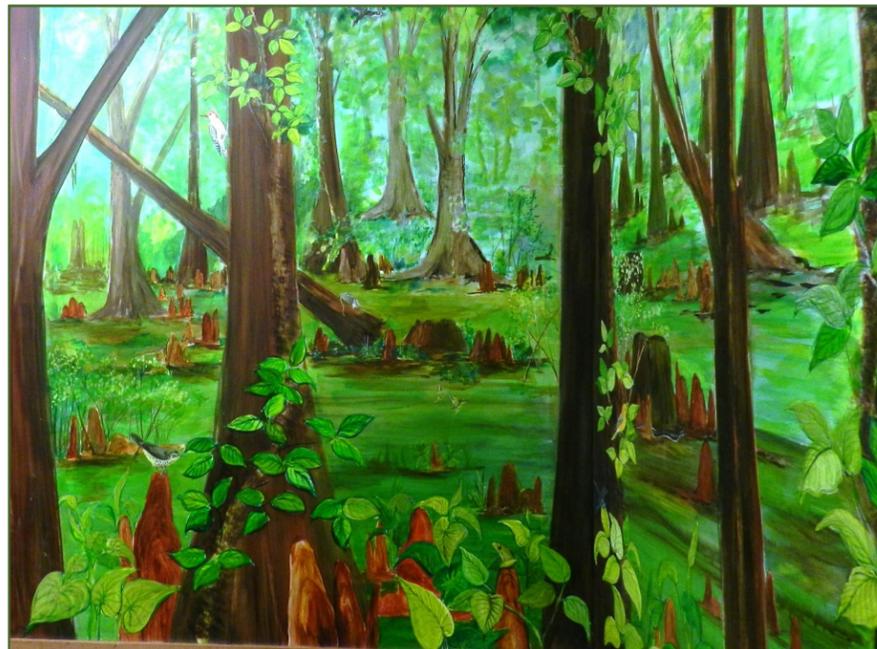


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## Cypress Swamp in Summer



Artwork by  
Mitzi Poole



Our thoughts are with the family and friends of long-time former Naturalist Mitzi Poole, who died on April 21. A mural created by Mitzi depicting summer scenes at the Cypress Swamp Sanctuary was recently moved to a prominent location at the Nature Center.

Mitzi was an exceptional naturalist, a talented artist, and a wonderful neighbor. We thank her for sharing her talents with the parks and Calvert Nature Society.

# THE PEEPER

Calvert Nature Society

www.calvertparks.org

May 2016

## Local Scout Builds Owl Boxes for Gold Award Project

Last spring, Girl Scout Megan Coffren attended a seminar on the importance of Barn Owls and what the general population can do to help the owls. It seemed only natural that when it came time to decide on a Gold Award Project, she would try to help them. After a discussion with Senior Naturalist Andy Brown, her project took shape.

Megan's project consisted of constructing eight barn owl boxes. Through a gracious donation by Sneades Hardware in Owings, she was able to purchase the materials needed for her boxes. She then spent the next several weeks working to complete her project.

Her fellow scouts in Girl Scout Troop 3142, Melinda Thompson, Marina Beesen and Anh-Tran, assisted with cutting out pieces of the boxes. The rest of the next several weekends were spent working on the construction of the boxes. Thanks to family and

*(Continued on page 11)*



Scout Megan Coffren with her barn owl boxes.  
Photo courtesy of Christine Coffren.

## CROWS:

### Smarter than They Look

These large, black, unassuming birds have an intelligence level that might surprise some. You have probably seen them sitting on power lines, flying overhead in large flocks, and scavaging for food in your yard as well as in your trash. Crows are so common, you may not really notice them; they blend in with all the other birds. What bird am I referring to? I'm talking about the common American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*).

The American Crow, the largest of the crows in North America, has an all-black plumage, which could appear brownish during their molt. They have a

*(Continued on page 9)*



The collective name for a group of crows is a 'flock' or a 'murder.'

## Take it outside

With the warm weather now here to stay, the extended daylight brings the promise of outdoor activities. Not all recreation moves in time with the sports seasons, but rather, with the seasons of nature. Not all recreation requires a coach and a field reservation.

Unstructured but gently guided activities, such as a visit to your local nature park, have been shown to benefit participants of all ages.

As far back as the early 1980s, scientists were taking a hard look at the effect of nature on human responses. Researcher Roger Ulrich concluded that patient recovery rates were up to 8% faster and less stressful when the patients had access, even if only visually, to natural areas (as compared to urban or cityscapes).

In 2008, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a statement that 60 minutes of daily unstructured free play is essential to children's physical and mental health.

More recently, the National Park Service's "Healthy Parks, Healthy People" initiative has introduced Park Rx, which seeks to integrate natural spaces into our daily routine as a health benefit. On Earth Day (April 24), the Surgeon General gave the country a "prescription" to go outside for a healthy walk.

We hope to see you for a checkup at one of our nature parks. The co-pay is low, and the benefits are immeasurable. And no deductible!

—Anne Sundermann

Calvert Nature Society is dedicated to the protection and preservation of Calvert County's natural heritage and the creation of an environmentally literate and aware community. We provide opportunities for appreciation and understanding of our natural world through our outreach initiatives and in support of the mission of the Calvert County Natural Resources Division. Calvert Nature Society is a 501(c)3 organization.

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*Save the Date:*

## 2016 Annual Meeting & Volunteer Recognition Dinner

~

**Date:** Sunday, August 28  
**Location:** Battle Creek Cypress Swamp,  
 2880 Grays Road, Prince Frederick  
**Time:** Annual meeting, 5:00-5:30 p.m.  
 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner,  
 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
 Speaker, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

~

You are cordially invited to join  
 Calvert Nature Society  
 & the Division of Natural Resources staff  
 as we recognize our outstanding volunteers  
 and their accomplishments during 2016.

As always, we will have an engaging  
 speaker after dinner.

Stay tuned for details!

## Girl Scouts Reel In Used Fishing Line

Ashley Whicher (age 13) and Noel Pockey (age 12), Girl Scout Silver Award hopefuls from Troop 936, recently installed fishing line recycling bins at five fishing piers in Calvert County to help preserve wildlife in the bay area.

Monofilament fishing line is one of the major pollutants in Maryland waterways that contribute to the accidental death of wildlife. Fishing line is not biodegradable, so once it ends up in the water it becomes a major hazard. Birds, turtles, fish, otters, and other wildlife are caught in the fishing line and then die due to constriction, starvation, or strangulation.

The five sites appointed to receive recycling bins were Hutchins Pond in Owings, Kings Landing Park in Huntingtown, Nan's Cove in Broomes Island, Flag Ponds Nature Park in Lusby, and Solomons Fishing Pier in Solomons. Calvert County Natural Resources staff has agreed to collect the fishing line and send it to Spirit Lake, Iowa for recycling. Supplies for this project were donated from Jay Johnson Plumbing in Chesapeake Beach, The Boat U.S. Foundation, and donations from community members.

—Melinda Whicher, Park Manager



Girl Scouts Noel Pockey, left, and Ashley Whicher, right, display their fishing line recycling bins at Hutchins Pond, Owings.

## Barn Owl Project *(cont'd from page 1)*

friends, Megan was able to complete the project under her guidance.

Finally, Megan presented the barn owl boxes to Andy Brown. The barn owl boxes will be mounted in various locations around Calvert County for the owls to hopefully nest in. Megan felt that this was a very worthwhile learning opportunity. Not only did she learn a great deal about the local owl population, but this was also the first wood construction project.

Megan first became interested in finding a way to help Battle Creek Nature Center while attending the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade summer nature camps. Two years ago, Megan began volunteering at the Nature Center. She is currently a 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors student at Huntingtown High School.



Volunteers check barn owl nesting boxes.

## Adopt an Owl

### Thanks to All Who Donated!

April is for Owls! Through your generosity, we raised more than \$700 to support these important research and monitoring projects.

### Volunteers Monitor 50 Nesting Boxes

Our team of hard-working Barn Owl volunteers, assisted by several property owners, installed 16 more Barn Owl nesting boxes in Calvert County. Their efforts bring the total Barn Owl nesting box count to 50.

Most of these installations are on private property, placed in or near marshes along the Patuxent River. The nesting boxes were installed on barns, and on free-standing poles donated by SMECO. Many were built by Girl and Boy Scouts.

Volunteer training for monitoring Calvert County's Barn Owl nesting boxes will be conducted in mid-May, followed by teams of volunteer monitors checking the boxes for owlets. To participate in the training and monitoring, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Maya Huchla at [volunteer@calvertparks.org](mailto:volunteer@calvertparks.org).



Heritage Farm Day had a special group of visitors: descendants of George Rice, the farmer who owned Biscoe Gray in the early 1900s. Top and bottom left: Lester Sewell, Corrita Myers, Corey Johnson, Marian Johnson, and Marshall Johnson. The day was a tad rainy but we carried on. We thank Cassandra Okwumabua for organizing the event, and volunteers Beverly Izzi, Mary Hollinger, and the amazing Girl Scouts who helped us set up. Bottom Right: Members of Girl Scout Troop 641.



## Natural Resources News

Summer camp season is never complete without the enthusiasm of our camp counselors. Both Keri Budd and Dana Wiggins will be returning for their second summer. We welcome new counselors Maggie Bennett from Ryken, Megan Coffren from Huntingtown High School, and Calvin Crunkleton from Northern High School.

Brandon Haines is our spring college intern. A Sunderland native, he is a graduate of Northern High School and North Carolina State University, with a BS in Zoology. Brandon has worked as a Park Aide at Flag Ponds Nature Park since last year. He has a particular interest in reptiles and amphibians.



College Intern Brandon Haines



## SUMMER 2016 PROGRAMS



Calvert County Natural Resources Division  
Calvert Nature Society

We have so many wonderful programs, we can't fit them all here.

See the web site for a full listing of all the upcoming programs: [www.calvertparks.org](http://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](mailto:CypressSwamp@co.cal.md.us) for additional information.

NATURE PARK INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [WWW.CALVERTPARKS.ORG](http://WWW.CALVERTPARKS.ORG)

### 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.

#### Walk like the Animals

18 month-5 years old

Wednesday, May 11

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

Session B: 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Walk, jump, and fly just like the animals during this fun and interactive program. We'll meet our special puppet friends and learn how their movements make them special.

#### Counting Crabs FULL

3-5 years old

Monday, May 16, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

We will take an up close look at crabs and learn how they move around and live in the bay. Be prepared to go in the water as we gather crabs to study.

#### Horseshoe Crab Survey FULL

All ages

Saturday, May 28, 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Want to see some horseshoe crabs spawning on the beach by starlight? Join us for this unique chance to see Flag Ponds at night! With luck we will see horseshoe crabs spawning at the water's edge or maybe bioluminescent comb jellies in the water!

#### Leaves Everywhere

3-5 years old

Wednesday, June 1

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

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

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Do all leaves look the same? Big leaves, small ones, fuzzy ones, ones that smell. Bring your preschooler for this closer look at the diversity of leaves in our park.

For the full listing of programs,  
go to  
[WWW.CALVERTPARKS.ORG](http://WWW.CALVERTPARKS.ORG)

## PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

(cont'd from page 3)

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

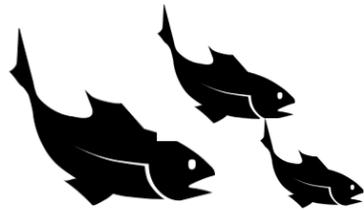
Fee per program: Free for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

### Eat the Weeds

All ages

Saturday, June 4, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park



### Fins, Fish and Fun!

18 months-5 years

Tuesday, June 7

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

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

Kings Landing Park

### Wonderful World of Trees

3-5 years old

Thursday, June 16

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

Session B: 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

### Teddy Bear Picnic

Ages 18 months old-5 years old

Monday, July 11

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

Session B: 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

### Meadow, Forest, and Creek-Family Hike

Ages 7 years old and older

Saturday, July 23, 9:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

### T is for Turtle

Ages 18 months- 5 years old

Tuesday, July 26

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

Session B: 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

### Spiders!

Ages 3-5 years

Wednesday, August 17

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

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

Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park

### J is for Jellyfish

Ages 3-5 years

Saturday, August 20, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

### After Dark in the Park

All Ages

Saturday, August 20, 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

### Goldenrod Jungle

Ages 3-5 years

Friday, August 26

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

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

Kings Landing Park

### The Lost Ladybug Project

Ages 6-9 years

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

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

## 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 for these programs. Fee per program, unless noted: Free for members, \$8 per person for nonmembers.

### Celebrate Migratory Bird Day

Ages 10-13

Saturday, May 14

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Learn about our spring migrating birds, then join us for a hike to look and listen for them in the forest, wetlands, and along the beach.



### Tree Detective

Ages 10-14

Thursday, June 23

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Come to Kings Landing Park to become a tree detective! We will spend some time indoors learning about trees and practicing identification, then we'll test our new skills.



### Ospreys of the Patuxent (Teen Trip)

Ages 13-19 years

Friday, July 1

1:30 -3:30 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist Greg Kearns will take us by pontoon boat to meet an osprey family up close for catch and release research. Fee Per Person: Members: \$10.



### Archery

Ages 10-14

Tuesday, July 5

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 9

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.



## Crows (cont'd from page 1)

relatively long, black bill, as well as dark legs. On average their size can range from 17 to 21 inches.

The American Crow can sometimes be confused with the Common Raven or Fish Crow due to their similar appearance. The American Crow can be found in fields, woodlands, as well as in cities.

Scientists have come to believe that crows have the same intelligence levels as toddlers. There is a famous fable "The Crow and the Pitcher" that tells of a crow that drops pebbles into a pitcher of water to raise the water level. It does this until the water is at a level that it can drink from. According to a study published on PLOS.org, scientists tested this fable and found that the crow is able to use pebbles to raise the water level to reach food. This shows that the crows understand cause and effect situations with the understanding level of a 5 to 7 year old child!

Another amazing ability that the crows have is to recognize human faces, as well as if you are good or bad. A study done by John Marzuff, a wildlife biologist at the University of Washington, and his students suggests that crows are highly adept at recognizing human faces. Though this is not uncommon among

animals, the ability to hold on to this memory is what makes the crow stand out.

In the article *Crows Can Distinguish Faces in a Crowd*, on nef.org, they tell us "Today, close to seven years after the study began, the birds continue to harangue the banding mask even though they see it only twice a year for a few hours at a time. Even more remarkable, the percentage of birds joining the ruckus has roughly doubled since the experiment began, even though most have never been banded and likely didn't witness the original traumatic event. Some are young birds born in years since." This tells us that not only do the crows remember the masks for many years; they might also be teaching other crows to recognize these masks and to be weary of them.

It's amazing to think that these common, unassuming birds have the general understanding of a 5 to 7 year old human. Hopefully, whenever you see a crow sitting on a power line, or eating bugs in a field, you will take a second to stop and remember how clever these large black birds are.

– Beau Sanders, Former Education Intern

## QUILTS FOR THE FISHERMAN'S SHANTY



In early April, a visitor to Flag Ponds Nature Park would have encountered the unlikely sight of sewing machines and ironing boards in the main room of the Education Building. A group of quilters from Washington, DC and suburbs were on a mission to complete a set of quilts for the fisherman shanty bunks as a project for their weekend.

The designs are ones that would have been in use in the early to mid 20th century.

We appreciate their generosity and for sharing their talent with us on behalf of the Shanty Exhibit.

## SUMMER CAMPS

*Fee is per Camper.*

*Pre-K-K Early Explorers PM session and Sons of the Forest camp still have limited space available.*

### Grades 1-2

#### **Creature Feature**

*Entering grades 1-2*

*Tuesday, July 5-Friday, July 8,  
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.*

*Location varies*

Send your children outside to explore nature with us.

Each day will feature a different group of animals: reptiles & amphibians, bugs, birds, and fish.

Members: \$150; Nonmembers: \$180.

#### **Into the Wild**

*Entering grades 1-2*

*Monday, August 1-Thursday, August 4,  
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.*

*Location varies*

We'll search high and low, on land and in the water for bugs, worms, fish and whatever else we can find.

Members: \$150; Nonmembers: \$180.

### Grades 2-4

#### **Nature Girls**

*Entering grades 2-4*

*Monday, July 18-Friday, July 22,  
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*

*Flag Ponds Nature Park*

Each day will bring a new adventure, wading in wetlands and exploring the forest to learn about the natural world.

The week ends with a challenge to the Sons of the Forest to show off the skills learned in camp.

Members: \$150; Nonmembers: \$180.

### Grades 3-5

#### **Water World**

*Entering grades 3-5*

*Monday, June 27-Wednesday 29, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Thursday, June 30, 6:00 p.m. overnight through Friday,  
July 1, 9:00 a.m.*

*Flag Ponds Nature Park*

This week we will wade into some marvelous wet places like the creek, the swamp, and the Bay. We'll end the week with an overnight so we can discover some watery places by the light of the stars. Members: \$175; Nonmembers: \$200.

#### **Ornithology Camp**

*Entering grades 3-5*

*Monday, July 11-Wednesday, July 13,  
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*

*Thursday, July 14, 4:00-10:00 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. Thursday evening, after 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. Members: \$150; Nonmembers: \$180

### Grades 7-12

#### **Adventure Camp**

*Entering grades 7-9*

*Tuesday, July 5-Wednesday, July 6,  
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*

*Thursday, July 7, 4:00 p.m. overnight  
through Friday, July 8, 9:00 a.m.*

*Location varies*

Be prepared to travel by land and water as we set off on our adventures. We will end our week with a campout at Flag Ponds. Members: \$175; Nonmembers: \$200.

#### **Patuxent Paddlers**

*Entering grades 9-12*

*Monday, July 25-Wednesday, July 27-  
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*

*Thursday, July 28, 9:00 a.m. overnight through  
Friday, July 29, 9:00 a.m.*

*Location varies*

Campers will learn paddling fundamentals as well as learning firsthand about water quality and the natural history of the river. We'll end the week with a day-long paddle adventure and an overnight campout. Members: \$210; Nonmembers: \$240.

#### **Bio Blitz Camp**

*Entering grades 8-10*

*Monday, August 1-Friday, August 5,  
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*

*Location varies*

The Maryland Biodiversity Project helps catalog all of the living things in Maryland. We will search different habitats to document what plants and animals we find. We will even visit some parks outside of Calvert County. Members: \$150; Nonmembers: \$180.

## HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS

### **Homeschool Teen Thursdays**

*Teen homeschool days will give your teen a chance to get hands-on experience with science and nature activities, provide an opportunity for service, and have fun while doing it.*



*Fee: Society members, \$20; Nonmembers, \$30.*

### **Plant ID and Invasive Plant Removal**

*Ages 12-16*

*Thursday, May 26, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*

*Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

This class will focus on invasive plants-how to identify them and understand the damage they do to our native plants and animals.

### **Kayak Skills and River Life**

*Ages 12-16*

*Thursday, June 9, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*

*Kings Landing Park*

Teens will learn kayak paddling and safety skills, while exploring the Patuxent River to discover the animals and plants that live there.

### **Homeschool First Fridays**

*4-12 years old*

*Flag Ponds Nature Park*

*Friday, June 3*

*Session A: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.*

*Session B: 1:30-3:30 p.m.*

*Free for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family per program. Please select only one session per day.*

Our Winter/Spring homeschool series focuses on "phenology," the study of seasonal changes in plant and animal life-cycles, such as the date flowers begin to bloom or frogs start singing in the spring. Month to month, we will record our observations, as winter changes to spring.

This series is developed especially for homeschool families. This is a great way to get hands-on science and nature lessons, receive help on projects and research and network with other homeschooling families. Each two-hour program will consist of indoor and outdoor hands-on learning.

Students will be grouped by age to allow for age-appropriate topic exploration. Parents with younger children will stay with the group; parents of older children have the option to stay and participate as mentors and teachers. Siblings younger than 3 are welcome, but must be under the care of a parent/guardian at all times and should not distract other participants.

## CAMPFIRES

### **Twilight on the Beach FULL**

*All ages with adult*

*Friday, May 13, 6:00-8:30 p.m.*

*Flag Ponds Nature Park*

Have a relaxing evening with your family at Flag Ponds Park after hours. Bring a blanket or chairs and a picnic supper, if you'd like. We'll provide the s'mores. Free for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.



### **All About Animals Campfire**

*All Ages*

*Friday, August 5, 6:30-8:00 p.m.*

*Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

What is your favorite animal? There are so many - it's hard to choose just one. Come learn about some of our Calvert County animals thru stories, games, and songs. We will end our time together with s'mores!

## KAYAK TRIPS

Participants must be at least 9 years old to accompany an adult in a double kayak, and at least 12 years old to ride in a single kayak. Those under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Program Fee per person (except where noted): \$15 for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$30 per person. \$10 discount if you bring your own kayak.

### War of 1812 Kayak Trip

Saturday, June 11, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Jefferson Patterson Park

During the War of 1812, the largest naval engagement in the history of Maryland took place at the mouth of St. Leonard Creek. Come take a tour of the waterfront from the perspective of the sailors in battle over 200 years ago.

### Evening Kayak Trip

Adults only, Ages 21 and up

Saturday, July 9, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Enjoy a frog serenade, a peaceful paddle, and sunset over the river.

### Bald Eagle Kayak Trip

Ages 9 years old- Adult

Saturday, July 16, 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Kayak along the Patuxent River as we look for bald eagles soaring above and possibly nesting ashore.

### Summer Marsh Kayak Trip

Ages 9 years old- Adult

Saturday, August 6, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

What will the summer marsh hold for us? We will paddle in search of summer wild flowers and maybe try out a seine net to see what we can find living in the river.

## 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.

### Ospreys of the Patuxent (Adult Trip)

Ages 20 & Up

Friday, July 1

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Learn about the amazing fish hawk at its home out on the river. Naturalist Greg Kearns will take us by pontoon boat to meet an osprey family up close for catch and release research. Fee Per Person: Members: \$10.

## Rent Your Own Boat or Board SUP2U at Kings Landing Park

Kayak, canoe and stand-up paddleboard rentals are available from May-November through a concession with SUP2U Rentals. For additional information: SUP2URentals.com or call 202-417-8728



## CALVERT STEWARDS

### 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 programs. Programs are free, unless noted.

#### Barn Owl Nest Box Monitor Training

Thursday, May 19, 7:00-8:30 pm

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum

Saturday, May 21, 9:00-11:00 am

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

Accompany the naturalist to check on Barn Owl nest boxes and learn how you can help with this project.

#### Bay Animals ID

Adults only

Wednesday, May 25, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Join a naturalist and other park volunteers for this fun supplemental training opportunity. Many of us spend a lot of time at the Flag Ponds beach but don't have time to identify what we find there--now's the chance!

#### MAPS Bird Banding

Ages 16 years to Adults

Contact us for dates and times

Flag Ponds Nature Park

MAPS stands for: Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship. Bird banding programs provide a better understanding of the population size, productivity and survival of many bird species. Join us for a round of banding and get a close look at the birds of our area as well as the banding process.

SAVE THE DATE:  
2016 Annual Meeting  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

## VOLUNTEER

If you are interested in these, or other volunteer opportunities, please contact **Maya Huchla** by email at [volunteer@calvertparks.org](mailto:volunteer@calvertparks.org) or at the Nature Center on weekends, 410-535-5327.

#### Boardwalk Repair

Ages 10 years to adult, under 16 with an adult

Friday, May 13, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 14, 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Thanks to grants from the Dominion Foundation, we'll be repairing boardwalks at Flag Ponds. We are seeking volunteers with basic carpentry skills--the ability to measure, saw, hammer--for rebuilding the boardwalk. We need people who can help with the heavy lifting of hauling old wood out and new wood in. We'll provide the tools and supplies needed, although any basic carpentry tools you are willing to bring will be helpful.

#### Prothonotary Warbler Nest Box Monitoring

10 years-adults, under 18 with an adult

Friday, May 13, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Friday, May 20, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 8, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 14, 10:00-12:00 p.m.

Location varies

Accompany the naturalist as she checks the Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes, and learn how you can help with this project.

#### Meadow Maze

Ages 6 years to adult, under 16 with an adult

Thursday, July 7, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Join our latest Calvert Stewards volunteer activity. We'll work on adding borders to the meadow maze, removing saplings, and other projects needed within the meadow maze.