



# Blue Marsh Lake Program Schedule



January 2016

Date and Time	Event	Location
1/1 Fri, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	First Day Fun Hike	State Hill Boat Launch
1/9 Sat, 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Wild Winter Get Outdoors Day	Berks County Heritage Center
1/21 Thu, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
1/23 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Visitor Center
1/27 Wed, 10:00 AM	Get Outdoors All About Blue Marsh	Conference Center

February 2016

Date and Time	Event	Location
2/6 Sat, 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Mid-Winter Outing	Conference Center
2/18 Thu, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
2/20 Sat, 4:00 – 6:00 PM	Early Evening Excursion	Visitor Center
2/24 Wed, 10:00 AM	Get Outdoors Who Lives in a Tree	Conference Center

March 2016

Date and Time	Event	Location
3/5 Sat, 10:00 AM	Teddy Bear Hike	Great Oak Nature Trail Dry Brooks Day Use Area
3/17 Thu, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
3/19 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Visitor Center
3/23 Wed, 10:00 AM	Get Outdoors Spring Has Sprung!	Stilling Basin

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## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

**First Day Fun Hike:** January 1, 2016, Friday, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, State Hill Boat Launch (GPS Address 599 Brownsville Road, Sinking Spring, PA 19608): Get your New Year off to a good and healthy start with a late morning hike at Blue Marsh Lake. We will enjoy the first day of the New Year by completing a two hour hike either with boots, snowshoes or skis exploring one of the many trails at Blue Marsh Lake. This cooperative program between USACE staff at Blue Marsh and Berks County Parks and Recreation Department will provide a fun outdoor experience for people of all ages. Please remember to dress appropriately for the weather and keep in mind that in the event of extreme weather conditions, this event may be rescheduled or canceled. Call 610-374-2944 for more information.

**Wild Winter Get Outdoors Day:** January 9, Saturday, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Berks County Heritage Center: “Get Outdoors” with Berks County Parks and USACE Blue Marsh Lake staff for a fabulous day of winter wildlife observation! This event will feature opportunities to enjoy the outdoors while exploring the park. Pick up an outdoor observation booklet and either bring or borrow a pair of binoculars and the adventure begins. You can also hike, snowshoe or even ski along the Union Canal Trail while completing this activity. Additional activities will also be offered during this program for all ages. Please remember to dress appropriately for the weather and keep in mind that in the event of extreme weather conditions, this event may be rescheduled or canceled. Call 610-374-2944 for more information.

**Control Tower Tours:** January 21, February 18 & March 17, 10:00 am, 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 numerous steps you can go as far as the control room (about 20 steps).

**Hike with a Ranger:** January 23, Saturday, 10:00 am, Visitor Center (GPS Address 1268 Palisades Drive, Leesport, PA 19533): Lace up those hiking boots and head to Blue Marsh Lake for a three mile hike on some of the park trails. Our route will follow the multi-use trails, nature trails and the lake shoreline. There are some hills, but nothing too major. The hike will take approximately two hours. Dress for the weather. If there is snow on the ground we will possibly go snowshoeing or cross country skiing instead of walking. Ice or inclement weather will cancel.

**Get Outdoors All About Blue Marsh:** January 27, Wednesday, 10:00 am, Conference Center (GPS Address 1268 Palisades Drive, Leesport, PA 19533): This session will give participants a “behind-the-scenes” look at Blue Marsh Lake. We will take a look at how Blue Marsh was built, discuss the purposes of the lake, see some construction photos, and take a walk out on the dam and continue on to the spillway, weather permitting. There will be some hands-on activities as well. This is a great program for all ages, especially home school students.

**Mid-Winter Outing:** February 6, Saturday, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Conference Center (GPS Address 1268 Palisades Drive, Leesport, PA 19533): Groundhog Day has just passed so we are going to mark the middle of winter by joining Berks County Parks and USACE staff for some winter activities at the Blue Marsh Lake Conference Center. Indoors, this event will include general information, safety tips and nature crafts. We will also be outdoors exploring either in hiking boots, snowshoes or cross country skis. While outdoors you will be searching for geocaches located in the area. You can also bring along your binoculars, or borrow a pair from us, and see what you can spot while exploring the trail in –winter mode. Please remember to dress appropriately for the weather and keep in mind that in the event of extreme weather conditions, this event may be rescheduled or canceled. Call 610-374-2944 to register by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Early Evening Excursion:** February 20, Saturday, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Visitor Center (GPS Address: 1268 Palisades Drive, Leesport, PA 19533): Depending on the weather bring your boots, snowshoes and/or cross country skis and join us for this wonderful combination program. Berks County Parks and USACE Blue Marsh staff will lead a cross country ski and snowshoe trek on one of the many trails around Blue Marsh Lake. This is a great activity for people who want to work on developing their skiing or snowshoe techniques along varied terrain. There will be some snowshoes available to borrow. Cross country ski gear can be rented at Buckman's Ski Shop (610-67-5960, Muhlenberg Township) in case you don't have your own. Please remember to dress appropriately for the weather and keep in mind that in the event of extreme weather conditions, this event may be rescheduled or canceled. Call 610-374-2944 to register by February 16.

**Get Outdoors Who Lives in a Tree:** February 24, Wednesday, 10:00 am, Conference Center (GPS Address, 1268 Palisades Drive, Leesport, PA 19533): A variety of animals live in trees. Some build nests, while others live in dens in trees. We will take a walk and look for signs of critters living in trees, and try to figure out who is actually living there. But the adventure will not end there, as we will also be doing a variety of activities indoors and outdoors focusing on trees and wildlife. Bring your journals along, and if you have a pair of binoculars you might want to bring them along.

**Teddy Bear Hike:** March 5, Saturday, 10:00 am, Great Oak Nature Trail, Dry Brooks Day Use Area (GPS Address, 1364 Palisades Drive, Leesport, PA 19533 for use on this trail. ): Kids and adults bring along your favorite teddy bear or other stuffed toy as we head out on a fun-filled adventure along the Great Oak Nature Trail. We will walk approximately ½ mile. Baby strollers are not recommended

**Hike with a Ranger:** March 19, Saturday, 10:00 A.M., Visitor Center: Since hunting season has ended we will head in the direction of State Hill Boat Launch. Our scenic route will take us along the multi-use hiking trail, a trail along the Tulpehocken Creek and along the lake shoreline. The length of the hike will be 4 – 6 miles, so you may want to carry some water and a trail snack. We may encounter some wet, muddy areas, so be prepared!

**Get Outdoors Spring has Sprung!** March 23, Wednesday, 10:00 A.M., Stilling Basin (GPS Address 1268 Palisades Drive, Leesport, PA 19533): Join us for a spring safari along both the Tulpehocken Creek and a stretch of the old Union Canal as we search for signs of spring. As we walk along we will be looking and listening for spring peepers, ducks, geese, great blue herons, as well as other critters. Maybe we will even see some early spring plants such as skunk cabbage. Wear boots for this outing as we will be walking in wet and muddy areas. Hopefully we can catch some small spring peepers and you can get a close-up at these amazing small tree frogs.