

# May 2022

## SENECA CREEK STATE PARK

11950 Clopper Road | Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878  
301-924-2127 [scspnaturalist@gmail.com](mailto:scspnaturalist@gmail.com)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The City Nature Challenge at Seneca Creek <b>8 a.m.-6 p.m.</b>	2 The City Nature Challenge at Seneca Creek <b>8 a.m.-6 p.m.</b>	3 Nature Crafts: Pinwheels <b>10 a.m. - 12 p.m.</b>	4	5 Nature Discovery Hike <b>6 p.m.</b>	6 Reptile Feeding <b>1 p.m.</b>	7 Spring Scavenger Hunt <b>1 p.m.</b>  Healthy Parks Healthy People Hike <b>3 p.m.</b>
8 <i>Mother's Day</i> Mother's Day Eagle Hike <b>10:30 a.m.</b>  Peony Talks <b>1 p.m.</b>  Skulls & Skins <b>4 p.m.</b>	9	10 Nature Crafts: Build a Bug <b>10 a.m. - 12 p.m.</b>	11	12 Nature Discovery Hike <b>6 p.m.</b>	13 Reptile Feeding <b>1 p.m.</b>	14 Second Saturdays at Button Farm <b>12 a.m.-3 p.m.</b>
15 Past-Times of the Past at Grusendorf Cabin <b>10 a.m. - 12 p.m.</b>  Peony Talks <b>1 p.m.</b> Outdoor Museum <b>4 p.m.</b>	16	17 Nature Crafts: Bluebirds & Bird Kites <b>10 a.m. - 12 p.m.</b>	18	19 Nature Discovery Hike <b>6 p.m.</b>	20 Reptile Feeding <b>1 p.m.</b>	21 Pontoon Tours <b>11 a.m. &amp; 2 p.m.</b>
22 Pontoon Tours <b>11 a.m. &amp; 2 p.m.</b>  Peony Talks <b>1 p.m.</b>  Friends 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration <b>1-4 p.m.</b>	23	24 Nature Crafts: Tree Cookie Pendants <b>10 a.m. - 12 p.m.</b>	25	26 Nature Discovery Hike <b>6 p.m.</b>	27 Reptile Feeding <b>1 p.m.</b>	28 Pontoon Tours <b>11 a.m. &amp; 2 p.m.</b>  Healthy Parks Healthy People Hike <b>3 p.m.</b>
29 Pontoon Tours <b>11 a.m. &amp; 2 p.m.</b>  Peony Talks <b>1 p.m.</b> Outdoor Museum <b>4 p.m.</b>	30 <i>Memorial Day</i> Pontoon Tours <b>11 a.m. &amp; 2 p.m.</b>  Sensory Scavenger Hunt <b>4 p.m.</b>	31 Nature Crafts: Pipe Cleaner Butterfly Rings <b>10 a.m. - 12 p.m.</b>	<p>Dress for the weather and activity, wear sunscreen and insect repellent, bring plenty of water and snacks, and remember to check for ticks.</p> <p>Please call (301) 924-2127 or email <a href="mailto:scspnaturalist@gmail.com">scspnaturalist@gmail.com</a> for more info.</p> <p>For photos &amp; more, visit: Friends of Seneca Creek State Park Facebook Page.</p>			

*All events are all ages and free unless otherwise noted. Be advised some programs have applicable entrance fees.*

**The City Nature Challenge at Seneca Creek  
8 a.m. – 6 p.m. at the Park Office**

From April 29 to May 2, compete in the City Nature Challenge. Visit the Park Office to get the instructions, then embark on a self-guided adventure. Bring a smartphone with the iNaturalist app pre-downloaded or a camera to record your observations.

**Nature Crafts: Pinwheels**

**10 a.m. – noon. at the Nature Shack by the Tire Playground**

It is May and we are moving back to the Nature Shack. Spring is accompanied by breezes. You can't see wind, but you can see its effects. Come build your own wind detector/traditional toy: the Pin Wheel.

**Nature Discovery Hike**

**6 p.m. at Pheasant Run Picnic Area**

Discover trails in lesser-known areas of the park. See Allegheny Mound Ants and the last of the spring wildflowers. Bring water and wear comfortable shoes.

**Reptile Feeding**

**1 p.m. at the Park Office**

Learn about reptiles and join our resident Corn Snake, Box Turtle, and Diamondback Terrapin for lunch.

**Healthy Parks Healthy People Hike**

**3 p.m. at Chickadee Picnic Area**

Get in some exercise and enjoy nature! Hikes will range up to 3 miles. Please bring water and wear comfortable hiking shoes.

**Spring Scavenger Hunt**

**1 p.m. at the Nature Shack by the Tire Playground**

Drop by the Nature Shack to pick up a scavenger hunt card and head out to discover the signs of spring here at Seneca Creek. When you're finished, return to the Nature Shack for a prize!

**Peony Talks**

**1 – 2 p.m. at the Peony Garden**

Join us for a brief talk about the history of the peony garden. Talks will take place every 15 minutes.

**Mother's Day Eagle Hike**

**10:30 a.m. at Meadowside Nature Center  
5100 Meadows Ln Rockville, MD**

Bring your mother to see a Bald Eagle mother (and father) care for their eaglets in an active nest, along with flowers, birds, and a beaver lodge. Approximately 2.5 miles round trip. Bring binoculars and water. Note: no restrooms available at this site

**Skulls & Skins**

**4 p.m. at the Nature Shack by the Tire Playground**

Explore skulls, pelts, bones, feathers and other biological artifacts from animals found in the park.

**Nature Crafts: Build a Bug**

**10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Nature Shack by the Tire Playground**

Bugs are back and in different stages of development. Learn about these different stages, then do a free form craft to build your own bugs.

**Second Saturdays at Button Farm**

**12 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Button Farm  
16820 Black Rock Road, Germantown, MD**

Join us at Button Farm Living History Center on the second Saturday of each month from May-October. Our park naturalist will be on-site from 1-2:30 p.m. presenting an exhibit. For more information, please visit <https://buttonfarm.org/>.

**Past-Times of the Past at Grusendorf Cabin**

**10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Park Office**

Try your hand at activities common in the 1850s when the farmhouse was built. Make a clay swirl marble, a corn husk doll, or try your skill at horseshoes, ring toss, and bilbouquet. Historians from Button Farm will also be presenting artifacts.

**Outdoor Museum**

**4 p.m. at the Nature Shack by the Tire Playground**

Learn about the natural history of the park and engage in hands-on discovery. Different exhibits will be featured each session.

**Nature Crafts: Bluebirds & Bird Kites**

**10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Nature Shack by the Tire Playground**

Spring is the time for flying kites. May is the time for bluebirds. Learn about bluebirds and make a kite.

**Pontoon Tours**

**11 a.m. & 2 p.m. at the Boat Center**

**\$4/person in addition to park entrance fees**

Take a relaxing 45-minute boat ride on the "Blue Heron." Learn about history of the area and search for wildlife who call Clopper Lake home. Space is limited. Visit the Boat Center to reserve tickets.

**Friends 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**1 – 4 p.m. at Nuthatch Pavilion**

The Friends of Seneca Creek State Park was incorporated 25 years ago! Join us for cake and ice cream, nature displays, and examples of park amenities bought with help from the Friends. This anniversary party is free and open to the public, but donations are always welcome.

**Nature Crafts: Tree Cookie Pendants**

**10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Nature Shack by the Tire Playground**

If you look closely, you can read the growth rings to discover the history of that tree. We will learn how to read tree rings and have sections of to take home. We will decorate them and turn them into pendants to wear or hang on your backpack.

**Sensory Scavenger Hunt**

**4 p.m. at the Nature Shack by the Tire Playground**

Visit the Nature Shack to pick up a scavenger hunt card and then take a self-guided nature walk, using your different senses to observe nature. Return to the Nature Shack for a prize!

**Nature Crafts: Pipe Cleaner Butterfly Rings**

**10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Nature Shack by the Tire Playground**

One of the most eye-catching pollinators is the butterfly. Learn about their lives and how they help plants make seeds. Make your own butterfly ring to wear while searching for butterflies here at the park.