



# What's Happening at Blue Marsh Lake?

USACE

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## Get Outdoors at Blue Marsh Lake

Spring is a busy season at Blue Marsh Lake. Take Pride in Blue Marsh Volunteer Clean-up was on Saturday April 20. Over 400 volunteers participated in this year's event. Much was accomplished, including litter pick-up, planting flowers, trail work and olfactory garden work. Late April we starting welcoming students from local schools who are visiting Blue Marsh Lake as part of the Junior Ranger Program. Staff and volunteers have already guided numerous students through the tower, as well as on either Great Oak or Eyes of the Eagle Nature Trails. And there are still several additional field trips scheduled.

In late May we spend a week training our seasonal staff, many of which are new at the job this year. They receive a lot of training in one-weeks time, and from there it is on-the-job training! Especially Memorial Day Weekend.



Park visitation increases significantly once the month of May arrives. The fee program is underway once again. So if you enter one of our three developed areas; Dry Brooks Day Use Area, or Dry Brooks and State Hill Boat Launches a \$3 fee is charged per entering vehicle. The fee program is operated on an honor system up until Memorial Day. Remember to stop at the fee booth, grab an envelope, fill it out, deposit your money in the envelope, tear off the stub and place it on your dashboard, and place the envelope with the money in the honor vault. You also have the option of purchasing an annual permit for \$30. These can be purchased at the Administration Building and Ranger Station, and at the fee booths starting Memorial Day weekend.

Get outdoors at Blue Marsh Lake this spring, and do so safely.

## Recreation Spotlight—Power Boating

Blue Marsh Lake offers over 1,100 acres of boating waters. Because of that, one of the most popular recreation activities at Blue Marsh is motor boating. And there are all size boats, from small john boats, to pontoon and cruiser. There is no restriction on horsepower on the main pool of the lake, but you need to operate your boat at a safe speed for the current conditions.

The lake separates into two “No Wake” arms, which means users should be operating their boats as slow as the operator can, while still maintaining control. Before heading out, please make sure you have your required safety equipment, including Coast Guard approved life jackets for each person on your boat. Other equipment includes a sound producing device, fire extinguisher and your boat registration. Remember, only one water skier can be towed behind your boat at any time, no matter what the device. Be safe!

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**Wagging Tails on the Trail**, May 23, Thursday, 1:00 p.m., Visitor Center  
**Get Outdoors with Cabela's: Hiking & Geo Caching 101**, May 25, Saturday, 9:00 a.m., Church Road Access

**Hike with a Ranger**, June 1, Saturday, 8:00 a.m., Church Road Access

**Float the Tulpehocken**, June 7, Friday, 3:00 p.m., Stilling Basin

**Family Fun Day Tulpehocken Creek Critters**, June 8, Saturday, 10:00 a.m., Stilling Basin

**Blue Marsh Lake's Get Outdoors Day**, June 15, Saturday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Dry Brooks Day Use Area

**Wee Ones Creek Critters**, June 19, Wednesday, 10 a.m., Stilling Basin

**Paddle & Pedal Along the Tulpehocken**, June 21, Friday, 5:00 p.m., Stilling Basin

## Lets Go Fishing

It has been said many times over the years that there are no fish in Blue Marsh Lake. There are many angler who would disagree with that. Blue Marsh can be a tough lake to fish, but with a few tips your success might increase.

Because Blue Marsh is a man made lake, it lacks vegetation on the bottom for cover for the fish. This fact makes you look elsewhere for your trophy fish. Look for sharp changes in depth of the lake to hold fish. You should also look for rock walls or shoals that extend out into the lake. Another popular hiding spot for lunkers is in and around downed timber. Water temperature also has a lot to do with the striking tendencies of fish. Water that is too cold or too warm can lead to fish being sluggish, that's why the spring and fall could be the best time to fish. The next thing to accomplish is to draw out these trophy fish.

Plastic worms of dark color are a popular choice with the tournament anglers to pitch underneath overhanging brush on the shoreline. You should also try crankbaits and topwater lures that resemble baitfish like Alewives. Fish mornings and evenings and remember to vary the retrieve of your lure to mimic live bait.



**A group of Largemouth Bass**

## Meet Volunteer Steve Burkey

Steve Burkey has been a dedicated volunteer since 2009. His passion for birds, specifically the Eastern Bluebird, brought him to Blue Marsh to participate in our nesting structure program. Over the past three years, Steve has conducted many inspections of about 110 Bluebird nest boxes. He inspects the general condition of the boxes, what type of nests were constructed inside, if there were fledglings, and he rids the boxes of mice and insects.

Steve's dedication to the program has him volunteering for about 100 hours per year. At no other time in the nesting structure program have the Bluebird boxes been in better shape. Each damaged or unserviceable box is quickly replaced. In his spare time, Steve is an avid sports fan and he also can be found driving a school bus for the Wilson School District. The Staff at Blue Marsh thanks Steve Burkey for his generosity



**Steve installing new Bluebird nest boxes**

## Volunteer Work Days

Lend a helping hand and participate in a volunteer work day. You can work alongside the staff at Blue Marsh to help keep the park and trails in tip top shape. All of the work days will start at 9 a.m. at the Visitor Center for a briefing of that day's project. After the briefing you will travel to the project site. Pre-registration is required to ensure that a proper project is scheduled for the group participating. If you are interested in signing up please contact Nathan Freiwald or Hallie Groff at 610-376-6337. Hope to see you there.

Saturday, June 22

Saturday, July 13

Saturday, August 10

Saturday, September 7

## Spring Word Search

Biking  
Flowers  
Kayak  
Pollen  
Birds  
Grill  
Outdoor  
Spring  
Fishing  
Hiking  
Picnic  
Sunshine

G	N	I	H	S	I	F	N	G	P	S	Z
N	S	M	B	I	O	E	V	N	I	U	L
C	Q	R	Q	I	L	I	W	I	C	N	L
B	L	O	E	L	K	W	Q	R	N	S	M
X	L	L	O	W	K	I	O	P	I	H	I
H	W	P	I	A	O	U	N	S	C	I	N
C	B	Q	Y	R	T	L	J	G	P	N	V
W	J	A	U	D	G	R	F	C	L	E	L
O	K	I	O	S	D	R	I	B	I	N	K
O	I	O	H	I	K	I	N	G	J	L	C
J	R	R	Q	N	B	V	U	M	F	R	L
S	E	O	K	D	R	R	P	D	X	E	S

## Blue Marsh Lake's Get Outdoors Day

Visit Blue Marsh Lake's Get Outdoors Day on Saturday June 15, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The event is being held at the Dry Brooks Day Use Area, adjacent to the swim beach area. Get Outdoors Day (GO Day) was created to make people aware of all of the recreation opportunities available at Blue Marsh and throughout the region. There will be a variety of presentations and displays available throughout the day. Approximately 40 organizations will be participating in this year's event.

You can get the blood flowing first thing by joining the Pagoda Pacers for a fun run at 10:00 a.m. Then you can get your blood pressure checked at the Reading Health Home Care display! Once the event has officially started at 11:00 a.m. there will be a number of activities in which the public can participate. Take the sensory trail hike at 11:30 a.m., control tower tours at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m., and a lake sojourn for paddle sport enthusiasts will be led by the Keystone Canoe Club. The Let's Move Outside Scavenger Hunt will be occurring throughout the day. Once participants complete the required activities they will be eligible for prize drawings. And try your luck at catching fish by visiting the fishing pond, or stop by for some fly fishing lessons from instructor Edgar Payne. There will be something for everyone, and the event is free. See you on June 15.



## Safety First

Spring brings warm temperatures, which means some of us are anxious to head to the lake to partake in water sports. Please use caution when boating, fishing or swimming in the spring. Many of us tend to overlook some of the most basic water safety practices because all we can think of is getting out on that water. A major concern is the water temperature. Though the air temperature may be in the 70's, the water is still going to be cold, as it has not had enough time to warm up to safe swimming temperatures. Hypothermia is a major concern when exposed to cold water in the spring season. Water cools the body down 25 times faster than air at the same temperature. Dress for the weather, which means you should wear clothing next to your body that will still insulate when wet. Most importantly, wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket.

If you are going boating make sure you have all of the required safety equipment on board. Life jackets need to be ready to wear, and not still in their wrappers. Always make sure you have the correct number of life jackets on board for you and your passengers, and that they are the proper sizes. All personal watercraft operators and passengers must wear their life-jackets at all times, and all water skiers have to wear life jackets as well. All boats must display the required running lights between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility. Wear your life jacket, they float, you don't.

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**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Philadelphia District**

## Spring 2013 Programs

**Wagging Tails on the Trail:** Thursday, May 23, 1:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center Bring your canine friend with you for a walk along the Blue Marsh Lake trail system. Both you and your dog can socialize with other dog lovers, and learn some interesting facts about Blue Marsh. Dogs must be on a leash.

**Get Outdoors with Cabela's: Hiking and Geo Caching 101:** Saturday, May 25, 9:00 a.m. at the Church Road Access. Move outdoors with the staff from Cabela's for an introduction to hiking and geo caching. While hiking Cabela's staff will give you tips on recommended equipment to guarantee a safe and enjoyable outing. You will also learn about geo caching, and will have the opportunity to use GPS units to search for nearby caches. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

**Hike with a Ranger:** Saturday, June 1, 8:00 a.m. at Church Road Access. This hike will be a longer hike, covering approximate 6-7 miles. We will be hiking along narrow trails and dirt lanes, and will be encountering numerous hills. Make sure you have drinking water with you, and a snack, if you wish. Wear comfortable hiking shoes.

**Float the Tulpehocken:** Friday, June 7, 3:00 p.m. at the Stilling Basin. Bring you kayak or canoe for a paddle down the Tulpehocken Creek. We will start at the Stilling Basin, and end at the Red Bridge Picnic Area. Water safety, history and features of the creek will be covered before boats are in the water. The trip is for all levels of paddlers; limited to 15 boaters. Bring your own boat, life jacket and transportation. Coast: \$5 for American Canoe Association event insurance. Pre-registration required—call 610-374-2944 by June 3.

**Family Fun Day Tulpehocken Creek Critters:** Saturday, June 8, 10:00 a.m. at the Stilling Basin. We will be taking a close-up look at how Blue Marsh Lake ties into the habitat downstream of the dam, especially the Tulpehocken Creek. Participants will have the opportunity to get their feet wet as we wade in the shallow areas of the creek in search of water critters. Nets and viewing will be supplied. Wear shoes that you can get wet, as we will be in the creek.

**Blue Marsh Lake's Get Outdoors Day:** Saturday June 15, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Dry Brooks Day Use Area. Free event.