



# Blue Marsh Lake Program Schedule



## August

| Date and Time               | Event  | Location  |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 8/9 Fri, 3:00 PM            | Paddle Up! The Tulpehocken<br><b>Pre-register 610-376-6337</b> | Route 183 Pull-off<br>North of Sheidy Boat Ramp     |
| 8/10 Sat, 8:00 AM           | Hike with a Ranger   | Church Road Access                                  |
| 8/16 Fri, 8:00 PM           | Whooo Goes There   | Squirrel Run Nature Trail<br>State Hill Boat Launch |
| 8/17 Sat, 10:00 AM          | Family Fun Day Butterfly Walk                                  | Swiftwater Court                                    |
| 8/21 Wed, 10:00 AM          | Wee Ones What's It All About                                   | Visitor Center                                      |
| 8/22 Thu, 6:00 PM           | Paddle Blue Marsh  | Church Road Access                                  |
| 8/24 Sat, 8:00 PM           | Star Watch   | Church Road Access                                  |
| 8/31 Sat, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Fish For Fun   | Stilling Basin                                      |

## September

| Date and Time      | Event   | Location  |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 9/7 Sat, 10:00 AM  | Family Fun Day<br>Hide-and-Go Seek                                | Great Oak Nature Trail<br>Dry Brooks Day Use Area   |
| 9/11 Wed, 10:00 AM | Wee Ones<br>Walk Among the Trees                                  | Squirrel Run Nature Trail<br>State Hill Boat Launch |
| 9/14 Sat, 8:00 AM  | Hike with a Ranger  | Visitor Center                                      |
| 9/18 Wed, 9:00 AM  | Hawk Watch  | State Hill Boat Launch Vista                        |
| 9/19 Thu, 6:00 PM  | Paddle Blue Marsh   | Church Road Access                                  |
| 9/21 Sat, 1:00 PM  | Fall Float on Blue Marsh Lake<br><b>Pre-register 610-374-2944</b> | Stilling Basin                                      |
| 9/26 Thu, 1:00 PM  | Wagging Tails on the Trail  | Visitor Center                                      |
| 9/28 Sat, 8:30 AM  | Public Lands Day  | Visitor Center                                      |
| 9/28 Sat, 9:00 AM  | Cache In, Trash Out   | Visitor Center                                      |
| 9/28 Sat, 11:00 AM | Hike with a Ranger  | Visitor Center                                      |
| 9/28 Sat, 1:00 PM  | Control Tower Tour  | Visitor Center                                      |

## October

| Date and Time       | Event   | Location                                     |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 10/5 Sat, 10:00 AM  | Family Fun Day - Take Your<br>Kid Mountain Biking Day | Church Road Access                           |
| 10/12 Sat, 10:00 AM | Hike with a Ranger                                    | Visitor Center                               |
| 10/16 Wed, 10:00 AM | Wee Ones<br>Fall Fun                                  | Lakeview Pavilion<br>Dry Brooks Day Use Area |
| 10/16 Wed, 1:00 PM  | Bird Walk   | Visitor Center                               |
| 10/17 Thu, 1:00 PM  | Control Tower Tour                                    | Visitor Center                               |

Interested in Volunteering at Blue Marsh Lake? Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Nathan Freiwald at 610-376-6337



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Philadelphia District

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## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

**Paddle UP! The Tulpehocken, August 9:** Bring your kayak or canoe and come along for a flat water paddle on the upper portion of Blue Marsh Lake, starting at the small pull-off near Sheidy Boat Ramp, westward to the North Heidelberg Road Bridge. If water levels are high enough, we will paddle into the Tulpehocken Creek. The waters in this area are relatively calm/flat and provide a passive paddle up the Tulpehocken Creek arm of the lake. You will learn about water safety, Blue Marsh fast facts and natural resource management. The paddle will last approximately 1.5 hours and you will return to the same location from which you launched your watercraft. **Trip is for all levels of paddlers; limited to 15 boaters. Bring your own boat and life jacket. FREE unless you want to add American Canoe Association insurance for \$10. Pre-registration is required, and can be done so by calling 610-376-6337 by August 5.**

**Hike with a Ranger, August 10:** Move outdoors and join us on a ranger-guided hike along the Skinners Loops. This hike will be approximately three-miles in length, and there are a couple of uphill stretches along the way. However, this section does offer some excellent bird and wildlife watching. Wear comfortable shoes, and you may want to carry some drinking water. We will meet at Church Road Access, and car pool about 1.5 miles to the trail location.

**Whooo Goes There, August 16:** When the sun goes down and night closes in around the area, Blue Marsh Lake comes alive with all types of mysterious sounds. Join park rangers on a night time safari and discover what (or who) goes bump in the night. Bring along a flashlight, insect repellent, and your sense of adventure.

**Family Fun Day Butterfly Walk, August 17:** Join Karl Gardner, local butterfly expert and naturalist, for a butterfly walk at Blue Marsh Lake. He will discuss and show you caterpillars, and then head out on a walk in search of butterflies. Karl always brings along some extra nets for participants to use to try to catch these beautiful insects. Don't miss this program – you'll be sorry!

**Wee Ones What's It All About, August 21:** We all know that Blue Marsh Lake provides great opportunities for recreation. But the lake is here for other more important purposes, including flood control, water supply and quality. Learn about some of the other purposes of Blue Marsh while we take a walk out onto the dam and take a look at the control tower. This walk will certainly be both fun and education for our younger park visitors!

**Paddle Blue Marsh, August 22, September 19:** Join volunteer Tony "Doc" Schoch on a Blue Marsh Lake cruise. Doc is an expert kayaker and naturalist, and will lead you on an excellent on-water adventure. Participants must provide their own equipment, and are required to wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket.

**Family Fun Day Fishing 101, August 31:** Join us for a fun-filled fishing adventure at the Stilling Basin. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission staff will start by teaching you how to handle the rod as well as how to cast. Participants will also learn some basic knots, how to attach a hook to the line and what baits to use. All equipment is provided, and no license is required. All you need to bring is yourself!

**Family Fun Day Hide-and-Go-Seek, September 7:** Wanted – wildlife detectives. This adventure will challenge your senses as we search for critters that are hiding in the trees, in holes in the ground, and who knows where else! That is up to you to discover! When searching for a variety of critters, participants will learn about wildlife through a variety of fun activities.

**Wee Ones Walk Among the Trees, September 11:** Squirrel Run Nature Trail winds through the forest, and offers a very scenic walk. We will talk about trees and how they were used during the times of the Lenape Indians and colonists, and why they continue to be important today. There will be activities for the kids along the trail, including tracing leaves and doing bark rubs. This walk will be a great way to welcome the fall season. The program will end with a short story.

**Hike with a Ranger, September 14:** This month's hike will start out at the Church Road Access, and follow the hiking trail north to North Heidelberg Road and then return to the access area. Participants should be prepared for a challenging hike, as this hike has some steep and long uphill climbs on the first half of the hike. However, the last three miles are mostly level and run parallel to the lake and PA Route 183. We will be making rest/snack stops along the way. The length of the hike is seven miles. Wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring along water.

**Hawk Watch, September 18:** Join birding expert, Joan Silagy, for a hawk watch at the State Hill Boat Ramp overlook off of Brownsville Road. If the conditions are right we may see broad-winged, coopers, sharp-shinned and red-tailed hawks, as well as bald eagles. Make sure you bring your binoculars and chairs or blankets.

**Fall Float on Blue Marsh Lake, September 21:** Bring your kayak or canoe for a paddle on a calm back area of the lake. We will start and end at the Peacock Road Access. Water safety, history, and area features will be covered during the paddle. The trip is for all levels of paddlers, and is limited to 15 boaters. Bring your own boat, life jacket and transportation. Call 610-376-6337 by September 16 to pre-register.

**Wagging Tails on the Trails, Sept. 26:** Bring your canine friends with you for a walk along the Blue Marsh Lake trails. Both you and your dog can socialize with other dog lovers, and learn some interesting facts about Blue Marsh. There will also be opportunities for your dog to go for a swim! Don't forget to bring water along for both you and your four-legged companion. Dogs must be on a leash.

**National Public Lands Day, September 28:** Join us as we celebrate our public lands at Blue Marsh Lake. Work projects will include seedling planting, litter pick-up, trail work and bridge repair. Meet at the Visitor Center at 8:30 a.m. Gloves and necessary equipment will be provided.

**National Public Lands Day Cache In – Trash Out, September 28:** This activity will be sponsored by local geo-cache folks, and will start with litter pick-up around the lake area. At the conclusion of the trash collection you will then have the opportunity to hone your geo cache skills by trying to find some local caches.

**National Public Lands Day Hike with a Ranger, September 28:** Join us for an easy hike with Berks County Parks staff to celebrate Public Lands Day. We will meet at the Visitor Center at 11:00 a.m., and start our hike with information on the lake at the Visitor Center, Dam and tower. Our hike will cross the dam, and continue along the trail towards the State Hill Boat Ramp, passing through natural resource areas, and forest habitats. We will share information on other trails in the area for you to explore on your own.

**National Public Lands Day Tower Tour, September 28:** Participants get a “behind-the-scenes” look at how the dam functions. Not only will you be out on the dam, but you will also be going inside the control tower. Be prepared to go down and up numerous steps. For those of you who cannot handle the steps you can go as far as the control room (about 10 steps).

**Family Fun Day Take your Kid Mountain Biking Day, October 5:** Bring your children along for a fun filled family day of mountain biking! You can help pass your passion for pedaling on to those that matter the most: your kids. Take part in this internationally recognized outdoor event sponsored by the Berks Area Mountain Biking Association and enjoy all that nature has to offer. We will be mountain biking on the easier trail sections in and around Blue Marsh Lake. Bring your mountain bike, helmet and water.

**Hike with a Ranger, October 12:** Get outdoors and enjoy the fall colors by joining us on a hike at Blue Marsh Lake. Our trek will start at the Visitor Center, and will walk the hiking trail to the Dry Brooks Day Use Area. The trek will follow a variety of nature trails, and will be approximately 2-3 miles in length. Dress for the weather.

**Wee Ones Fall Fun, October 16:** The fall season is a great time to get outdoors and move – and that is what we are going to do on this Wednesday morning. Our group will meet at the Lakeview Pavilion in the Dry Brooks Boat Launch. There will be a variety of activities for the kids, including a game or two. They will also have to search for some things that those sneaky rangers hid earlier in the morning! Join us for some fall fun on this fun October day.

**Bird Walks, Oct. 16:** Join birding expert and naturalist Joan Silagy as she guides you along trails and roadways in search of a variety of birds. Walking should be easy with few hills. Bring along your binoculars.

**Control Tower Tours, Oct. 17 & Nov. 14:** Participants get a “behind-the-scenes” look at how the dam functions. Not only will you be out on the dam, but you will also be going inside the control tower. Be prepared to go down and up numerous steps. For those of you who cannot handle the steps you can go as far as the control room (about 10 steps).