



Blue Marsh Lake Program Schedule



March 2015

Date and Time	Event	Location
3/18 Wed, 1:00 PM	Bird Walk	Visitor Center
3/20 Fri, 7:00 PM	It's a Bluebird Day! Pre-register 610-376-6337, x 6546 by March 18	Conference Center
3/21 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Visitor Center
3/22 Sun, 10:00 AM	Trail Yoga	Stilling Basin
3/25 Wed, 10:00 AM	Stroll with a Ranger	Swiftwater Access
3/26 Thu, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center

April

Date and Time	Event	Location
4/4 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hike with Cabela's	Day Use Area
4/8 Wed, 10:00 AM	Get Outdoors What's Wild?	Conference Center
4/10 Fri, 1:00 PM	Spring Forth Hike	Stilling Basin
4/18 Sat, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Take Pride in Blue Marsh Volunteer Clean-up Day	Visitor Center
4/19 Sun, 10:00 AM	Trail Yoga	Justa Road Access
4/22 Wed, 8:00 AM	Celebrate Earth Day Bird Walk	Visitor Center
4/23 Thu, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
4/24 Fri, 9:00 AM	Squirrel Run Nature Trail Walk	State Hill Boat Launch

May 2015

Date and Time	Event	Location
5/2 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	State Hill Vista
5/6 Wed, 10:00 AM	Get Outdoors Who Lives in a Tree?	Conference Center
5/9 Sat, 12:00 – 5:00 PM	Camping with Cabela's	Kernsville Dam
5/14 Thu, 8:00 AM	Bird Walk	Justa Road Access
5/16 Sat, 10 AM – 2:00 PM	Ready, Set, Wear It! National Safe Boating Week	Dry Brooks Boat Launch
5/17 Sun, 10:00 AM	Trail Yoga	Spring Creek Access
5/21 Thu, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
5/23 Sat, 1:00 PM	Family Fun Day Aqua Charades	Conference Center



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PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Family Fun Day Hiding in Plain Sight, March 7, Saturday, 1:00 P.M., Conference Center: One way wildlife can remain undetected by people is by blending in with their surroundings. This is also called camouflage, a term participants will experience up-close and personal! Activities will include a Camouflage Scavenger Hunt, hide-and-go-seek, and many others. Recommended for all ages, and will be a great family activity. Family Fun Day is sponsored by Blue Marsh Lake and Township of Spring Parks and Recreation.

Geo Caching for Beginners, March 14, Saturday, 10:00 A.M., Dry Brooks Day Use Area, Swim Beach: Join Berks County Parks and Blue Marsh Lake staff along with experienced geo cachers as we navigate a beginner's course on GeoCaching. Learn about the basics of GeoCaching 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 geocachers 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! Please register by March 9 at 610-374-2944.

Bird Walk, March 18, Wednesday, 1:00 P.M., Visitor Center: Get outdoors and get some fresh air. Join birding enthusiast, Joan Silagy, for a birding adventure at Blue Marsh Lake. She will point out birds by their calls, as well as sight. This is a great opportunity to learn some of those tricky bird songs. Dress for the weather, and don't forget those binoculars.

It's a Bluebird Day: March 20, Friday, 7:00 P.M., Conference Center: Join Terry Gerhart of the Pennsylvania Bluebird Society, for a fun and educational program on bluebirds. These fascinating birds are a success story, as their numbers are on the increase. Why? Because of the many bluebird boxes that have been placed throughout the area. And you will have the opportunity to help these beautiful birds, as Terry will have bluebird box kits for all participants. You will be building a bluebird box that you can then install in your yard. Please bring along Phillips head screwdriver or battery drill. There will be a \$10 fee for the kits, which goes towards the Pennsylvania Bluebird Society. Please call 610-376-6337, extension 6546 to register by March 18.

Hike with a Ranger, March 21, Saturday, 10:00 A.M., Visitor Center: Lace up those hiking boots and join us for a hike that will take us to State Hill Boat Launch and back. We will follow the multi-use trail, as well as a trail that parallels the Tulpehocken Creek as we make our way to State Hill. Our return trip will take us along the lake shoreline, as it will still be at winter pool. The distance of this hike is approximately 5 miles.

Trail Yoga, March 22, Sunday, 10:00 A.M., Stilling Basin: Just Breathe Yoga invites you to jump on a path with this NEW DONATION ONLY program, benefiting the local Girls On the Run. This unique program, led by a certified Yoga instructor, will begin each designated hike with some warming Yoga stretches and moves. During the hike the group will stop in a scenic location to incorporate standing strength and centering poses. Each hike will end with stretching moves and a brief breathing exercise to seal in this invigorating start to your day.

Stroll with a Ranger, March 25, Wednesday, 10:00 A.M., Swiftwater Access: Join Township of Spring Parks and Recreation and Blue Marsh Lake staff for a stroll along the Union Canal Connector Trail. Our "strolling" programs are a bit milder than the Hike with a Ranger outing. Anyone is welcome to join us as we walk along the Connector Trail. This trail is also compatible for moms and dads who want to take their young children for a walk, as strollers can be used as well. We will discuss recreation opportunities in the area, as well as local history and anything else you want to talk about.

Control Tower Tours, March 26, April 23 and May 21, Thursday, 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 numerous steps you can go as far as the control room (about 20 steps).

Hike with Cabela's, April 4, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Day Use Area: Celebrate spring and join Jeff Hartman, from Cabela's, for a hike on the Foxtrot Hiking Loop and the multi-use trail. As we walk we will learn about the many facets of hiking first-hand, and he will be offering a lot of great tips. Jeff will have a variety of camping and hiking equipment along that he will be demonstrating. But it does not end there, as he will also be

demonstrating trail cooking. Yes, there will be food involved, and taste-testing! Wear comfortable shoes. We will meet in Parking Lot d. Length of the hike will be about 3 – 4 miles.

Hands On Nature What's Wild, April 8, Wednesday, 10:00 AM, Conference Center: This program will help children understand the difference between tame and wild animals. We will read some stories, take an animal walk, and do some arts and craft projects. And there might even be a treat for all participants at the end of the program! Children may want to bring along a journal or notebook to write in. We will be both indoors and outdoors.

Spring Forth Hike, April 10, Friday, 1:00 PM, Stilling Basin: There is no better way to celebrate the arrival of spring than to go for a hike at Blue Marsh Lake. We will look for wildflowers, birds and other critters as we walk along the trails. Our route will take us along the multi-use trail for about 1 ½ miles, and then we will return via a scenic trail along the Tulpehocken Creek. This trail is great for birding and wildflowers, so bring your camera and binoculars! Length of hike will be approximately three miles.

Take Pride in Blue Marsh Lake Volunteer Day, April 18, Saturday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Visitor Center: 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.

Trail Yoga, April 19, Sunday, 10:00 A.M., Justa Road: Just Breathe Yoga invites you to jump on a path with this NEW DONATION ONLY program, benefiting the local Girls On the Run. This unique program, led by a certified Yoga instructor, will begin each designated hike with some warming Yoga stretches and moves. During the hike the group will stop in a scenic location to incorporate standing strength and centering poses. Each hike will end with stretching moves and a brief breathing exercise to seal in this invigorating start to your day.

Celebrate Earth Day Bird Walk, April 22, Wednesday, 8:00 AM, Visitor Center: Celebrate Earth Day by joining local naturalist and birding expert Joan Silagy for a guided bird walk at Blue Marsh Lake. She can identify birds by song as well as appearance. You will learn much from Joan! Many of the migratory species should be arriving back in the area, which means you have the opportunity to see a great variety of birds. Bring along your binoculars. Walking should be relatively easy. Allow two hours for this program.

Squirrel Run Nature Trail Walk, April 24, Friday, 9:00 AM, State Hill Boat Launch: Squirrel Run Nature Trail was Blue Marsh Lake's first nature trail. The trail parallels a stream and the woodlands are filled with beautiful spring wildflowers and tulip, maple and ash trees. We will then cross the stream, and follow a ridge the passes through mixed oak and hickory forest. This area is also an excellent area for bird watching. Bring along your camera and binoculars. Length of walk is just over a mile.

Hike with a Ranger, May 2, Saturday, 10:00 AM, State Hill Boat Launch Vista: We will be meeting at the State Hill Vista, and will relocate by car to the Justa Road Access Area for our hike. Our hike will take us along old paved roadways and our multi-use trail. There will be views of the lake, and opportunities to see spring wildflowers, as well as a variety of critters! The length of the hike will be approximately 3 – 4 miles.

Get Outdoors Who Lives in a Tree? May 6, Wednesday, 10:00 – 11:30 am, Conference Center: Trees are home to many different animals. Participants will discover who and what lives in trees through a variety of fun activities that will be both indoors and outdoors. This session will also include a walk outdoors to see if we can find out just who lives in the trees! This program is recommended for home school students.

Camping with Cabela's, May 9, Saturday, 1:00 – 5:00 pm, Kernsville De-Silting Basin, Hamburg: Have you ever thought about going on a camping trip, but weren't sure how to get started? Well, this event has just what you need. Cabela's will be on hand to help you get ready for your outdoor adventure – no experience necessary! You can learn what gear is essential, how to set up a tent, discover places to go camping, and pick up campfire cooking techniques. There may even be some tasting involved – yum! Discover some fun activities you can do while camping, like archery, birding, geocaching, casting skills and more! Learn about some outdoor recreation adventures like orienteering, paddling, mountain biking, star-watching, and places to go hiking. Refreshments will be available. This is a fabulously fun FREE event for all ages! This event is presented by Cabela's, Blue Mountain Wildlife Inc., and Berks County Parks and Recreation Department. Call 310-374-2944 for additional information.

Bird Walk, May 14, Thursday, 8:00 am, Justa Road Access: Many of the migratory birds should be back in the area which means there birding opportunities! And who better to identify those birds than birding expert Joan Silagy. Join Joan for this walk that will follow old paved roadways through Pennsylvania State Gamelands and Blue Marsh property. There is a great variety of habitats in this area that should result in some great bird sightings! Don't forget your binoculars! If you need directions, please call 610-376-6337, extension 6546.

Ready, Set, Wear It! National Safe Boating Week Kick-off, May 16, Saturday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Dry Brooks Boat Launch: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Coast Guard Auxiliary will be celebrating the start of National Safe Boating Week with Boat Safety Checks and tips on how to safely navigate Blue Marsh Lake. But the fun part is yet to come. Lifejackets can and have saved lives of many boaters. We are partnering with the National Safe Boating Council to try to set a new world record in persons wearing lifejackets on May 16. All water-recreation lovers bring your lifejackets and join us at the Dry Brooks Boat Launch boat beach at 2:00 pm to be part of the "Ready, Set, Wear It!" world record attempt. We will be registering all participants and documenting the moment with photos! Join us and help us break the world record!

Trail Yoga, May 17, Sunday, 10:00 A.M., Spring Creek Access: Just Breathe Yoga invites you to jump on a path with this NEW DONATION ONLY program, benefiting the local Girls On the Run. This unique program, led by a certified Yoga instructor, will begin each designated hike with some warming Yoga stretches and moves. During the hike the group will stop in a scenic location to incorporate standing strength and centering poses. Each hike will end with stretching moves and a brief breathing exercise to seal in this invigorating start to your day.

Family Fun Day Aqua Charades, May 23, Saturday, 1:00 pm, Conference Center: Explore the importance of water for people, animals and plants through games, songs and other activities. Our wild wonderful words for this session are water, aquatic and recreation. We will learn what floats like a boat, and look at many of the different uses of water. Safety around water will also be a focus of this program. All you need is your sense of adventure!