

THE PEEPER

Battle Creek Nature Education Society

www.calvertparks.org

February 2014

A surprise visitor from the North...

Snow Storm of 2013

Snowy owls (*Bubo scandiacus*) normally live in the endless summer sunshine and perpetual winter darkness of the high Arctic. Every once in a while, for reasons that are not fully understood, snowy owls come down from the north in a phenomenon known as an irruption.

Smaller irruptions happen every few years, but once or twice in a lifetime a mega-irruption occurs, when snowy owls show up much farther south, and in vastly greater numbers, than usual.

This winter, 2013-14, is one such extraordinary event, the largest irruption in the Eastern United States recorded since the early 1960s. Snowy owls have been reported as far south as Florida and Arkansas, and even on Bermuda.

Since Thanksgiving, snowy owls have been seen in 15 of Maryland's 23 counties. On December 4, Calvert County recorded its first ever official sighting. The bird was discovered perched on a vehicle in Dares Beach and by that evening was known to the birding community via social media. Since then, a



This snowy owl paid a visit to a farm in Calvert County in early December 2013. Photo: Joe Turner.

noticeably different owl has been seen in the Prince Frederick area. We here at the Nature Center are tracking sightings of snowy owls this winter. Additionally, owl researchers from the eastern United

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Where We Work

Flag Ponds Habitat Assessment and Plant Survey

Last year, volunteer Jo Lutmerding initiated a bird-banding study at Flag Ponds Nature Park. In coordination with the Institute for Bird Populations, the project is part of the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program. Jo presented her preliminary results in August, and we are excited to see what Year 2 brings.

The MAPS study correlates how habitat affects species diversity and abundance. This spring, an extensive habitat structure assessment will map the study's various habitat types. The assessment documents the vegetation type and structure and the hydrology of the site. The habitats are described

using the National Vegetation Classification Standard, a federally recognized system to describe the habitats found across the United States.

The forests of Flag Ponds were garnering interest from local botanists for a related, yet different, purpose. According to botanist Rod Simmons, the park likely has one of the top five sites of a globally rare natural community known as a Shell-Marl Ravine Forest. In combination with the efforts for the MAPS assessment, Maryland Department of Natural Resources ecologists will begin a series of surveys to document the Shell-Marl Ravine Forest, and other

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Spring into Action

As we shake off the cold, let's make a Spring Resolution to volunteer! Volunteering is a critical piece to the success of the nature parks. There are many different ways to lend a hand at your county nature parks.

Calvert Stewards: Join a group of volunteers to work on a variety of stewardship projects. We'll clear trails, clean up the beach, remove invasive plants, and spruce up the areas around the buildings. If you need hours for community service, bring your paperwork along.

Junior Rangers: The Junior Rangers, ages 10-16, originally started at Kings Landing, but will expand to include the other Natural Resource areas in and around Calvert County.

Event Volunteers: There's so much going on...pitch in to help: Calvert Heritage Farm Days in May, Nature's ARTcade in June, as well as the Green Expo and Children's Farm Day tabling events.

Education Leaders. If you have a love of teaching and watching children explore the wonders of nature, we have several openings with our ChesPax program.

Board Members. If you are interested in helping to guide our organization, this might be a good opportunity.

—Anne Sundermann, Executive Director

Camp Counselor and Internship Openings

We are currently accepting resumes for the spring Naturalist Internship, which will run from March through May.

Additionally, we will be looking to hire at least one high school Summer Camp Counselor and a Naturalist Intern for the summer. Interested applicants should send resumes to

Andy Brown at brownaj@co.cal.md.us.

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 is a 501(c)3 organization.

BCNES Staff & Board of Directors:

Anne Sundermann, *Executive Director*
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Melinda Whicher, *Park Manager, Kings Landing Park*
Michael Rawlings, *Office Assistant II*
Jerry King, *Building & Grounds Maintenance Worker*

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Park Update

Over the winter, Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm looks more like a construction site than a rural park. The end result, hopefully finished by April, will result in a new driveway to the Farm, allowing increased public access. To make for an enjoyable experience many improvements are underway for visitors to explore the fields and forests. We'll be busy this winter creating this new park, building trails, installing signs, developing a picnic area, and many other projects.

Once we're done, the Farm will be open daily for you to visit. After parking by the Plumer-Cranford barn, pick up a trail map brochure at the information kiosk. The trail leads past the George E. Rice house and outbuildings, where work to stabilize and rehabilitate the buildings has begun. The trails continue through the forests and along the field edges, where interpretive signs will provide insight into the human and natural history of the farm. The trail map and interpretive information will be available for download from our web site. These projects amenities are made possible by generous grants from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority and the African American Heritage Preservation Program.

We'll have an official park opening celebration on Sunday, May 4 from noon to 4 pm. Many groups will be at the Farm to make it a very festive celebration. The Calvert County Canine Search and Rescue will hold a demonstration; they have been using Biscoe Gray over the past year to train their dogs. An equestrian club will offer beginner's trail rides.

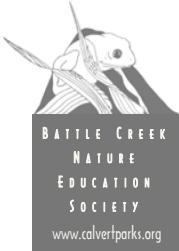
It will be a fun way to introduce people to our newest park. We hope to see you there.

— Karyn Molines, *Division Chief*



SPRING 2014 PROGRAMS

*Calvert County Natural Resources Division
Battle Creek Nature Education Society*



Online Registration

You can now register online for programs at www.calvertparks.org.

Registrations are also accepted over the phone and by mail.

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

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.
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 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 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 BCNES members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

Animal Feeding Frenzy

All ages

Every Sunday, 2:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Come watch or help feed the frogs, turtles, hawks, and owls. Our exhibit animals need to eat every day, so here's your chance to learn about their behaviors and diet.

Salamander Scurry

Ages 3-5 years; adult participation required

Tuesday, March 4, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Have you seen any salamanders yet this spring? It's a great time of year to go looking. Join us for indoor activities and outdoor search.

Swamp Romp

Ages 6 to 9 years; adult participation recommended

Saturday, March 15, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Children will go on a hike with the naturalist to the swamp. They will use dip nets to see which animals are active and if any amphibians have laid eggs.

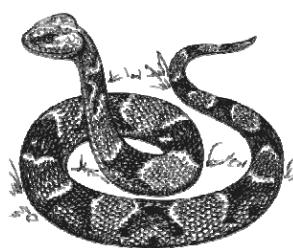
Goodness Snakes!

Ages 3-5 years; adult participation required

Wednesday, March 19, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Slither on down to Battle Creek Cypress Swamp where we will learn about snakes in our area. We'll do some fun crafts as well as take a look at some of the snakes we have in our exhibit room.



Spring Safari

3-5 years old, adult participation required

Friday, April 4, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Kings Landing Park

Now that it is spring time come join us as we explore Kings Landing Park to see what animals are out and about as the weather warms up.

Herp Atlas Countdown

All ages

Friday, April 11, 7:00- 8:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

As the 5-year Herpetology Atlas enters its final year, we will take a look at some of the interesting finds for Calvert County and see which areas still need records. Learn some of the techniques for finding specific reptiles and amphibians and how to identify those found in Calvert County.



Cane Pole Fishing

6-9 years, adult participation required

Saturday, April 12, 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

Hutchins Pond

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

Who Comes From an Egg?

18 months to 5 years, adult participation required

Thursday, April 17, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

After some egg-citing indoor activities, the puppets will talk about animals that lay eggs. Then take your youngster outside to hunt for plastic eggs hidden in the park.

See or Be Seen

3-5 years, adult participation required

Thursday, April 24, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Our eyes tell us so much about the world around us, today we will learn what animal eyes have in common with our own and how they differ. We will have both indoor activities as well as outdoor exploration.

Summer Camp Registration

BCNES members will have priority registration, so remember to renew or join at

www.calvertparks.org

PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES (cont'd from page 4)

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

For expanded programs descriptions, go to www.calvertparks.org.

The Better to Hear You With...

*3-5 years, adult participation required
Wednesday, May 7,
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Kings Landing Park*

Camping 101

*Families with kids of all ages
Saturday, May 10, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Kings Landing Park*

Woodland Animals Tea Party

*18 months to 5 years,
adult participation required
Thursday, May 29
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park*

Turtle Quest

*3-5 years, adult participation required
Wednesday, May 14, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

CAMPFIRES

These are outdoor activities; please dress accordingly. Registration and adult participation are both required.

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

Mmm! Mountain Pies

*Ages 18 months to 5 years, with adult
Friday, March 14, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park
Celebrate National Pi Day (3.14) by
making mountain pies over the fire.*



Something on a Stick Day

*All ages with adult
Saturday, March 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Kings Landing Park*

March 28 is "Something on a Stick Day." Celebrate this great holiday by cooking a delicious treat on a stick over a campfire.

Nocturnal Nature Campfire

*All ages with adult
Saturday, April 12, 5:30 -7:30 pm
Kings Landing Park*

Join us around the campfire as we talk animals that are out and about at night time. We will enjoy a snack and play games.

Campfire: Twilight on the Beach

*All ages with adult
Friday, May 23, 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park*

Have a relaxing evening with your family at Flag Ponds Nature Park after hours. Bring a blanket or chairs and a picnic supper, if you'd like. We'll provide the s'mores.

Horseshoe Crab Survey

*All ages
Friday, June 6, 8:30p.m.-11:00 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park*

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! Bring a blanket or chair and a flashlight. We will end with s'mores by a campfire.

SPRING CAMPS

Check individual camps for fees.

"Mud Monsters" Spring Camp

*Grades 1 to 4
Monday, April 14 and Tuesday, April 15,
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. each day
Flag Ponds Nature Park*

Feel like you've been stuck inside all winter? This camp will be full of adventures—we will wade into the swamp, use nets to look for amphibians, and play in the mud. More details online. Fee: \$10, members; \$25, nonmembers.

"Salamander Soiree" Teen Spring Camp

*Ages 12-16 years
Wednesday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. to Thursday, April 17, 9:00 a.m. (overnight)
Location TBD*

Spend spring break searching the woods, ponds, and swamps for amphibians, getting dirty in the process. We will be camping outside in tents (provided) for the overnight (or inside depending on weather). More details online. Fee: \$15, members; \$25, nonmembers.

PROGRAMS FOR 10–16 YEAR OLDS

Fee per person (unless indicated otherwise): Free for BCNES members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per person.

Big Cypress Hike

14-16 years

Saturday, March 8, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

On this teen adventure, we will bushwhack thru the Cypress Swamp in search of the largest cypress in Calvert County.



Nature Photography Mini Camps

10-13 years

Saturday, March 15, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Monday, April 14, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Wednesday, June 25, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Your young teen can have fun exploring the outdoors as they take pictures of amazing landscapes and cool plants and animals. Photography tips, themes and locations will vary every month. Bring a point-and-shoot camera. Fee per program: Free for BCNES members; \$12 per person for nonmembers.

Archery and More!

10-13 years

Friday, March 21, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Get an archery lesson followed by some practice firing arrows at a target.



Our programs offered to young people between the ages of 10 and 16 are considered a part of our BCNES Junior Ranger series.

Junior Ranger programs are designed to encourage developing minds to appreciate and protect the nature around them. Part of this learning process is simply participating in fun outdoor activities like camping and hiking through the woods. Others are focused on learning survival skills like archery and shelter building, while still others teach about the environment and the animals we share the world with.

Appreciation of our natural world begins at a young age, but it can't be fully realized with just one or two programs. That is why we have added incentives to the Junior Ranger series in the hopes that once these young people start along the path towards land stewardship, their desire to preserve and protect the land will grow.

JUNIOR RANGERS CORPS



BCNES will provide three milestones within the Junior Ranger age group to encourage participation in these programs:

- Attend 5 programs with the JR logo:
 - Receive a Certificate for hours of learning and service to Calvert County Natural Resources
 - Receive an official Junior Rangers bandana
- Attend 10 programs with the JR logo:
 - Receive a Certificate for hours of learning and service to Calvert County Natural Resources
 - Receive an official Junior Rangers water bottle
- Attend 15 programs with the JR logo:
 - Receive a Certificate for Hours of learning and service to Calvert County Natural Resources
 - Receive an official Junior Rangers backpack
 - Receive an official Calvert County Natural Resources patch

For more information, contact Melinda Whicher, Kings Landing Park Manager, at whicherm@co.cal.md.us.

KAYAKING TRIPS

Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of Kings Landing Park as you enjoy a leisurely tour of the Patuxent River and its nearby creeks. Kayaks, paddles, and life jackets are provided. 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. See program description for fees and other information.

Location: Kings Landing Park pool parking lot unless noted.

Paddling the Patuxent

Fee per program: BCNES members pay \$15 per person. Non-members pay \$30 per person. No personal kayaks.

Meet at the Kings Landing Park pool parking lot

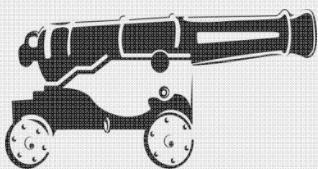
Saturday, May 10, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 7, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday June 28, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

War of 1812

Programs



The Chesapeake Campaign: The War of 1812 from Land and Water

16 years to adult

Wisner Hall, Kings Landing Park

Join us for one or both of these programs to learn about the impact of the War of 1812 on both a local and global level. The programs include a land-based lecture and on-the-water experiences. Lunch will be provided. You can bring your own kayak or rent one of ours.

Fee per program: Free. Registration required.

Kayak rental: BCNES members pay \$15 per person.

Nonmembers pay \$30 per person.

Sunday, April 13, 12:00-4:00 p.m. Speaker: Ben Krause
After a brief lecture, we will enjoy a casual paddle in nearby creeks.

Saturday, April 19, 12:00-4:00 p.m. Speaker: Ralph Eshelman, will discuss his research, "Vestiges of the War of 1812 in Maryland." Copies of his recent book "In Full Glory Reflected: Discovering the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake" will available for sale. The kayak trip will be to the Holland Cliff battle site. This will be a moderately strenuous 3-mile journey on the river; paddling experience required.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fees are per person (unless indicated otherwise): Free for BCNES members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per person.

Dabblers

Adults only

Sunday, March 9, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

In early spring, several species of dabbling ducks stage on the ponds at Flag Ponds before their migration north. We'll discuss the basics of waterfowl identification and see which ones are on the ponds.

Habitat Surveys

16 years to adult

Second Friday March-July, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Throughout the spring and summer, we'll be holding several plant surveys as part of the MAPS habitat assessment and need volunteers. Helping staff and more experienced volunteers record data, take photos, and create maps will allow you to learn how to identify the common and uncommon plants in the area. This is a free program.

Lunar Eclipse

All ages

Tuesday, April 15, 2:00 a.m.-5:30 a.m.

Kings Landing Park, Pavilion 2

Arise early to witness the celestial interplay of light and shadow on a planetary scale as our Moon plunges into the Earth's shadow. Totality lasts from 3:06 a.m. - 4:25 a.m.

Indian Landscapes near Battle Creek

16 years to adult

Monday, April 21, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

Join a naturalist and archaeologist for a hike to an Indian site at Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm. Participants will learn about changes in the land and people on the land over several centuries. This program is part of Calvert County's celebration of Maryland Archaeology Month.

Calvert Stewards

All ages, under 14 with an adult

Saturday, May 31, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Come join a cadre of other volunteers to work on a variety of stewardship projects. We'll clear trails, clean up the beach, remove invasive plants, and spruce up the areas around the buildings. If you need hours for community service, bring your paperwork along. Dress to work and get dirty. This is a free program.

SUMMER CAMPS

SUMMER CAMPS

AGES 4–5

Backyard Explorers

Ages 4 and 5 without adult

*Monday, June 30 –Thursday, July 3,
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.*

*Battle Creek Cypress Swamp (Mon. & Tues.);
Flag Ponds Nature Park (Wed. & Thurs.)*

Your little camper will discover fascinating plants and animals that live around us through stories, puppets, games, crafts, and plenty of outdoor adventures.

Fee per camper: \$75 for BCNES members; \$90 for nonmembers.

GRADES 1–2

Herpetology Camp

Entering grades 1-2

Monday, July 7 –Friday, July 11, 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. Students will investigate their differences and learn why herps are important. There will be encounters with live animals every day.

Fee per camper: \$150 for BCNES members; \$180 for nonmembers.

Wild Things

Entering grades 1-2

*Monday, August 4 Thursday, August 7,
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.*

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp (Mon. & Tues.)

Flag Ponds Nature Park (Wed. & Thurs.)

You don't need to go on safari to see wildlife – there's a ton of wildlife to be seen here in Calvert County, if you know where to look. 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. In addition to our outdoor explorations, games and journals will help us learn about Calvert County's "wild things."

Fee per camper: \$100 for BCNES members; \$130 for nonmembers.

GRADES 2–4

Sons of the Forest

Entering grades 2-4

*Monday, July 14–Friday, July 18, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park*

As Sons of the Forest we will explore 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!

Fee per camper: \$150 for BCNES members; \$180 for nonmembers.

Outdoor Adventure Camp for Girls

Entering grades 2-4

Monday, July 14–Friday, July 18, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Send your daughters to Flag Ponds Park for a week of adventure and excitement. They will discover their hidden talents as they learn how to use a compass, identify plants and animals, tie knots, and cook over a fire. Your girls will boost their self-confidence and build new friendships as they face fun new challenges every day.

Fee per camper: \$150 for BCNES members; \$180 for nonmembers.

GRADES 3–5

Wet, Wild, and Wonderful!

Entering grades 3-5

*Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday –June 23-25,
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*

*Thursday, June 26, 6:00 p.m.–Friday, June 27,
9:00 a.m. (overnight)*

Location TBD

If you like exploring wet places and catching water animals—then this fun camp is for you! This week we will wade into some marvelous wet places like the creek, the swamp, and the Bay. As we go, we will 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.

Fee per camper: \$160 for BCNES members; \$190 for nonmembers.

SUMMER CAMPS

GRADES 4–6

Nature Photography Camp

Entering grades 4-6

Monday, July 28–Friday, August 1, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

August 1, potluck and photo presentation, 3:00 p.m.

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 fun camp activities, learn camera basics and picture-taking tips. After camp on Friday, families are invited to a potluck feast to celebrate and admire campers' work. Campers must provide their own digital camera.

Fee per camper: \$150 for BCNES members; \$180 for non-members.

GRADES 6–8

Hooked on Fishing

Entering grades 6 -8

Monday, June 30–Thursday, July 3, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park (Mon. & Thurs.), Hutchins Pond (Tues.), Flag Ponds Nature Park (Wed.)

Cast away with us as we head out to some local waterways and learn about fishing. We will visit various parks to learn different techniques of fishing from primitive traps to modern rod and reel. We will also venture into the water to get a closer look at the habitats the fish live in and how we can help preserve our waterways. Campers are required to bring their own fishing rod.

Fee per camper: \$150 for BCNES members; \$180 for non-members.

Mountains to the Bay

Entering grades 6-8

Monday, July 7–Wednesday, July 9, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 10, 7:30 a.m.–Friday, July 11, 6:00 p.m. (overnight)

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

This week we will explore all things aquatic while learning how to get around on the water using a variety of watercraft like canoes, kayaks, and river rafts. 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 — including rafting on the Shenandoah River.

Fee per camper: \$250 for BCNES members; \$280 for non-members.

GRADES 7–9

Adventure Camp

Entering grades 7–9 (must be at least 12 years old)

Monday, June 23–Wednesday, June 25,

9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Thursday June 26, 9:00 a.m.–Friday, 27, 9:00 a.m. (overnight)

Flag Ponds Nature Park (Mon., Tues., & Wed.)

Kings Landing Park (Thurs. & Fri.)

Come see the parks like never before as we explore the far reaches of Kings Landing and Flag Ponds. Be prepared to travel by foot, kayak, canoe, and stand up paddle board as we set off on our adventures. We will end our week with a camp out at Kings Landing Park.

Fee per camper: \$200 for BCNES members; \$230 for nonmembers.

GRADES 9–11

Water Watchers

Children entering grades 9-11

Monday, July 21–Wednesday, July 23,

9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 24, 7:00 a.m.–Friday, July 25,

6:00 p.m. overnight trip to Maryland Eastern shore

Monday – Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Tuesday – Flag Ponds Nature Park

Wednesday – Morgan State Marine Lab at Jefferson Patterson Park

Thursday - meets at Kings Landing Park for the trip to the Eastern Shore of Maryland

Friday – return to Kings Landing Park

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States, with more than 150 rivers and streams draining into it. The Bay does not exist on its own, however; it too is a part of a much larger system - the Atlantic Ocean. This week, we will navigate the waters of this enormous interconnected system. We will study freshwater habitats and organisms that depend on them. Then examine the shallow water habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River. The week will culminate with an overnight trip to the Atlantic Ocean where we will explore the salt marsh and the ocean beach. Camp activities include water quality testing, plant and animal identification, and plankton study — along with seining, dip netting, stand up paddleboards and surfing.

Fee per camper: \$280 for BCNES members; \$310 for nonmembers.

SUMMER CAMPS

LIST OF EVENTS, BY DATE

All programs are listed at www.calvertparks.org.

MARCH

Feeding Frenzy, Sundays, BCCS
 Habitat Surveys, 16 years+, Second Friday, March-July, FPNP
 Tuesday, March 4, Salamander Scurry, 3-5 years, BCCS
 Saturday, March 8, Big Cypress Hike, 14-16 years, BCCS
 Sunday, March 9, Dabblers, Adults only, FPNP
 Friday, March 14, Mmm! Mountain Pies, 18 months-5 years, FPNP
 Saturday, March 15, Swamp Romp, 6-9 years, FPNP
 Saturday, March 15, Nature Photography Mini Camps, 10-13 years, FPNP
 Wednesday, March 19, Goodness Snakes!, 3-5 years, BCCS
 Friday, March 21, Archery and More!, 10-13 years, KLP
 Saturday, March 29, Something on a Stick Day, All ages, KLP
 Saturday, March 29, Goin' Fishin'!, 10-13 years, HP

APRIL

Friday, April 4, Spring Safari, 3-5 years, KLP
 Friday, April 11, Herp Atlas Countdown, All ages, BCCS
 Saturday, April 12 Cane Pole Fishing, 6-9 years, HP
 Saturday, April 12, Nocturnal Nature Campfire, All ages, KLP
 Monday, April 14, Nature Photography Mini Camps, 10-13 years, BCCS
 Monday, April 14 and Tuesday, April 15, "Mud Monsters" Spring Camp, Grades 1-4, FPNP
 Tuesday, April 15, Trail Building and Mapping, 14-16 years, BGHF
 Wednesday, April 16 to Thursday, April 17, Salamander Soiree Teen Spring Camp, Ages 12-16 years
 Thursday, April 17, Who Comes From an Egg?, 18 months to 5 years, FPNP

Sunday, April 13, The Chesapeake Campaign: The War of 1812, 16 years+, KLP

Tuesday, April 15, Lunar Eclipse, All ages, KLP

Saturday, April 19, Saturday, April 19, Vestiges of the War of 1812 in Maryland, KLP

Monday, April 21, Indian Landscapes near Battle Creek, 16 years+, BGHF

Thursday, April 24, See or Be Seen, 3-5 years, BCCS

MAY

Wednesday, May 7, The Better to Hear You With..., 3-5 years, KLP

Saturday, May 10, Camping 101, Families, all ages, KLP

Saturday, May 10, Paddling the Patuxent, 9 years+, KLP

Wednesday, May 14, Turtle Quest, 3-5 years, BCCS

Friday, May 23, Campfire: Twilight on the Beach, All ages, FPNP

Thursday, May 29, Woodland Animals Tea Party, 18 months-5 years, FPNP

Saturday, May 31, Calvert Stewards, All ages, FPNP

JUNE

Friday, June 6, Horseshoe Crab Survey, All ages, FPNP

Saturday, June 7, National Trails Day, 6-9 years, FPNP

Saturday, June 7, Paddling the Patuxent, 9 years+, KLP

Friday, June 13, Follow Your Nose, 3-5 years, FPNP

Tuesday, June 24, Who Lives in the Pond?, 18 months-5 years, BCCS

Wednesday, June 25, Nature Photography Mini Camps, 10-13 years, FPNP

Saturday June 28, Getting Crabby 6-9 years old, KLP

Saturday June 28, Paddling the Patuxent, 9 years+, KLP

KEY to PARKS

BCCS—Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

BGHF—Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

FPNP—Flag Ponds Nature Park

HP—Hutchins Pond

HTF—Hughes Tree Farm

KLP—Kings Landing Park

WARD—Ward Property

SUMMER CAMPS

are held in June and July.

More information is available online at www.calvertparks.org.

To register by mail, please out this form and mail to the address listed. To be assured of a spot, please register online at www.calvertparks.org.

Adult's Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Daytime Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

We are members of BCNES Join BNCEs now (\$30/year) and pay the member's fee. Send a separate membership check payable to BCNES and mail it with he registration to Natural Resources, 175 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678..

Program name	Program Date/Time	Participant's Name	Age / Grade	Fee	Kayak Single or Double

Flag Ponds (*cont'd from page 1*)

plant communities at Flag Ponds to determine how this rare community fits into the NVCS.

Throughout the spring and summer, we will be holding several plant surveys at Flag Ponds as part of this and the MAPS assessment and could use volunteers. Even if your plant identification skills are rusty (or lacking), helping staff and more experienced volunteers record data, take photos, and create maps will allow you to learn how to identify the common and uncommon plants in the area.

If you are interested in volunteering during the surveys, which will take place on the second Friday of the month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, and July 11), please register online.

—Karyn Molines, Division Chief



"The Shell-Marl Ravine Forest community occurs only on the coastal plain," according to Rod Simmons, "where river bluffs and deep ravines over millennia have exposed underlying calcareous and glauconitic marine sands and marl beds deposited during the Paleocene, Eocene, and Miocene epochs when the area was a shallow sea at the western edge of the Atlantic Ocean." This sounds like an apt description of the forests along the North and South Ridge trails. Photo: Rod Simmons.

Snowy Owl (*cont'd from page 1*)

States, including Pennsylvania and Maryland, are studying these birds in more depth. Researchers from Project SNOWstorm are tracking the owls to gain knowledge about the winter movements and survivorship during irruption events. You can learn about their project at www.projectsnowstorm.org.

Why Winter Travel?

Most people assume that hunger has driven these owls south and that they are doomed to starve to death in an unfamiliar southern landscape. Both assumptions are wrong.

It is not hunger that produces these mega-flights, but an absurd abundance of food during the summer breeding season. High populations of lemmings, voles, and other prey lead to large clutches of owl eggs. There is growing evidence that snowy owls

from many parts of the Arctic may congregate to nest in areas where prey is abundant. That happened during the summer of 2013 in northern Quebec, where lemming populations were booming and snowy owls enjoyed a banner nesting season. Now, many of those young owls have moved south.

Far from starving, most of these Arctic migrants are healthy – in fact, researchers have found that snowy owls in major irruption years tend to be fatter and heavier than those in non-flight years. Not all of the snowy owls that come south this winter will survive, of course – the mortality rate for young raptors of any species is very high.

So, stay warm this winter and get out and enjoy our natural world. Who knows, you might encounter a rare visitor from the Arctic.

—Andy Brown, Senior Naturalist

Nature's ARTcade

A Regional Art Exhibit

*inspired by the natural world of Southern Maryland
at Flag Ponds Nature Park*

JUNE 7 - 29, 2014

OPENING RECEPTION — JUNE 7, 2014 7-9 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park, Lusby, Maryland

Call to Artists. Artists are invited to submit up to 3 original artworks inspired by Southern Maryland nature (wildlife, flora, fauna or nature scapes). Details and registration information is available at www.calvertparks.org/ARTcade/. Deadline for submissions is May 1.

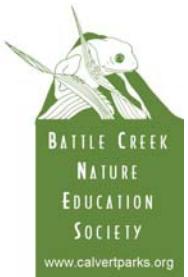
Artist Access Days

The Division of Natural Resources will offer artists special access to the parks before and after hours so that they may be inspired by the beauty of the parks at sunrise, in different seasons.

Upcoming Artist Access dates are:

- Sunday, March 16, 6:45-9 a.m., at Flag Ponds Nature Park, followed by a short art lesson from watercolorist Pamela Callen.
- Saturday, April 12, 6:00-9 a.m., at Flag Ponds Nature Park

There is no charge for these events, however, registration is required. Artists can register online at www.calvertparks.org/calendar.html.



PO Box 122
Port Republic, MD 20676

Restoring Our Heritage The Fisherman's Shanty

Known as the Buoy Hotel, the waterman's shanty exhibit at Flag Ponds Nature Park was vandalized and burned to the ground on October 29-30, 2012. The Calvert County Government and BCNES will be working together to rebuild one of the symbols of our honored tradition of working the water.

The fishermen's shanty showed the close quarters and spartan lifestyle of bay watermen. The shanty was in use at this site until the 1950s. Bunking together over the summer months, the men plied the waters and tended and tarred their nets, away from family and home. The shanty housed up to six men at a time and was in use until the mid to late 1950s.

How You Can Help

Battle Creek Nature Education Society will be accepting donations of period items for the restored shanty and financial donations to complete the rebuilding of the structure.

Please contact anne@calvertparks.org or donate online at www.calvertparks.org/shanty.

