

# JULY 2025

## 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.		1	2	3	4	5 Reptile Encounter <b>11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</b>  <i>Nature Center Open 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</i>
6 Fireflies: Nature's Fireworks <b>11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</b>  <i>Nature Center Open 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</i>	7 Nature Crafts – Bubbles <b>10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</b>	8	9	10	11	12 Patuxent River Formation <b>10 a.m. – 4 p.m.</b> Foxes and Coyotes: Canines of the Park <b>10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</b> <i>Nature Center Open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.</i>
13 Reptile Encounter <b>11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</b>  <i>Nature Center Open 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</i>	14	15	16	17	18	19 Water Mills <b>10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</b> History of the Valley <b>10 a.m. – 4 p.m.</b> <i>Nature Center Open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.</i>
20 Reptile Encounter <b>11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</b>  <i>Nature Center Open 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26 Dragonflies and Damselflies – Aerial Acrobats <b>10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</b> <i>Nature Center Open 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</i>
27 Fern Valley Hike <b>1 p.m.</b>  <i>Nature Center Open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.</i>	28 Nature Crafts – Duck Foot Simulator <b>10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</b>	29	30	31	For photos & more, visit: Friends of Seneca Creek and Patuxent River State Parks or Maryland State Parks Facebook page.  Programs with a * are volunteer opportunities with the park.	

**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.**

### **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.

### **Fireflies: Nature's Fireworks**

**11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Nature Center**

Stop by the Nature Center and explore the world of fireflies with one of the park's naturalists! Learn about the fascinating behaviors of these glowing insects and discover how to identify different species. A perfect way to celebrate summer's natural light show!

### **Nature Crafts – Bubbles**

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

Let's make some bubbles! We'll start by crafting our own bubble wands, then mix up a batch (or two) of a tried-and-true bubble solution. If you have a small jar, bring it along so you can take some bubbles home. Get ready to blow some big ones!

### **Patuxent River Formation**

**10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Nature Center**

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

Discover the natural forces that shaped the upper Patuxent River valley. Using a stream table, we'll demonstrate how water and erosion have sculpted this unique landscape over time. Then, join us for a guided hike along the river to observe these features in person and see how the valley continues to evolve. Bring water shoes and be prepared to get wet!

### **Foxes and Coyotes: Canines of the Park**

**10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Nature Center**

Discover the fascinating world of two clever park residents—foxes and coyotes. Learn about their behavior, characteristics, and how they compare by examining real pelts, skulls, and teeth. Explore what makes each of these canines unique and how they thrive in our local ecosystem.

### **Water Mills in Patuxent River State Park**

**10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Nature Center**

The upper Patuxent River's geography made it an ideal location for water-powered mills in the 18th and 19th centuries. These mills played a vital role in local farming communities—grinding grain, cutting lumber, and more. Stop by the exhibit to explore the history of these mills within the park and surrounding areas.

### **History of the Upper Patuxent River Valley**

**10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Nature Center**

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

Explore how the geology of the Patuxent River valley influenced early settlement and community development. Learn about the area's rich history—from its natural foundations to its colonial and post-colonial past. During guided hikes, we'll visit historical sites near the Nature Center, including the former Freedmen's community and Howard Chapel Cemetery.

### **Dragonflies and Damselflies – Aerial Acrobats**

**10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Nature Center**

Dragonflies and damselflies are dazzling sights throughout the summer! But how can you tell them apart? What important roles do they play in the ecosystem? Visit the Nature Center to discover the answers and explore the world of these incredible aerial acrobats. While you're here, create a fun, take-home dragonfly craft!

### **Fern Valley Hike**

**1 p.m. at the Nature Center**

Join a volunteer ranger for a guided hike along the park's scenic Red Trail, including a visit to "Fern Valley"—a lush area rich with native ferns. Along the 3.7-mile round trip, you'll learn about the various fern species found in the park and enjoy a refreshing woodland walk. The trail includes two small creek crossings and varied terrain. Please wear sturdy walking shoes and bring water.

### **Nature Crafts – Duck Foot Simulator**

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

We're hoping for a hot day! Learn how ducks use their webbed feet to swim, then step into a small pool and try it out yourself using webbed swimming gloves. Expect to get splashed—but not soaked—as you discover how it feels to paddle like a duck.

**\*Check our Website for Up-To-Date Program Information\***