



Blue Marsh Lake Program Schedule



March 2014

Date and Time	Event	Location
3/8 Sat, 1:00 PM	Family Fun Day Winter Wildlife Trek Pre-register 610-374-2944	Berks County Parks Heritage Center
3/12 Wed, 1:00 PM	Bird Walk	Visitor Center
3/13 Thu, 7:00 PM	Do's & Don'ts of Bluebirding	Conference Center
3/15 Sat, 9:00 AM	Volunteer Project Day Pre-register 610-376-6337	Visitor Center
3/20 Thu, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
3/22 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hike With a Ranger	State Hill Boat Launch

April

Date and Time	Event	Location
4/5 Sat, 1:00 PM	Family Fun Day Teddy Bear Walk	Dry Brooks Day Use Area Great Oak Nature Trail
4/13 Sun, 10:00 AM	Trail Yoga	Dry Brooks Day Use Area Parking Lot Lower "F"
4/16 Wed, 1:00 PM	Bird Walk	Visitor Center
4/17 Thu, 10:00 AM	Spring Forth Wildflower Hike	Stilling Basin
4/19 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Stilling Basin
4/24 Thu, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
4/26 Sat, 9:00 AM	Take Pride in Blue Marsh Volunteer Weekend Pre-register 610-376-6337	Visitor Center
4/30 Wed, 6:00 PM	Paddle Blue Marsh Lake	Church Road Access

May

Date and Time	Event	Location
5/3 Sat, 1:00 PM	Family Fun Day Hide-and-Go-Seek	Conference Center
5/6 Tue, 10:00 AM	Home School Field Day Knee Deep in Plants	Conference Center
5/7 Wed, 7:30 AM	Bird Walk	Church Road Access
5/9 Fri, 2:00 PM	Wildlife Kayak Pre-register 610-376-6337	Peacock Road Access
5/10 Sat, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
5/14 Wed, 10:00 AM	Wee Ones Program Let's Get Outdoors!	Conference Center
5/17 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hiking 101 With Cabela's	Church Road Access
5/24 Sat, 8:00 AM	Paddle Blue Marsh Lake	Church Road Access



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PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Family Fun Day Winter Wildlife Trek: March 8, Saturday, 1:00 p.m., meet at the Berks County Parks Heritage Center: Bring your binoculars and cross-country skis or hiking boots if there is not enough snow for skiing. With just a couple of weeks of winter left, learn about what wildlife has been doing to survive the cold. We will look for signs of wildlife and see what birds call the area home in winter. Join Berks County Parks and Blue Marsh Lake staff for a cross-country ski outing on the Union Canal Trail. This is for all levels of skiers, with a nice flat trail perfect for cross-country skiing. Cross-country ski kits can be rented at Buckman's Ski Shop (301 E. Bellevue Avenue), or you can bring your own. Call 610-374-2944 by March 3 to register.

Bird Walk: March 12 & April 16, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m., meet at the Visitor Center: 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.

Do's and Don'ts of Bluebirding: March 13, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. at the Conference Center: Bluebirds are a beautiful bird that at one time was in danger of disappearing from Berks County. Luckily, through the placement of bluebird boxes and educating people about this cavity-nesting bird, their numbers have been recovering. Join Terry Gerhart, Berks County Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Bluebird Society, as he discusses how we can attract bluebirds to our yards. He is a wealth of information, and will provide you with much information on how to properly attract and keep bluebirds in your area.

Volunteer Project Day: March 15, Saturday, 9:00 a.m., meet at the Visitor Center: Volunteers needed for a variety of projects, including trail work, litter pick-up and natural resource management projects. Pre-registration required. Call 610-376-6337 to register.

Control Tower Tour: March 20, April 24, Thursday, 10:00 a.m., meet at the 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 10 steps).

Hike with a Ranger: March 22, Saturday, 10:00 a.m., meet at State Hill Boat Launch: Celebrate the arrival of spring! Put those hiking shoes on and join us for a three-five mile hike. We will start at the State Hill Boat Launch and wind our way along trails and the lake shoreline.

Family Fun Day Teddy Bear Hike: April 5, Saturday, 1:00 p.m., Great Oak Nature Trail, Dry Brooks Day Use Area - Calling all children (and the young at heart)! Bring your teddy bear (or other stuffed toy) for a hike and bear-related games while enjoying the great outdoors at Blue Marsh Lake. After our walk, we will learn about Pennsylvania's black bears with a fun craft.

Trail Yoga: April 13, Sunday, 10:00 a.m., Dry Brooks Day Use Area, Swim Beach Area – Just Breathe Yoga invites you to jump on a path with this NEW DONATION ONLY program, benefiting the local Olivet's Boy's and Girl's Club. 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.

Wildflower Walk: April 17, Thursday, 10:00 a.m., Stilling Basin - Spring has sprung! The leaves are budding on the trees, and the wildflowers are blooming. Join us as we stroll through fields and forests in search of a variety of plant and animal life. The walk will be approximately 1.5 miles in length, with few hills. Bring along binoculars and your sense of adventure.

Hike with a Ranger: April 19, Saturday, 10:00 a.m., Stilling Basin – Celebrate spring by joining us for a three-mile hike at Blue Marsh Lake. During the hike we will be keeping our ears and eyes open for any neat nature discoveries along the way. We will be following the hiking trail as well as a nice trail that runs parallel to the Tulpehocken Creek as we clear our heads of all of that winter weather!

Take Pride in Blue Marsh Volunteer Clean-up Day: April 26, Saturday – Become stewards of our public lands by volunteering for one of the numerous work projects occurring at this spring clean-up day. Groups and individuals are welcome. Call for additional information or to register at 610-376-6337.

Paddle Blue Marsh Lake: April 30, Wednesday, 6:00 pm, Church Road Access, 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 Hide-and-Go-Seek: May 3, Saturday, 1:00 p.m., Conference Center: 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.

Home School Field Day Knee Deep in Plants: May 6, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m., Conference Center, This fun and exciting program will include numerous hands-on activities that focus on plants. Participants will have a chance to “Be a Tree,” act out a “Forest Food Web” and dissect a flower. These are just a few of the activities we will do during this morning workshop. Don’t miss this program! Please pre-register by May 2.

Bird Walk: May 7, Wednesday, 7:30 a.m., Church Road Access, The birds are most active in the early morning hours and the evening hours in mid-Spring. So rise and shine and make your way to Church Road Access to join birding expert and naturalist Joan Silagy for an informative birding adventure. Joan will guide you along trails and roadways in search of a variety of birds. Walking should be easy with few hills. Don’t forget those binoculars!

Wildlife Paddle: May 9, Friday, 2:00 p.m., Peacock Road Access, Grab your paddles, life jackets, binoculars, cameras and canoe/kayak and join the Berks County Parks and Blue Marsh Lake staff for a flat-water paddle on Blue Marsh Lake. You will head out from Peacock Road in search of wildlife, both on land and in the water. This should be an excellent outing. All participants must provide your own canoe or kayak, and you are required to wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket when on the water. Please pre-register by May 2.

Control Tower Tour: May 10, 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 10 steps).

Wee Ones Program Let’s Get Outdoors: May 14, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m., Conference Center, This program is designed for all you Moms and Dads who are looking for something to do with your pre-school age children. We will meet at the Conference Center, and weather permitting, will spend most of the time exploring the great outdoors. We will hunt for treasures among the trees, play animal games and learn how animals travel from place-to-place. This will be a fun adventure for both parents and children.

Hiking 101 with Cabela’s: May 17, Saturday, 10:00 a.m., Church Road Access, Interested in going hiking but not sure what kind of gear you need? This is the program for you. Jeff Hartman, Camping Lead at Cabela’s, will be here to take you through the steps of how to have a fun and successful hike. He will have a variety of camping and hiking gear for you to see, and might even have some delectable food for you to try. We will be going for a short hiking excursion as part of this program.

Paddle Blue Marsh Lake: May 24, Saturday, 8:00 a.m., Church Road Access, 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.