

March 2024

PATUXENT RIVER STATE PARK

23222 Georgia Avenue | Brookeville, Maryland 20833
patuxentrivestatepark@maryland.gov

(443) 962-0216

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dress for the weather and activity, wear sunscreen and insect repellent, bring plenty of water and snacks, and remember to check for ticks. Please email patuxentrivestatepark@maryland.gov or call 443-962-0216 for more information.					1	2
						Owl Pellets 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. <i>Nature Center Open 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</i>
3 Turtles in Trouble 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Reptile Encounter 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. <i>Nature Center Open 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</i>	4	5 Nature Crafts – Clay Birds 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	6	7	8	9 Skunk Cabbage – Stinky and Amazing! 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. <i>Nature Center Open 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</i>
10 Cemetery Hike – Early Plants 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Patuxent River Changes 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. <i>Nature Center Open 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.</i>	11	12 Nature Crafts – Paper Chain Snakes 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	13	14	15	16 Build Your Own Seed Growing Chamber 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. <i>Nature Center Open 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</i>
17 Reptile Encounter 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. <i>Nature Center Open 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</i>	18	19 Nature Crafts – Animal Masks 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	20	21	22	23 What Lives in Vernal Pools? 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Reptile Encounter 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. <i>Nature Center Open 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.</i>
24 Campfire Conversations – Forest Succession 12 Noon – 4 p.m.	25	26 Nature Crafts – Bird Nest Art 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	27	28	29	30 It's Froggy Out There! 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. <i>Nature Center Open 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</i>
31 Spring Birds Egg Hunt 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. <i>Nature Center Open 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</i>	For photos & more, visit: Friends of Seneca Creek State Park or Maryland State Parks Facebook page.					

All events are held rain or shine, free and fun for all ages unless otherwise noted.

Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

Owl Pellets

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Nature Center

The hunters of the night! Explore the habits and diets of owls by dissecting the pellets they leave behind. Best suited for ages 8 years or older, but all ages are welcome.

Turtles in Trouble

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Nature Center

Join a volunteer naturalist to learn about the largest and smallest turtles found in Maryland and the threats they face.

Nature Crafts – Clay Birds

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Nature Center

Birds are moving back into the area as it warms up. Let's make our own from clay and feathers!

Reptile Encounter

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Nature Center

Reptiles play a vital role in the ecology of our natural world. Learn more about this interesting group of animals and get the chance to see a live corn snake.

Skunk Cabbage – Stinky and Amazing

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Nature Center

Skunk cabbages are aptly named. They also have some of the earliest emerging flowers in our area. Stop by the Nature Center to learn about these unusual plants then cross the picnic area to see (and smell) some skunk cabbages for yourself.

Cemetery Hike – Early Plants

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Nature Center

Join a volunteer ranger for a hike of the park's cemetery (red) trail. Look for the plants that emerge early in spring and learn the story of a prominent, formerly enslaved landowner and his family. The hike will begin at 1 p.m. and is about 3.5 miles round trip and visits the historic Howard Chapel Cemetery. There are two "step across" creek crossings and varied terrain. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

Patuxent River Changes

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Nature Center

Natural events can rapidly change the course of a river. Flooding along the Patuxent River during late January storms expanded the dam at the bend of the river and made substantial changes to the channel. We will walk along the bank of the river to discuss changes to the river valley over time.

Nature Crafts – Paper Chain Snakes

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Nature Center

Reptiles will soon be waking up from their long winter naps. Learn some fun facts about these interesting animals and make a simple paper snake to take home.

Build Your Own Seed Growing Chamber

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Nature Center

Have you ever wondered how a tiny acorn can grow into a huge tree? Visit the Nature Center to learn how seeds know when to germinate and what changes occur in the plant as it starts to grow. Make and take your own mini seed growing chamber and watch this amazing process at home.

Nature Crafts – Animal Masks

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Nature Center

Let's get together and make paper masks of different animals. Then, pretend to be the animal or tell a story!

What Lives in Vernal Pools?

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Nature Center

What are vernal pools, and who lives there? Stop by the Nature Center to learn about these ephemeral ponds and what creatures depend on them. Then, take a short hike with a volunteer naturalist to explore vernal pools at 1 p.m. Wear shoes that can get muddy and wet. Rain cancels program.

Campfire Conversations – Forest Succession

12 Noon – 4 p.m. at the Nature Center

Campfire Circle

Drop by our campfire to join a conversation about how the former farmland became the forest we see today. The answer lies in a process called succession, a natural pattern of ecosystem change that takes place over time. In the event of inclement weather, the campfire will be canceled, and we will move inside the Nature Center.

Nature Crafts – Bird Nest Art

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Nature Center

Birds need safe places to lay eggs and hatch their babies. Come learn about how and where birds do this. Then, try making a bird nest yourself!

It's Froggy Out There!

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Nature Center

Spring brings an enormous chorus of frogs calling out for mates. Stop by the Nature Center to hear some of the common frogs you may come across in the park. At 1 p.m. join a volunteer ranger to explore two ponds and see what frogs may be active.

Spring Bird Egg Hunt

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Nature Center

Drop by the Nature Center and pick up a self-guided treasure hunt. Follow the trail to find egg-shaped clues to solve a puzzle. Bring your finished puzzle back to the Nature Center for a prize.

Check our Website for Up-To-Date Program Information