

# April 2024

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
For photos & more, visit: Friends of Seneca Creek State Park Facebook Page.	1	2	3	4 Spring Hike <b>6 p.m.</b>	5	6
7 Signs of Spring Scavenger Hunt <b>8 a.m. – 8 p.m.</b>	8	9	10	11 Spring Hike <b>6 p.m.</b>	12	13 Celebrate Beavers Hike <b>4 p.m.</b>
14	15	16	17 Senior Rangers <b>10:30 a.m. – 12 Noon</b>	18 Spring Hike <b>6 p.m.</b>	19	20
21 Rockville Science Day <b>12 Noon – 5 p.m.</b>	22 Earth Day Hike <b>6:30 p.m.</b>	23	24 Senior Rangers <b>10:30 a.m. – 12 Noon</b>	25 Spring Hike <b>6 p.m.</b>	26	27 City Nature Challenge "App" Stroll <b>3 p.m.</b>
28	29	30	<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>			

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

*Be advised some programs have applicable entrance fees.*

### **Spring Hike**

#### **6 p.m. at Chickadee Picnic Area**

Join a Volunteer Naturalist (and seeker of salamanders) every Thursday for an easy hike. We will stop to admire almost anything nature provides for us – from fragrant flowers to creepy crawly insects. Please dress for the weather and bring water and bug spray. Severe inclement weather cancels the hike, but a light drizzle won't stop us from exploring!

### **Signs of Spring Scavenger Hunt**

#### **8 a.m. – 8 p.m. at the Park Office**

Pick up a Scavenger Hunt card from the Park Office, then go on a self-guided journey to see what you can find in the park! There will be several different scavenger hunts available for different ages and interest levels.

### **Celebrate Beavers Hike**

#### **4 p.m. at Chickadee Picnic Area**

Did you know that April 7<sup>th</sup> was International Beaver Day? Beavers are the great new hope for combating environmental degradation. Come on a hike to see the beginnings of a new beaver colony on one of our small streams, complete with a dam and lodge. Find out why you should become a fan of this charismatic (and enormous) rodent. Please dress for the weather and bring water and bug spray.

### **Senior Rangers**

#### **10:30 a.m. – 12 Noon at Various Locations**

Senior Rangers is a program designed for our retired population to get active, get back into their local state parks, sharpen their sense of wonder, meet new friends, and have a ton of fun! The program meets weekly for 90-minute sessions at various locations around the park and local community. Registration is required using this link:

<https://forms.gle/5LFBykdnkGYm1owe7>

### **\*Upcoming Nature Crafts News\***

Beginning in May, the Nature Shack near the Tire Playground will be open for Nature Crafts on Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Rain cancels. Note that Nature Crafts will continue to be offered at the Nature Center at Patuxent River State Park on Monday mornings in May.

### **Rockville Science Day**

#### **12 Noon – 5 p.m. at Montgomery College Rockville Campus**

#### **51 Mannakee Street Rockville, MD 20858**

Join the Friends of Seneca Creek and Patuxent River State Parks at the annual Rockville Science Day at Montgomery College. Explore a wide range of science topics – including robotics, astronomy, medicine, chemistry, and more! This event is free. Please visit this link for more information: <https://www.rockvillesciencecenter.org/rockville-science-day>

### **Earth Day Hike**

#### **6:30 p.m. at the Park Office**

Take a short, 1.3-mile loop hike in honor of Earth Day! This year's theme is Planet vs. Plastics. Grab a trash bag and help gather any stray plastics (and any other trash) that we come across during our hike. Rain cancels. Please dress for the weather and bring water and bug spray.

### **City Nature Challenge "App" Stroll**

#### **3 p.m. at the Park Office Lawn**

April 26 – 29 is the annual City Nature Challenge, where citizens around the world take place in a friendly competition to document the greatest number of species and learn about the wildlife that shares our environment. Help the Washington, DC Metro Area gather observations! Drop by our display to learn about computer programs and apps that you can use to identify elements of the natural world and to collect observations. Then, take a stroll around the park or your backyard to see what plants you see, birds you hear, and more! Recommended free apps are Merlin by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and iNaturalist. Create a free account on iNaturalist.org to begin collecting and documenting observations! Visit [www.citynaturechallenge.org](http://www.citynaturechallenge.org) to learn more.