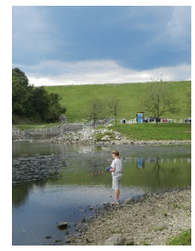
Blue Marsh Lake
Program Schedule



April – September 2016

Date and Time	Event	Location
4/7 Thu, 9:00 AM	Flora & Fauna of Blue Marsh	Stilling Basin
4/9 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Church Road Access
4/15 Fri, 7:30 – 8:30 PM	Spring Peepers and Frog Safari	Stilling Basin Pre-register 610-678-5399
4/16 Sat, 9:00 AM	Take Pride in Blue Marsh Pre-register: 610-376-6337	Visitor Center & Dry Brooks Day Use Area
4/16 Sat, 1:00 PM	TPIBM Geo Caching for Beginners	Lakeview Pavilion Dry Brooks Day Use Area
4/20 Wed, 10:00 – 11:30 AM	Get Outdoors Wild About Blue Marsh Safari	Lakeview Pavilion Dry Brooks Day Use Area
4/23 Sat, 12:00 – 6:00 PM	Go Fly a Kite! Day and YMCA's Healthy Kids Day	Berks County Youth Recreation Facility
5/5 Thu, 10:00 – 11:30 AM	Aqua Charades	Stilling Basin
5/7 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Visitor Center
5/27 Fri, 8:00 PM	Who Goes There?	State Hill Boat Launch
6/11 Sat, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Blue Marsh Lake's Get Outdoors Day	Parking Lot D Dry Brooks Day Use Area
6/24 Fri, 4:00 PM	Paddle the Tulpehocken	Stilling Basin Pre-Register 610-374-2944
7/1 Fri, 4:00 PM	Paddle/Pedal the Tulpehocken	Stilling Basin Pre-Register 610-374-2944
7/15 Fri, 5:00 – 8:00 PM	Paddle Boarding for Beginners	Church Road Access Pre-Register 610-374-2944
7/16 Sat, 1:00 – 4:00 PM	Paddling Skills Workshop	Stilling Basin Pre-Register 610-374-2944
7/19 Tues, 7:00 PM	Full Moon Paddle	Church Road Access Pre-register 610-374-2944
8/12 Fri, 5:00 – 8:00 PM	Paddle Boarding for Beginners	Church Road Access Pre-Register 610-374-2944
9/16 Fri, 6:00 PM	Full Moon Paddle	Church Road Access Pre-register 610-374-2944
9/24 Sat, 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM 9:00 – 11:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:00 AM	National Public Lands Day Volunteer Work Day Cache In – Trash Out Hike with a Ranger Control Tower Tour	Stilling Basin Stilling Basin Stilling Basin Stilling Basin Visitor Center Pre-Register 610-376-6337

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
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PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Flora &Fauna of Blue Marsh: April 7, 2016, Thursday, 9:00 am, Stilling Basin (GPS Address 1268 Palisades Drive, Leesport, PA 19533): Get the camera out, the binoculars, a guidebook and lace up those hiking shoes and join us at the Stilling Basin for an adventure along the trails. We will be walking along the multi-use hiking trail as well as a trail that parallels the Tulpehocken Creek. Hopefully we will see some early blooming spring wildflowers as well as some wildlife along the way. Length of hike will be approximately three miles.

Hike with a Ranger: April 9, Saturday, 10:00 am, State Hill Boat Launch: Do you have cabin fever after a long winter indoors! Well step outdoors and join us for a spring hike along Squirrel Run Nature Trail and other trails in the area. As we hike we will get some exercise while enjoying the scenery along the way. The approximate distance of the hike will be three miles. We will meet in the main parking lot at the end away from the boat ramp.

Spring Peepers and Frog Safari: April 15, Friday, 7:30 – 8:30 pm, Stilling Basin: Join us for an amphibious wildlife safari with Park Ranger Kathy Grim. Kathy will lead you on an expedition in search of a variety of amphibians that can be found at Blue Marsh Lake. Please come dressed for an amphibious adventure (wear shoes that you can get wet and/or muddy) and bring a flashlight for frog spotting! Ages 4+. Children must be with an adult. You can pre-register by contacting Spring Township Department of Parks and Recreation at 610-678-5399.

Take Pride in Blue Marsh: April 16, Saturday, 9:00 am, Visitor Center and Dry Brooks Day Use Area: Calling all volunteers to help spruce up Blue Marsh Lake for the busy season that lies ahead. Projects will most likely include litter pick-up, planting seedlings, trail work, sensory garden work, planting flowers in the various garden plots and mulching. Volunteer organizations and groups, as well as concerned citizens, are welcome. Please pre-register by calling 610-376-6337.

TPIBM Geo Caching for Beginners: April 16, Saturday, 1:00 pm, Lakeview Pavilion, Dry Brooks Day Use Area (GPS Address 1364 Palisades Drive, Leesport, PA 19533): Join Berks County Parks staff for a beginner's course on Geo Caching. Learn about the basics of Geo Caching and how you too can participate in this world-wide high-tech treasure hunting game. We'll explain the basics of GPS navigation and discover special geo-cachers hidden around Blue Marsh Lake. Come prepared with appropriate outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear. If you do not own a handheld GPS unit, don't worry; we will have some to share (call for more information if using your own GPS). This is a free program that is fun for all ages!

Get Outdoors Wild About Blue Marsh Safari: April 20, Wednesday, 10:00 am, Lakeview Pavilion, Dry Brooks Day Use Area (GPS Address 1364 Palisades Drive, Leesport, PA 19533): Calling all home school students! Join us for a fun and educational program in the great outdoors. We will be learning about the wildlife that inhabit Blue Marsh through games and activities. We will start off with a scavenger hunt. Before heading out for a safari along the Eyes of the Eagle Sensory Trail by making safari hats! Our trail safari will be followed by an art project back at the pavilion.

Go Fly a Kite! Day/YMCA's Healthy Kids Day: April 23 12:00 – 6:00 pm, Berks County Youth Recreation Facility,1098 County Welfare Road, Bern Township: Bring a homemade kite, a store-bought kite or kids can make a free kite in our Sled Kite Workshop. This park is great for flying kites! Enjoy the kite flying demos by professionals in the air and on the ground, "Kite Art Exhibit," Hot Air Balloon demos, a children's fun area, delicious festival food and more! Free parking and admission. For additional information call 610-374-2944 or visit www.countyofberks.com/parks

Aqua Charades: May 5, Thursday, 10:00 am, Stilling Basin (GPS Address, 1268 Palisades Drive, Leesport, PA 19533): Without water there would be no life. Water is necessary to keep people, plants and animals alive. Learn about the many uses of water while playing charades, and what floats like a boat by trying out different items in nature to see what floats and what sinks! We will also take a close look at what lives in the water by using nets to see if we can catch any aquatic critters. Wear shoes that you can get wet, and bring along your sense of adventure.

Hike with a Ranger: May 7, Saturday, 10:00 am Visitor Center (GPS Address: 1268 Palisades Drive, Leesport, PA 19533): You might want to bring along your camera and binoculars for this hike. We will head out on the multi-use hiking trail and return via a trail along the Tulpehocken Creek. There should be opportunities to see a variety of birds and wildflowers along the way. Our trek will finish up by walking along the dam on the way back to the Visitor Center. Hike length is 3 – 4 miles.

Who Goes There? May 27, Friday, 8:00 pm, State Hill Boat Launch (GPS Address, 599 Brownsville Road, Sinking Spring, PA 19608): Join us for this nighttime adventure along the Squirrel Run Nature Trail as the sun sets and the nocturnal critters come to life as the skies darken. We will both look and listen for all types of animals along the way. Bring a flashlight for this adventure.

Blue Marsh Lake's Get Outdoors Day: June 11, Saturday, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, Parking Lot D, Dry Brooks Day Use Area: Let's move and get outdoors by joining us for a great day of fun in the sun. Learn about recreational opportunities in Berks County by visiting the many displays. Try out some of the activities, and play the scavenger hunt. You can also just sit back and enjoy the numerous presentations that will be offered throughout the day. Smokey Bear and Bobber the Water Safety Dog will be on-hand to meet and greet visitors. This is a fee-free event!

Paddle the Tulpehocken: June 24, 4:00 pm, Stilling Basin (GPS Address 1268 Palisades Drive, Leesport, PA 19533): Bring your kayak or canoe and join us as we meander our way along the lower portion of the Tulpehocken Creek from the Blue Marsh Lake Stilling Basin to below the Berks Leisure Area. Water safety, local history, features of the creek and other water trails around the area will be covered before we launch. Participants must provide their own boat, life jacket and transportation. Event limited to 20 people (previous paddling experience suggested, and ACA insurance recommended). Pre-registration required by June 20; call 610-374-2944. Program provided by Blue Marsh Lake, USACE; Berks County Parks and Spring Township Parks and Recreation.

Paddle/Pedal the Tulpehocken: July 1, Friday, 4:00 pm, Stilling Basin (GPS Address: 1268 Palisades Drive, Leesport, PA 19533): Can't decide how to best experience the Tulpehocken Creek's natural scenic beauty? Join 3D Outdoor Rental, Berks County Parks, Spring Twp. Parks and Recreation and Blue Marsh Lake staff for a double-dose of outdoor recreation fun as we kayak or canoe down the creek and then bike along the trail. Starting at the Blue Marsh Lake Stilling Basin, we will paddle the creek to the county's iconic Red Bridge. After we pull out by the picnic area, we'll take a break for an energizing snack. Then we'll hop on our bikes and pedal back to the Stilling Basin via the Union Canal Towpath Trail to return to our starting point, approximately 8 miles round-trip. The trip is for people with paddling experience, and is limited to 20 boaters. Kayaks and bikes can be reserved through 3D Outdoor Rental, or you can bring your own equipment. Cost: $40, which includes kayak and bike rental from 3D Outdoor Rental and American Canoe Association (ACA) insurance. Life jackets, bike helmets and ACE Insurance required. Call 610-374-2944 for more information. Pre-registration with payment required to 3D Outdoor Rental, 610-488-1900 by June 26.

Paddle Boarding for Beginners: July 15, Friday, 5:00 – 8:00 pm, Church Road Access: Come out to Blue Marsh Lake and enjoy one of the fastest growing water sports in the world: paddle boarding. Trained professionals from 3D Outdoor Rentals will teach participants the basics of paddle boarding; such as how to maintain your balance while standing on the board and how to properly and efficiently use the paddles to move. No experience required. A safe and fun workshop for the whole family! Program is split into four sessions: 5:00, 5:45, 6:30 and 7:15 pm, and space is limited to six participants per time slot. Registration is required by July 11; call 610-374-2944. Program provided by Blue Marsh Lake, USACE; Berks County Parks and Spring Township Parks and Recreation.

Paddle Skills Workshop: July 16, Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, Stilling Basin (GPS Address: 1268 Palisades Drive, Leesport, PA 19533): Are you ready to try something new, or to hone your paddling skills in a kayak or canoe? Join members of the Keystone Canoe Club for an informative land and flat-water session trying out different styles of boats. This is your chance to learn some of the basics: paddle strokes, getting in and out safely, boat control, clothing and gear, etc. Ages: 10 to adult. Children ages 10 – 12 MUST be accompanied by an adult. Cost: $10 per person. Workshop limited to 25 participants. Pre-registration with payment required by calling 610-374-2944 by July 13. Program provided by Blue Marsh Lake, USACE; Berks County Parks and Spring Township Parks and Recreation.

Full Moon Paddle: July 19, Tuesday, 7:00 pm, Church Road Access: Experience an evening of peace and serenity on Blue Marsh Lake under the full moon. Navigate the lake, look for wildlife and watch the night sky light up the water. Water safety, local history and features of the area will be covered before we launch. Participants must provide their own boat, lifejacket and boat running lights (flashlight or lantern qualifies). Event is limited to 20 people. (paddling experience suggested) Pre-registration required, and should be done-so by calling 610-374-2944 by July 15. Rain date: Wednesday, July 20. Program provided by Blue Marsh Lake, USACE; Berks County Parks and Spring Township Parks and Recreation.

Paddle Boarding for Beginners: August 12, Friday, 5:00 – 8:00 pm, Church Road Access: Come out to Blue Marsh Lake and enjoy one of the fastest growing water sports in the world: paddle boarding. Trained professionals from 3D Outdoor Rentals will teach participants the basics of paddle boarding; such as how to maintain your balance while standing on the board and how to properly and efficiently use the paddles to move. No experience required. A safe and fun workshop for the whole family! Program is split into four sessions: 5:00, 5:45, 6:30 and 7:15 pm, and space is limited to six participants per time slot. Registration is required by August 8; call 610-374-2944.

Full Moon Paddle: September 16, Friday, 6:00 pm, Church Road Access: Experience an evening of peace and serenity on Blue Marsh Lake under the full moon. Navigate the lake, look for wildlife and watch the night sky light up the water. Water safety, local history and features of the area will be covered before we launch. Participants must provide their own boat, lifejacket and boat running lights (flashlight or lantern qualifies). Event is limited to 20 people. (paddling experience suggested) Pre-registration required, and should be done-so by calling 610-374-2944 by September 22. Rain date: Saturday, September 27.

National Public Lands Day: September 24, Saturday, 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM, Stilling Basin: 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 Geocaching Event the BEST Trail at Blue Marsh #2: September 24, Saturday, 9:00 – 11:00 A.M., Stilling Basin: Join us for our fall CITO event, and help put Blue Marsh to bed for the winter. At the Visitor Center we will organize into clean-up crews and venture out to various areas of shoreline and trail sections that need a good "FALL" cleaning. One of these sections will be our area of sponsored trail (see Trail Head coordinates). Please bring items (pruning shears, gloves, etc.) needed to help with the clean-up of our section of the trail.

National Public Lands Day Control Tower Tour: September 24, Saturday, 10:00 A.M., Visitor Center: 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 20 steps).

National Public Lands Day Hike with a Ranger: September 24, Saturday, 9:30 A.M., Stilling Basin: Help Blue Marsh Lake celebrate Public Lands Day by taking part in a ranger-guided hike. Our route will take us along the multi-use hiking trail as well as along the Tulpehocken Creek. We should also have opportunities to see wildlife, so bring along your camera and binoculars. Total mileage will be about three miles.