



SPRING 2023 PROGRAMS

Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Natural Resources Division

See a full listing of all the upcoming programs at www.calvertparks.org.

Online registration is recommended.

Join or renew today

The schedule of events is subject to change based on the status of the coronavirus response, weather, staffing and other situations that may arise. If Calvert Nature Society or Calvert County Natural Resources Division cancels a program, a full refund will be issued.



Programs for Families

Families experience the fascinating natural world found in our area. These programs incorporate activities for learners of all ages.

Most programs spend time outdoors: dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear.

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org.

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

Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

From Sap to Syrup Open House

All ages

[Saturday, January 28, 2:00-4:00 p.m.](#)

[Saturday, February 4, 2:00-4:00 p.m.](#)

[Saturday, February 11, 2:00-4:00 p.m.](#)

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Jessy Oberright

Learn the process of tapping Maple trees to collect sap that can be boiled into delicious syrup. You can join a hike to our local tapped Maple trees (the sugar bush), help collect fresh sap, watch sap being boiled into syrup, enjoy a toasted marshmallow at the campfire and participate in some fun activities to learn about this simple and delicious process. The Open House starts at 2 pm, with hikes to the sugar bush at 2:30, 3:00 and 3:30 p.m. Program will be all outside, so dress for the weather.

Nature's Trivia Family Feud

Ages 12 years old and up

[Saturday, February 18, 4:30-7:00 p.m.](#)

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Gene Groshon

Think you are a nature expert? Well grab your family and friends and come test your skills at Nature Trivia while helping benefit your local nature programs.

\$20 per team

Option to purchase a family pizza dinner for \$20

February Programs

[Rodents are Rambunctious](#)

Ages 3-5 years

Thursday, February 2, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Paige Stevens

Rodents get a bad name, but they are very important and interesting. Come learn about our local rodents.

[Dead or Alive: Winter in the Woods](#)

Ages 3-6 years

Tuesday, February 28, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Naturalist: Amy Werking

The peaceful woods may seem lifeless in winter, but it's not. This program will explore plant, animal, and insect life in the quiet, but not dormant, woods in winter. Dress for an outdoor adventure.

[Breeding Bird Atlas Lecture](#)

Ages 10 years old and up

Thursday, March 2, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Naturalist: Gene Groshon & Sherman Suter

You may have heard in the news recently that North America has lost nearly a third of its birds. In 1983 and then again in 2002, the Maryland-DC Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) was conducted. Calvert County coordinator for BBA3, Sherman Suter will give an update on data collected so far for the third BBA and provide simple instructions on how you can contribute to this very important study.

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.
Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

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March Programs

[Women in Nature](#)

All ages

Saturday, March 4, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Naturalist: Paige Stevens

There are many important women who have pioneered the natural sciences. Come learn about some of them, and then see a day in the life of one of our local naturalists.

[Spring Kickoff - Sock Burning!](#)

All ages

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

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Kim Curren

This quirky tradition began in 1978 by an Annapolis-area shipwright that was fed up with the winter weather. Now every year, groups gather to kick off the spring season by burning their old winter socks. We will enjoy s'mores and hot chocolate by the fire before officially saying goodbye to winter. Bring your warmest socks to burn!

[Night Hike](#)

All ages

Saturday, March 25, 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Paige Stevens

Ever wonder what the parks look like once the sun goes down? Come and find out through our guided night hike!

April Programs

[All About Snakes](#)

Ages 3-5

Tuesday, April 11, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Paige Stevens

Come learn about a snake's place in our environment! Meet two of our local snake residents and enjoy a craft afterwards!

[Friday Night Frogs](#)

Ages 8 years and older

Friday, April 21, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Jessy Oberright

Take a night hike through the swamps and around the ponds of Flag Ponds to look and listen for frogs and other nighttime animals. We will learn some frog calls before we set out to see who we can hear and possibly see along the trail. The hike is approximately 1.5 to 2 miles over uneven terrain.

[Toddler Hike](#)

18 months - 3 yrs

Wednesday, April 26, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Amy Werking

Hiking with toddlers is always an adventure! Join us as we flip over rocks, pick up sticks, and hike through the woods at a toddler's pace.

Summer Camps will be
available by April 1

**[Join or renew today to support
your nature parks...and get
member pricing on programs.](#)**

[Mud Monsters Spring Adventure](#)

Grades 3-5

Monday, April 3, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 4, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

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, of course, play in the mud. Children are expected to attend both days.

Fees per child: \$25 for members; \$40 for Nonmembers

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org

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May Programs

[Mud Pies!](#)

Ages 3-5

Wednesday, May 31, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Naturalist: Tania Gale

You can't eat them, but it sure is fun to make them! 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), wear old sneakers that you can wear in the water (no flip flops), an old towel, and bring a change of clothes for the way home.

For Adults

[Horseshoe Crab Campout](#)

Adults only

Saturday, June 10, 7:00 p.m.- Sunday, June 11, 9:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Kim Curren

Join us for a chance to see horseshoe crabs on the beach at their peak spawning time! This program will include a beach walk starting around 8 p.m. followed by a campfire with s'mores. The evening will culminate with participants tent camping at Flag Ponds Nature Park.

June Programs

[Rocks Rock!](#)

Ages 3-5

Wednesday, June 7, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Paige Stevens

Come learn about how rocks are made and why we need them! Afterwards, pick your own rock for a fun craft!

[Horseshoe Crab Campout- Family Event](#)

Ages 6 and older

Friday, June 9, 7:00 p.m.- Saturday, June 10, 9:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Kim Curren

Join us for a chance to see horseshoe crabs on the beach at their peak spawning time! This program will include a beach walk starting around 8 p.m. followed by a campfire with s'mores. The evening will culminate with participants tent camping at Flag Ponds Nature Park.

Heritage Kayak Trip

Saturday, June 3, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Location: Kings Landing Park

For ages 9 years and older

Must be at least 12 years old to ride in a single kayak.

<https://www.calvertparks.org/kayak.html>

Paddle through history on this heritage themed kayak tours along the Patuxent River. Join local archaeologist and historic preservationist Chris Sperling along with naturalist Tania Gale and explore the dynamic environment molded the way people utilized and interacted with the landscape and how they alter the landscape to suit their needs.

Fee per person:

\$15 for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$30.

\$10 discount if you bring your own kayak

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org

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HOMESCHOOL FRIDAYS

Ages 4-12, with adult
February 10
March 3
April 14
May 5
June 2

Session A: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Session B: 1:30-3:30 p.m.

SEE ABOVE FOR REGISTRATION OPENING DATES
<https://www.calvertparks.org/homeschool/>

Flag Ponds Nature Park
Naturalist: Tania Gale

This homeschool series is centered around the Chesapeake Bay - with each month focusing on a different topic related to the Bay. There will be some indoor activities, but most of this class will take place outside so please come prepared to be outside (adults too).

Reservations required.
Free for society members.
Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

Homeschool First 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.

For Teen (& Tweens)

<https://www.calvertparks.org/programs/teens.html>

Teen Homeschool Day - Chesapeake Connections

Ages 12-16 years

Wednesday, February 15, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 8, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

Each month we will focus on a different topic related to the Chesapeake Bay. You may join one or both dates.

Teen Birding: Raptor Survey

Ages 12-18 years

Monday, February 13, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Naturalist: Gene Groshon

As part of our raptor research project, we conduct surveys of wintering hawks and falcons to understand their survivability. We will travel in the county van to trap and band raptors to collect more data for this study.

Teen Amphibian Bioblitz Overnight

Ages 12-16

Thursday, April 6, 10:00 a.m.- Friday, April 7, 9:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

Spend part of spring break with friends searching the woods, ponds, and swamps for animals big and small. If you don't mind getting dirty in the process, come on down.

Program Fee per teen: \$10 for members; \$20 for nonmembers

Teen Kayak Series

Ages 12-16

[Wednesdays, April 26, May 10, June 7](#)

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Lower Marlboro Pier

Naturalist: Tania Gale

We will go out in kayaks to explore the Patuxent. We will use nets, water quality equipment, and our own senses to learn more about the river and the plants and animals that call it home. We expect the teen to attend all three sessions.

Program Fee per teen: \$10 for members; \$20 for nonmembers

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org

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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 teens.

Explore our Calvert Steward web site

<https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com>

Calvert County Biodiversity via iNaturalist

Document the distribution and abundance of plants, animals, fungi and other species found throughout Calvert County. Use iNaturalist to photograph and map your observations in a few easy steps.

Gardening Days

Help with the upkeep of the gardens at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Kings Landing Park and Flag Ponds Nature Park. From invasive plant removal, to routine garden care, to maintaining the nature play space -there is always something to be done.

Service Projects for Groups

We have a wide variety of opportunities suitable for an organized group (ex: scout, church, school group, etc.) looking to perform a service project in the park.

Trail Monitoring & Park Maintenance

Volunteer assists park staff in maintaining trails at all of our nature parks. Duties include removing debris and obstacles from trails and reporting unusual conditions, such as items too large or dangerous for volunteers.

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. The Society is a 501(c)3 organization.

Join or Renew Today

- Support your nature parks
- Access to early program registration
- Free, or reduced fees, for programs

Your donations directly support our programs and activities

- \$500 supports our efforts to preserve and protect land in Calvert County
- \$250 supports participation of at-need children in summer camps
- \$150 supports research projects at our parks (including the Adopt an Owl program)
- \$100 provides materials for volunteer projects in the parks
- \$50 builds a strong community for our nature parks

Any amount directly funds the excellent nature education programs for Calvert County's nature parks