



WINTER 2019 PROGRAMS



Calvert County Natural Resources Division Calvert Nature Society

We have so many wonderful programs, we can't fit them all here. See a full listing of all the upcoming programs at www.calvertparks.org. Online registration is preferred.

NATURE PARK INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT 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.

Colors FULL

Ages 3-5

Thursday, November 15

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

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

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

We are going to look at colors. We will do experiments creating different color combinations. We will also go outside to see what colors we can find in nature. Free program.

Fall Nature Play Day FULL

Ages 3-5

Tuesday, November 20, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Take some time to enjoy the outdoors and meet like-minded families in this semi-structured event. Children and their grown-ups can explore the fall forest and meadow by playing games, going on a scavenger hunt, and/or creating some nature art. Families may stay for some or all of the listed program time-activities will be ongoing.

The Christmas Possum FULL

Ages 18 months-5 years

Monday, December 3

10:00-11:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

After some indoor activities, the naturalist will lead your children on a hike to find candy canes hidden by the Christmas Possum.

Everlasting Evergreens FULL

All ages

Saturday, December 8, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

We will explore the different types of evergreens that live in our area on a hike, then make a holiday decoration together using some evergreens.

Winter Animals

Ages 18 months-5 years

Wednesday, December 12

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

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

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

It might be cold but animals are still out and about. Learn about some of these animals and their adaptations.

PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES (cont'd from page 1)

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.

Mistletoe Mystery

Ages 6-9

Saturday, December 15, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

There is a lot of folklore around mistletoe, what is it, where can we find it, how did it get its special meaning? We will learn some of these stories as well as explore the park to see if we can find any of our own.

Winter Nature Play FULL

Ages 3-5

Tuesday, December 18, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

The days are short and the animals and plants have been getting ready for winter. Are you ready? We will tell stories, play games, and build forts-best of all-cook some snacks over a campfire.

Owl Night Hike

All ages

Friday, January 25, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

After a short presentation about Maryland's owls and their calls, the naturalist will lead you on a hike around the boardwalk where we will attempt to call one closer.

Owls

Ages 6-9 with an adult

Saturday, January 26, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

As your children meet our nature center's live owls up close, they will learn more about their unique characteristics and what kinds of owls live here. Perhaps we will even get to see the barn owl eat one of his favorite snacks.

Help Take Care of the Animals FULL

Ages 6-9 with an adult

Saturday, February 2

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

Session B: 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Your children will have fun helping the naturalist take care of the Nature Center's live animals while being able to see them up-close. Wear clothes that can get dirty.

Keeping Warm

Ages 3-5 with an adult

Wednesday, February 13, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

It's the middle of winter, how do our animal neighbors survive the cold? We will tell stories, play games, and venture outside to build some shelters that could help keep us warm.

Life of a Dead Tree

All ages

Saturday, February 16

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

Session B: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

A dead tree is full of life! Discover the many different animals that call dead trees home. A puppet show and hike will help us learn.

Salamander Soiree

Ages 8 and older with an adult

Saturday, March 2, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

We'll hike through the woods to search for vernal pools and streams fed by spring rains looking for spring wildflowers and amphibians along the way.



Wade Into Weather

Ages 3-5 with an adult

Thursday, March 7, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Kings Landing Park

What will we be wading into at this point in the year? It could be rain or it could be snow. We'll look at some different ways to measure the winter weather and then go for a walk outside to try things out.

See the most current program
listings at
www.calvertparks.org

Visit a Calvert Nature Park Today

**Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary,
Prince Frederick**

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, Prince Frederick

Flag Ponds Nature Park, Lusby

Hughes Tree Farm, Prince Frederick

Hutchins Pond, Owings

Kings Landing Park, Huntingtown

Nan's Cove Kayak Ramp, Broomes Island

Solomons Boat Ramp, Solomons

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park, Dunkirk



Join Calvert Nature Society and support the county nature parks and help preserve the natural and cultural treasures in Calvert County.

www.calvertparks.org

HOMESCHOOL FIRST FRIDAYS

Homeschool Fridays is a series of environmental education programs developed especially for homeschoolers ages 4 to 12. These classes are 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.

Depending on the topic, students may observe live animals, collect aquatic creatures, take measurements of water quality, or play games. 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.

Homeschool Fridays

Ages 4-12

Botany Underfoot: Friday, January 11

Evergreens: Friday, February 1

Trees: Friday, March 1

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

PM Session: 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park



This winter's homeschool series will be a study of the plants around us – from the smallest ones that we hardly notice to the largest trees. Each month will focus on something different.

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. Programs are free, unless noted.*

Animal Care Opportunities

Supervised by a naturalist, you will learn about the owls, hawks and other animals that live in the Nature Center. Supervised by a naturalist, you will learn proper care and handling techniques so that eventually, you will have enough experience to handle them on your own.

Screech Owl Care & Training

Ages 15 and older

Friday, January 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 7, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Friday, March 8, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Animal Care Training

Ages 10 and older, under 15 with adult

Wednesday, January 23, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Thursday, February 7, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Friday, March 8, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Barn Owl Care & Training

Ages 15 and older

Wednesday, January 23, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Monday, February 11, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Red-tailed Hawk Care & Training

Adults

Tuesday, January 29, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 13, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner

All Ages

Saturday, January 26, 2019, 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Calling all Calvert Stewards. We would like to thank you for all you do for the Natural Resources Division and Calvert Nature Society. This special event in your honor is a chance to enjoy some social time with staff and fellow volunteers and celebrate all that we accomplish together. Partners and children are welcome! Dinner with vegetarian options will be provided.

Great Backyard Bird Count

All Ages

Friday, February 15, 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Whether you are a novice or an expert birder, volunteers of all ages are welcome to help us identify and count birds.

Garden Club Work Day

Ages 13 and older, under 18 must have adult with them

Saturday, March 2, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 27, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Volunteers are needed to help our staff with the maintenance and upkeep of the trails and gardens around Battle Creek Nature Center.

Nest Box Work Day

Ages 15 and older, under 18 with adult

Wednesday, March 6, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Before the 2019 nesting season, we need to replace and repair a few nest boxes at Cypress Swamp.

Nest Box Monitoring

After a short presentation about our nest box project, volunteers will trek around the park to learn the nest box locations and prepare them for the season. Be ready for a 1.5-mile hike over moderate terrain.

Cypress Swamp Nest Box Monitoring

Ages 10 and older, under 18 with adult

Wednesday, March 13, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Flag Ponds Nest Box Monitoring

All ages, under 18 with adult

Friday, March 15, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 30, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Ward Farm Nest Box Monitoring

All Ages, under 18 with adult

Friday, March 29, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

PROGRAMS FOR 10-16 YEAR OLDS, *including* TEEN HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS

These programs encourage developing minds to appreciate and protect the nature around them. Programs 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 Maryland. Adult participant is not required at these programs.

Fees, unless noted: Free for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per person

Teen Homeschool — Wetlands

Ages 12-16

Tuesday, November 13, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

This month's class will focus on the oyster reef habitat-what animals and plants depend on it, and how oysters impact the Bay.

Teen Homeschool — Beach Ecology FULL

Ages 12-16

Monday, December 10, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

We will take a look at what plants and animals are able to call this often harsh beach environment their home.

Teen Homeschool Day

Ages 12-16

Mosses and Lichens: Tuesday, January 8, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Cone Bearers: Tuesday, February 5, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Science of Trees: Tuesday, March 5, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

This winter's homeschool series will be a study of the plants around us – from the smallest ones that we hardly notice to the largest trees. Each month will focus on something different.

Gone Fishing

Ages 10-13 years old

Sunday, March 31, 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Hutchins Pond

Join us at Hutchins Pond in Owings MD and we'll go fishing for bluegill and bass. We'll provide the fishing gear and bait but be sure to bring a hat, water bottle and camera.

CAMPFIRE

Beyond S'mores: Family Campfire Cooking FULL

Ages 8 and older, adult participation required

Friday, November 16, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Most everyone knows how to make s'mores over a fire, but campfire cooking can be so much more. Come discover some new campfire cooking methods and recipes. Dress for the weather-and bring your appetite. Fee: Free for members; \$8 for nonmembers.

Special Event

Winter Adventurers Overnight

Ages 8-10, no adults needed

Saturday, January 12, 9:00 a.m. overnight through Sunday, January 13, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Winter is a great time for outdoor adventures! During the day, we will explore the woods and the beach playing games, building forts, following our sense of adventure. After sunset, we will head out into the quiet winter woods for a night walk, followed by a campfire and s'mores. Don't worry about getting too cold, this camp will include indoor, as well as, outdoor activities and plenty of hot chocolate. Dinner, breakfast, and snacks included.

Fee: Members: \$25; Nonmembers: \$40



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 toward adults and older teens. Fees, unless noted: Free for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per person.

Sunrise Eagle Hike

Adults and older teens

Saturday, November 10, 6:30-8:30 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

We will hike down to the beach at sunrise to see how many eagles we can find out on the dunes.

Birds for Beginners — Dabbling Ducks

Adults, teens welcome with an adult

Saturday, November 17, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Shallow water wetlands provide winter habitat for many migratory ducks. We will review identification skills indoors. Outside we will look for the silhouettes and sounds of dabbling ducks while taking a leisurely hike along the swamp and marshes.

Adventures in Raptor Research

Adults

Tuesday, January 15, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Raptors are an important part of our ecosystem but they are facing some hard times these days. Naturalist Gene Groshon share stories from the 2 weeks he spent working with a raptor researcher in Wisconsin.

Birds for Beginners — Diving Ducks

Adults, teens welcome with an adult

Saturday, January 19, 9:30-12:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

The Chesapeake Bay provides winter habitat for many migratory ducks. Indoors, we will review identification skills; outside we will look for the silhouettes, sounds of diving ducks.

Winter Greens

Adults, teens welcome with an adult

Friday, January 25, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Gatewood Preserve

Learn to identify some of our evergreen plants. We'll explore the forests in search of the ferns, herbaceous plants, and trees that are green in the winter. Co-sponsored by the Maryland Native Plant Society.

Stalking the Wild Timberdoodle

Adults, teens welcome with an adult

Friday, February 22, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

We'll take a short stroll along the fields near the parking area listening for the breeding display of the American Woodcock (also known as a Timberdoodle).

Nature's Trivia

Ages 21 and older

Saturday, February 23, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Mully's Brewery

Grab your friends and come test out your skills at Nature Trivia! We'll have beverages from some local breweries as well and fun prizes. Check our website for more updates on this event! Fee: \$60 per team.

Fort Phrag

Adults, teens welcome with an adult

Saturday, March 9, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Learn how to create a thatched roof shelter using the exotic invasive grass, *Phragmites australis*.

REGISTER
NOW!

THE 4TH ANNUAL PATUXENT RIVER CONFERENCE

CLIMATE CHANGE & THE PATUXENT RIVER:
LOCAL IMPLICATIONS OF GLOBAL ISSUES

REGISTRATION at
www.calvertparks.org

DECEMBER 5TH, 2018
NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITORS CENTER ♦ LAUREL, MD
WWW.PAXCON.ORG