calvert Nature Society

Program Registration: www.calvertparks.org

Online registration is preferred. Many programs fill quickly; by registering online you will know immediately if you are registered for a program.

For mail in or walk in registration, a registration form must be completed.

You can find the forms on the web site or at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp.

Call 410-535-5327 or email CypressSwamp@co.cal.md.us for additional information.

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, 10:00 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.
Mon. & Fri., 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Hughes Tree Farm

1320 Clay Hammond Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Hours: Dawn to dusk

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 Grays Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Information: 410-535-5327
Hours: Dawn to dusk

SUPPORT CALVERT'S NATURE PARKS...

JOIN CALVERT NATURE SOCIETY

The name has changed, but our high-quality nature programs and beautiful parks remain the same. Calvert Nature 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.**

CALVERT NATURE SOCIETY MEMBER BENEFITS:

Most of the programs listed in this program are free to 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 schedules in advance of the general public.

PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

Families can experience the fascinating natural world found in our area. These programs incorporate activities to entertain learners of all ages. Most programs spend time outdoors: dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear.

Reservations required. Adult participation required unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.

Fee per program: Free for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

Bug Hunt

Ages 3-5 years

Tuesday, May 5

Session A: 10:00-11:30 a.m. FULL

Session B: 1:00-2:30 p.m. FULL

Kings Landing Park

Warm weather is here and so are tons of cool bugs. We'll explore the meadows and woods of the park looking for interesting bugs.

Eggs in the Sand

Ages 18 months-5 years

Friday, May 29, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

After an outdoor puppet show, head down to the beach to see where animals like terrapins and horseshoe crabs would lay their eggs. Dress your child in clothes that can get wet.

The Lost Ladybug Project

Ages 6-9 years

Saturday, June 27, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Your children will have fun helping the naturalist catch and collect ladybugs for Cornell's Lost Ladybug Project. Learn how you can participate in this citizen science project in your own backyard.



Butterflies

Ages 3-5 years

Tuesday, July 7

Session A: 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Session B: 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Butterflies are all around our garden during the summer time. We will learn about the life stages of the butterfly and what flowers they like to feed on while we search for them through the park.

The Great Frog Roundup!

Ages 6-9 years, adult not required

Saturday, July 11, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Ever wonder what frogs live near us? We will venture into the swamp and catch and record the different types of frogs that we find. Be sure to wear clothes and shoes you can get muddy and bring an extra set to change into.



One Fish, Two Fish

Ages 3-5 years

Tuesday, July 14, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

What lives in the shallow water close shore? We will use nets to find out. Both adults and children will need to be prepared to get wet. Water shoes strongly recommended.

Go Seining!

Ages 6-9 years

Saturday, July 18, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Your children will have fun using a seine net to help the naturalist catch and document fish for the Maryland Biodiversity Project. Learn how you can participate in this citizen science project in your own backyard.

Mudbugs

Ages 18 months – 5 years

Thursday, July 30

Session A: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Session B: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Puppets will teach your children about crayfish and other mudbugs. After some muddy activities, hike around the boardwalk to look for crayfish clues.

PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

(cont'd from page 4)

Reservations required. Adult participation required unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.

Fee per program: Free for Society members.

Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

Colors in Nature

Ages 18 months-5 years

Thursday, August 6

Session A: 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Session B: 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Nature is full of wonderful colors. We will look for every color in the rainbow as we hike along the trails at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp.

Who Lives on an Oyster Reef?

Ages 6-9 years

Saturday, August 8, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Explore the oyster baskets at the pier to see animals that inhabit an oyster reef. The animals that your children find will be photographed and documented for the Maryland Biodiversity Project. Learn how you can participate in this citizen science project at home.

Mudpies!

Ages 3-5 years

Tuesday, August 11

Session A: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Session B: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Join in the muddy fun as we explore the mud – how it feels, how it smells - what animals live in the mud? Come prepared for getting wet and dirty (adults and kids both).

Gone Fishing

Ages 6-9 years, adults recommended to assist

Wednesday August 19, 8:30-11:00 a.m.

Hutchins Pond

Come to Hutchins pond where we will teach you how to make and use a cane pole. We will fish for bluegill and bass.

Lizards

Ages 18 months-5 years

Wednesday, August 26, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Following some fun indoor activities and a puppet show, hike out to the pier with the naturalist to look for lizards. Since the hike is about a mile round trip, we will relax at the beach for a while before returning to the parking area.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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 one of our Calvert Stewards. Some projects are appropriate for families, and most qualify for the Junior Rangers series. Programs are free, unless noted.

Habitat & Plant Survey

16 years to adult

Thursday, June 4, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 2, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

We will revisit the plot locations of a vegetation study completed in 1990 to assess changes in the plant communities at Flag Ponds Nature Park. This information will also be used to develop the habitat structure analysis for the bird banding research.

Prothonotary Warbler Nest Box Monitoring

15 years to adult, under 18 with an adult

Thursday, May 14, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 27, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Monday, June 15, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 29, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 11, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Accompany the naturalist as she checks Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes. Have fun trekking through seldom-seen parts of the swamp, and perhaps catch a glimpse of some fuzzy little nestlings. Limited registration.

Kayak Trip to the Heron Rookery for Volunteers

12 years to adult, under 18 with an adult

Monday, June 29, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Current volunteers can paddle with a naturalist to the heron rookery where we will, hopefully, see and hear the Great Blue Herons and their nestlings from the water. Kayaking experience required.



PROGRAMS FOR 10–16 YEAR OLDS (Including Junior Rangers Series)

These programs encourage developing minds to appreciate and protect the nature around them. Programs identified by the Junior Rangers Series logo are designed to create a group of young men and women with a strong, long-term commitment to preserving and protecting the landscapes, waterways, and natural resources of Calvert County.

Adult participation is not required at these programs. Program fees are noted with description

Falcon Monitoring Program

Ages 12-16 years

Saturday, May 23, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Come learn about the American Kestrel and the nest box monitoring program. After a talk at the nature center we will drive to some local farms and check the status of some of the nest boxes. Free program.



Pond Survey

Ages 12-16 years

Saturday, June 13, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Ward Farm Nature Park

We will wade in with nets and buckets and do our best to identify what we find. Program Fee: free for members; \$8 per person for nonmembers.



Junior Entomologist

Ages 10-13 years

Wednesday, June 24, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Learn all about insect anatomy and make a container to use on a bug hunt. We'll search the park for insects, and then learn some techniques for preserving and labeling our collections. Program Fee: free for members; \$8 per person for nonmembers.



Capture That Critter

Ages 10-13 years

Thursday, July 2, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Wednesday, August 12, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

The Maryland Biodiversity Project needs help documenting all the plants and animals of Maryland. Teens will have fun exploring the park as they capture animals on camera. Program Fee: free for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per person.



Cane Pole Fishing

Ages 10-13 years

Saturday, July 11, 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Hutchins Pond

Come to Hutchins pond where we will teach you how to



make a cane pole and use one to fish for bluegill and bass.

Program Fee: free for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per person.

Camping at KLP

Ages 10-13 years

Tuesday, July 21, 12:00 p.m. –

Wednesday, July 22, 10:00 a.m.

Kings Landing Park

We will learn some camping basics like fire-building, putting up a tent, and outdoor cooking. We'll also play some field games, try our hand at archery, and do some star-gazing. We will end the night by learning how to retire an American Flag in the fire.

Program Fee per person: \$10 for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$18 per person.



Jr Ranger Bird Banding

Ages 12-16 years

Sunday, July 26, 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Scientists use bird banding data in studies of migration, behavior, and life-span. Come find out about bird banding, and with luck, help band a bird of your own. Program Fee: free for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per person.



Archery

Ages 10-13 years

Wednesday, August 5, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Never shot a bow and arrow? No problem, we'll have a short lesson for beginners before we start. Program Fee: free for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per person.



Creek Exploration and Clean Up

Ages 12-16 years

Thursday, August 13, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Ward Farm Nature Park

Come explore the creek on this new property and help restore it to a healthier condition. Program Fee: free for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per person.



KAYAK TRIPS

9 years to adult, unless otherwise noted.

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.

Program fee per person, unless noted: \$15 for members; \$30 for nonmembers. \$5 per person if you bring your own kayak.

Marsh Plant Exploration Kayak Trip

Saturday, June 13, 2015, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. FULL

Kings Landing Park

Come explore the marsh surrounding Cocktown Creek in its early summer glory. We will focus on marsh plant ID and uses. With luck, we will see the marsh hibiscus and the pickerel weed in bloom. Those under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Night Time Stand Up Paddle

Adults only

Saturday, June 6, 7:30-10:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Come explore the bay off Flag Ponds Nature Park with lighted stand up paddle boards. Participants must be at least 18 years of age and must have prior experience stand up paddle boarding. To try out a stand up paddle board check out Patuxent Adventure Center in Solomons or Sup2u Rentals at Kings Landing Park.

Kayak Trip to the Heron Rookery

12 years to adult, under 18 with an adult FULL

Saturday, June 27, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

The naturalist will lead you to the heron rookery where you will, hopefully, see and hear the Great Blue Herons and their nestlings from the water. Kayaking experience required.

Patuxent River Exploration

Saturday, July 18, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Kings Landing Park

Explore the fascinating world of Kings Landing Park by kayak.

River of Life Kayak Trip

Saturday, August 15, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

The Patuxent River is full of life! We'll head out in the kayaks, making stops to get wet and use nets to catch and observe some of these river animals like crabs and fish. Includes instruction on kayaking basics and safety.

Full Moon Kayak Trip

Saturday, August 29, 8:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Explore the fascinating natural world under the light of the full moon at Kings Landing Park by kayak. Participants may bring their own kayaks and paddle at a discounted rate. Kayaking experience required.

SPECIAL EVENTS & ADULT PROGRAMS

Take time to learn about and appreciate the natural resources found throughout the County. These programs combine hiking through the parks, while learning more about the plants, animals, and other natural wonders.

These programs are geared towards adults and older teens.

Fees, unless noted: Free for Society members.

Nonmembers pay \$8 per person.

Birding at Ward Farm Nature Park

All ages, under 16 with an adult.

Check website for upcoming dates

Join Master Naturalist Karen Anderson to explore the bird life of our new Ward Farm Nature Park in Dunkirk. Free.

Morning Hike

Ages 14 years-adult, under 18 with an adult

Sunday, August 30, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Join us for an early morning hike around Flag Ponds, around 3 miles on uneven terrain. We will be sure to encounter lots of birds, so be sure to bring your binoculars.

Volunteer

It's a great way to help your parks.

www.calvertparks.org/volunteer.html

SUMMER CAMPS

These summer camps still had space as of press time.

Herpetology Camp

Entering grades 1-2

Monday, July 6–Thursday, July 9, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Your children can explore the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians as they play games and use seine nets, dip nets and traps to safely view these animals. There will be encounters with live animals every day. \$150, members; \$180, nonmembers.

Wild Things

Entering grades 1-2

Monday, July 27–Thursday, July 30,

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Location varies

During this camp, we will take the time to look closely for life under logs, stones, even in the mud! Using tools like nets, buckets, and shovels, we'll search high and low, on land and in the water for bugs, worms, fish and whatever else we can find. Games and journals will help us learn about Calvert County's "wild things." \$150, members; \$180, nonmembers.

Sons of the Forest

Entering grades 2-4

Monday, July 20–Friday, July 24, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

From sloshing in the swamp to hiking through the forest we will leave no stone unturned as we learn about the natural world around us. We'll also do fun crafts, build survival forts and cook over a fire. So bring your sense of adventure and join us for a fun week outside! \$150, members; \$180, nonmembers.

Outdoor Adventure Camp for Girls

Entering grades 2-4

Monday, July 20–Friday, July 24, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Girls will enjoy a week of adventure and excitement. They will discover hidden talents as they learn how to use a compass, ID plants and animals, tie knots, and cook over a fire. \$150, members; \$180, nonmembers.

Ornithology Camp

Entering grades 3-5

Monday, July 13–Wednesday, July 15,

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 16, 4:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Location varies

Your children can explore the fascinating world of birds as they bird watch, check nest boxes, dissect owl pellets, and make bird feeders. After Thursday supper over the campfire, the young birders will meet the nature center's live owls and will take a hike to look for birds at night. \$150, members; \$180, nonmembers.

Wild About Wildlife

Entering grades 4-5

Monday, July 27–Wednesday, July 29,

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 30, 4:00 p.m. overnight through Friday, July 31, 10:00 a.m.

Location varies

We'll explore our parks to learn about animals big and small. Activities will include habitat exploration, observing wild animals in the field, up close encounters with our exhibit animals and an overnight campout at Flag Ponds Nature Park. Food for the overnight and camping equipment are included. \$200, members; \$230, nonmembers.

Nature Photography Camp

Entering grades 4-6

Monday, August 3–Friday, August 7, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Photo presentation for families: August 7, 3:00 p.m.

Location varies

Your children will capture the natural wonders of Calvert County Parks on camera. They will also learn camera basics and picture-taking tips. After camp on Friday, families are invited to a presentation highlighting campers' work. Campers must provide their own digital camera. \$150, members; \$180, nonmembers.

