



Blue Marsh Lake Program Schedule



October 2014

Date and Time	Event	Location
10/4 Sat, 1:00 PM	Take Your Kid Mountain Biking Day	Church Road Access
10/11 Sat, 1:00 PM	Family Fun Day Hike with a Ranger	Visitor Center
10/15 Wed, 1:00 PM	Bird Walk	Visitor Center
10/18 Sat, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
10/18 Sat, 1:00 PM	Peacock Road Float	Peacock Road Pre-register 610-376-6337
10/18 Sat, 6:45 PM	Star Watch	Church Road Access
10/19 Sun, 10:00 AM	Trail Yoga	Visitor Center
10/22 Wed, 10:00 AM	Stroll with a Ranger	Swiftwater Access
10/25 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Visitor Center

November

Date and Time	Event	Location
11/1 Sat, 1:00 PM	Family Fun Day Look Up, Look Down, Look All Around	Conference Center
11/12 Wed, 1:00 PM	Bird Walk	Visitor Center
11/13 Thur, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
11/15 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Visitor Center
11/19 Wed, 10:00 AM	Stroll with a Ranger	Swiftwater Access

December

Date and Time	Event	Location
12/10 Wed, 1:00 PM	Bird Walk	Visitor Center
12/11 Thur, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
12/13 Sat, 10:00 AM	Family Fun Day Nature's Decorations	Conference Center
12/17/Wed, 10:00 AM	Stroll with a Ranger	Stilling Basin, Gravel Parking Lot
12/27 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Visitor Center

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Philadelphia District

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Take Your Kid Mountain Biking Day: October 4, Saturday, 1:00 P.M., Church Road Access: Enjoy the fall scenery by biking around Blue Marsh Lake. Bring your mountain bike and helmet. This event will be led by members of the Berks Area Mountain Biking Association (BAMBA), who have partnered with the Berks County Parks and Blue Marsh Lake. Thank you BAMBA! Pre-register by calling 610-374-2944.

Family Fun Day Hike with a Ranger: October 11, Saturday, 10:00 A.M., Visitor Center: Enjoy the great outdoors by joining the ranger staff for a three-mile hike that will start out from the Visitor Center. We will hike portions of the multi-use trails as well as two different nature trails. We will encounter some hills on this hike, as well as great scenery and wildlife.

Bird Walk: October 15, Wednesday, 1:00 A.M., 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.

Control Tower Tour: October 18, 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 numerous steps you can go as far as the control room (about 20 steps).

Peacock Road Float: October 18, Saturday, 1:00 P.M., Peacock Road: The fall season is a great time to explore the lake via canoe or kayak. The leaf colors should be great, and you will have excellent opportunities to see wildlife, especially birds. You never know just what we’ll meet up with, but it’s sure to be a relaxing treat! We will launch our kayaks and canoes at the Peacock Road Access and wind our way down the creek to a serene area of the lake where we will paddle around a secluded cove observing the many sites of fall. Water safety and local history will be discussed before we launch. Bring your own life jacket and boat, and don’t forget your binoculars! For all levels of paddlers, limited to 20 boaters. Free program, registration required by October 16. Call 610-376-6337 to register.

Star Watch: October 18, Saturday, 6:45 P.M., Church Road Access: We will start with a short talk, but when the skies darken we will move to the telescopes to view the night skies. Telescopes will be provided. The program is being provided by the Berks County Amateur Astronomical Society. Rain or clouds cancel.

Trail Yoga: October 19, Sunday, 10:00 A.M., Visitor Center: Just Breathe Yoga invites you to jump on a path with this NEW DONATION ONLY program, benefiting the local Girls on the Run of Berks County. 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: October 22, Wednesday, 10:00 A.M., Swiftwater Access: This stroller-friendly walk will follow the Union Canal Connector Trail. The trail is gravel in consistence, and has some small hills. It is easy walking, and passes through a variety of habitats. We will walk through areas that are significant to our local history, as the trail also runs parallel to the old Union Canal. Leashed dogs are also welcome.

Hike with a Ranger: October 25, Saturday, 10:00 A.M., Visitor Center: Lace up those hiking boots and meet at the Visitor Center for a 3 – 4 mile hike on area trails. This time around we will follow the hiking trail to the Stilling Basin, and will continue on the Union Canal Connector Trail. We will keep our eyes open for wildlife as we walk along the trail. Our walking discussion will include information on Blue Marsh, as well as local history.

Family Fun Day Look Up, Look Down, Look All Around: November 1, 1:00 P.M., Conference Center: Needed - spies and detectives to help solve some Blue Marsh mysteries. Where are all of the animals? What happened to the leaves? It is time to sleuth, and discover the mystery of fall at Blue Marsh Lake. Who sleeps away the winter months, and who heads south to warmer climates? We will answer these and many more questions through our fun investigations and games.

Bird Walk: November 12, Wednesday, 1:00 P.M., Visitor Center: Don’t let some cool temperatures keep you indoors. Join birding expert and naturalist Joan Silagy as she guides you along trails and roadways in search of birds. Walking should be easy with few hills. Don’t forget your binoculars!

Control Tower Tour: November 13, 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 a Ranger: November 15, Saturday, 10:00 A.M., Visitor Center: The fall is a great time to take a hike. There are no bugs to deal with or spider webs to walk through, and the temperatures are a lot more pleasant for hiking. We will start at the Visitor Center, and head toward the Day Use Area. Our route will follow the multi-use trail as well as two of our nature trails. As we walk we will keep our eyes and ears open for birds and other wildlife.

Stroll with a Ranger: November 19, Wednesday, 10:00 A.M., Swiftwater Access: Join us for a stroll along the Union Canal Connector Trail, which is “stroller friendly.” There are few hills along this gravel – covered trail, which at times, parallels the Tulpehocken Creek. So get outdoors, get a bit of a workout, and enjoy the scenery along the way. Leashed dogs are also welcome.

Bird Walk: December 10, Wednesday, 1:00 P.M., Visitor Center: A little cool weather does not stop birding expert Joan Silagy from getting outdoors to enjoy her feathered friends – and neither should you! Get those binoculars and head to the Visitor Center for a guided bird walk led by Joan. She knows all the birding hot spots at the lake!

Control Tower Tour: December 11, 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).

Family Fun Day Nature’s Decorations: December 13, Saturday, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M., Conference Center: A variety of natural materials can be used to make creative decorations. Wreaths, bird feeders, and decorations for trees are some of the ornaments we might create at this workshop. Join us for this fun and creative session. All materials will be supplied.

Stroll with a Ranger: December 17, Wednesday, 10:00 A.M., Stilling Basin (gravel lot): Get outdoors and join us for a leisurely stroll along the Union Canal Connector Trail. We will start our journey at the gravel parking lot at the Stilling Basin. This section of trail has some rolling hills, and parallels forests and fields. We should have some bird watching opportunities along the way. Make sure you dress for the weather, especially if it is breezy. This section of trails is also great for strollers.

Hike with a Ranger: December 27, Saturday, 10:00 A.M., Visitor Center: Welcome winter by joining us for a 3-4 mile hike. Our route will take us along the multi-use trail into the Day Use Area. From there we will walk a portion of Great Oak Nature Trail and our Sensory Trail. We will then hike down to the lake shoreline and follow it back to Dry Brooks Boat Launch, where we will pick up the hiking trail back to the Visitor Center. And all in one morning! Join us for a fun walk where you can enjoy conversation with fellow hikers.