



Rocky Gap State Park
 Dan's Mountain State Park
 12500 Pleasant Valley Road, N.E.
 Flintstone, MD 21530
 (301) 722-1480

Scales and Tales Program Guide

Scales and Tales

Many people consider it a tremendous thrill to catch a glimpse of a mysterious owl as it flies across a dark country road at night, or to see a majestic hawk soaring high in the sky on a bright clear day. Fewer people have seen these creatures from merely a few feet away.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provides this opportunity to Marylanders every day. Scales & Tales, an environmental

education program of the Maryland Park Service, affords people the opportunity to see live wildlife, mostly native to Maryland, up close and personal.

This informative and entertaining program uses live unreleasable birds of prey and reptiles to promote stewardship of our wildlife and other natural resources. Through the stories, or "tales" of how these animals come into the care of the program, Scales & Tales naturalists discuss very important environmental issues, such as

loss of habitat, environmental pollution, resource management and biodiversity.

Scales & Tales presents these educational messages to the people of Maryland and our surrounding states on a regular basis. Through formal program presentations at parks, schools, community centers, senior centers, and other similar facilities, as well as wildlife displays at numerous fairs and festivals, Scales & Tales reaches nearly one million people every year.



Fast Facts!

Adoption Program

Scales & Tales is an outreach program of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Park Service. Scales & Tales is a self sufficient program. When you adopt the care of one or more of our wildlife ambassadors, you support not only the care and feeding of that particular species of animal, but all the other creatures in our care, as well. Your financial support, through the Adopt an Animal program, will help us continue our educational efforts that promote stewardship and appreciation of our wildlife and other natural resources. Scales & Tales uses only non-releasable birds of prey and reptiles for educational purposes.

- Owls are one of the only birds that can see the color blue!
- A pair of nesting barn owls is capable of catching and eating nearly 3,000 rats a year!
- In 1995, a National Aeronautics and Space Administration employee bought six plastic owls to protect the space shuttle from woodpeckers!
- One of the fastest flying birds is the peregrine falcon. It's been clocked at 90 mph! There are even accounts of these raptors diving at speeds up to 200 mph!
- Among the longest-lived birds is the bald eagle. There are records of bald eagles living over 50 years in captivity!
- A "flock of Jenny's" means there's a group of female owls together!
- The jaw structure of a reptile does not permit chewing; they can only tear their food!

PROGRAMS

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY Middle/ High School

Reptiles and birds demonstrate how we often judge an animal's value by the way it looks. Learn what is fact and what is fiction. Live animals will help to set the record straight.

SCALES & TALES All age groups

Get acquainted with a raptor and a reptile to learn their tales and what you can do to help! Touch feathers and scales to better understand these creatures' skills for survival. Off site only.

REPTILE RANGERS All age groups

These scaly creatures will captivate you as we share myths, truths, and benefits of these often misunderstood animals

CRITTER ENCOUNTER All Age Groups

Great for picnics, reunions and campers alike! A naturalist will give you a close encounter, double dose of raptors and reptiles. Available at Rocky Gap State Park only.

HIKES

AVIARY OUTING All age groups

Join the naturalist on a hike to the aviary to meet the Scales & Tales animals. Learn the tales of these wildlife ambassadors and how your efforts can help make a difference.

OWL PROWL All age groups

This nighttime hike is sure to please adventure seekers of all ages. Join the naturalist on a search for our nocturnal feathered friends.

DISPLAY

WILDLIFE ON DISPLAY All age groups

Create an inspiring and educational experience with birds of prey and reptiles in a natural setting.



Program Price List

The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly (1 hour)	\$100.00
Scales & Tales - off site (30 minutes)	\$50.00
Reptile Rangers (30 minutes)	\$50.00
Critter Encounter - on site only (30 minutes)	\$35.00
Aviary Outing (30 minutes)	\$25.00
Owl Prowl (1 hour)	\$50.00
Wildlife on Display (maximum 2 hours)	\$100/hr

Adoption Prices

Eastern screech owl	\$5.00
Eastern box turtle	\$5.00
Snakes	\$5.00
Barred owl	\$10.00
Black vulture	\$15.00
Barn owl	\$15.00
Red-tailed hawk	\$30.00
Great horned owl	\$30.00

For more information or to schedule a program, contact the Scales & Tales staff at

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