

FEBRUARY 2026

PATUXENT RIVER STATE PARK

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

(443) 962-0216

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Program Cancelled due to weather	2 Program Cancelled due to weather	3	4	5	6	7 Skunk Cabbage 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Reptile Encounter 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. <i>Nature Center Open 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.</i>
8 Self-Guided Scavenger Hunt 12 Noon – 4 p.m. <i>Nature Center Open 12 Noon – 4 p.m.</i>	9 Nature Crafts – Valentine's Day 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	10	11	12	13	14 Great Backyard Bird Count 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. <i>Nature Center Open 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</i>
15 Great Backyard Bird Count 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. <i>Nature Center Open 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</i>	16 Nature Crafts – Constellations 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	17	18	19	20	21 Freedman State Park Black History Month Tour 11 a.m. Reptile Encounter 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. <i>Nature Center Open 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</i>
22 Know Your Watershed 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. <i>Nature Center Open 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</i>	23 Nature Crafts Cancelled	24	25	26	27	28 Then and Now Hike 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. <i>Nature Center Open 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</i>

Dress for the weather and activity, wear sunscreen and insect repellent, bring plenty of water and snacks, and remember to check for ticks.

For more information, call (443) 962-0216 or email patuxentrivier.statepark@maryland.gov.

For photos & more, visit: [Friends of Seneca Creek and Patuxent River 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.

Skunk Cabbage

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Nature Center

Discover the fascinating world of skunk cabbages, aptly named for their distinct scent! Among the earliest flowers to emerge in our area, these unique plants are a true sign of the season. Visit the Nature Center to learn all about them, then take a stroll across the picnic area to see (and smell) skunk cabbages for yourself!

Reptile Encounter

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Nature Center

Reptiles play a vital role in the ecology of our natural world. Join us to learn more and get the chance to see a live corn snake.

Self-Guided Scavenger Hunt

12 Noon – 4 p.m. at the Nature Center

Drop into the Nature Center to pick up a scavenger hunt and head out to explore the park at your own pace. Bring your completed hunt back to the Nature Center to claim a sticker!

Nature Crafts - Valentine's Day

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

Valentine's Day is the perfect reason to show someone you care! Join us to make three-dimensional pop-up tulip cards – perfect for gifting.

Great Backyard Bird Count

February 14: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Nature Center

February 15: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Nature Center

Join us at the park on Saturday, Sunday – or both days! Take part in the 2026 Great Backyard Bird Count and help contribute to this global citizen science project. Volunteer Rangers will be on hand to help you identify birds visiting the park, and we'll compile a group bird list to submit to eBird. Participants with existing [eBird](#) or [Merlin](#) accounts are welcome to submit their own observations but be sure to stop by the Nature Center to share what you see! Visit birdcount.org to learn more!

Freedman State Park Black History Month Tour

11 a.m. at the Elton Farm Road Parking Lot

[Click here to find the meeting location on Google Maps](#)

Join us for a special Black History Month hike at Freedman State Park, where history, resilience, and legacy come together. This 1-mile guided walk highlights the powerful story of a formerly enslaved man who purchased his freedom and this land, creating a place where his family could build homes, community, and opportunity. Please dress for the weather and bring water. Space is limited to 20 participants – please RSVP to PatuxentRiver.StatePark@Maryland.gov.

Nature Crafts - Constellations

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

Nights are getting longer, and there are plenty of stars to enjoy before bedtime. Learn about the pictures stars make in the night sky, then create your own constellation craft to hang above your bed.

Know Your Watershed

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Nature Center

Guided Hikes at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Stop into the Nature Center to learn about the Patuxent River and the watershed that supports it. We'll examine the dynamic processes and natural forces that formed the unique landscape of the upper Patuxent River Valley. At 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., enjoy a 30-minute guided hike along the river where we'll observe firsthand how the valley has evolved over time. *Perfect opportunity to add to your Miles for Maryland tally!*

Then and Now Hike

10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Nature Center

Did you know Patuxent River State Park used to be a farm? Step back in time and explore the transformation of the park over the past 50 years! Join us for a 1.5-hour guided hikes to uncover the park's past. Discover the fascinating history of the Gaither and Howard families and their settlement of the parklands from the mid-1700s through the mid-1900s. Compare historic maps with today's trails, hear stories about the old farmhouse, and discover how pastureland has given way to new plant life. This engaging hike is perfect for history buffs, nature lovers, and middle school-aged children or older. *Perfect opportunity to add to your Miles for Maryland tally!*

Programs subject to change or cancellation. Please check our website for up-to-date program information