



# Blue Marsh Lake Program Schedule



## April

| Date and Time                   | Event   | Location                                   |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 4/6 Sat, 10:00 A.M.             | Hike Tulpehocken Creek Valley Geo Trail                                     | Visitor Center                             |
| 4/12 Fri, 9:30 A.M.             | Wildflower Walk   | Stilling Basin                             |
| 4/17 Wed, 10:00 A.M.            | Wee Ones Spring Colors Scavenger Hunt                                       | Lakeview Pavilion, Dry Brooks Day Use Area |
| 4/20 Sat, 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. | Take Pride in Blue Marsh Volunteer Clean-up<br><b>Register 610-376-6337</b> | Visitor Center & Dry Brooks Day Use Area   |
| 4/24 Wed, 6:00 P.M.             | Paddle Blue Marsh Lake Clean-up Cruise                                      | Church Road Access                         |
| 4/30 Tue, 9:30 A.M.             | Home School Field Day Bountiful Birds                                       | Conference Center                          |

## May

| Date and Time        | Event  | Location                                       |
|----------------------|--|--|
| 5/4 Sat, 8:00 A.M.   | Hike with a Ranger                                   | State Hill Boat Launch                         |
| 5/8 Wed, 7:30 A.M.   | Bird Walk  | Church Road Access                             |
| 5/11 Sat, 10:00 A.M. | Control Tower Tour                                   | Visitor Center                                 |
| 5/15 Wed, 10:00 A.M. | Wee Ones Teddy Bear Walk                             | Connector Trail Access                         |
| 5/16 Thu, 6:00 P.M.  | Paddle Blue Marsh Lake                               | Church Road Access                             |
| 5/18 Sat, 10:00 A.M. | Family Fun Day Teddy Bear Hike                       | Great Oak Nature Trail Dry Brooks Day Use Area |
| 5/19 Sun, 10:00 A.M. | Mountain Bike Know How                               | Stilling Basin                                 |
| 5/23 Thu, 1:00 P.M.  | Wagging Tails on the Trail                           | Visitor Center                                 |
| 5/25 Sat, 9:00 A.M.  | Get Outdoors with Cabela's: Hiking & Geo Caching 101 | Church Road Access                             |

## June

| Date and Time                    | Event  | Location                           |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 6/1 Sat, 8:00 A.M.               | Hike with a Ranger   | Church Road Access                 |
| 6/7 Fri, 3:00 P.M.               | Float the Tulpehocken<br><b>Pre-Register 610-374-2944</b>                | Stilling Basin                     |
| 6/8 Sat, 10:00 A.M.              | Family Fun Day Tulpehocken Creek Critters                                | Stilling Basin                     |
| 6/15 Sat, 11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. | Blue Marsh Lake's Get Outdoors Day                                       | Dry Brooks Day Use Area            |
| 6/19 Wed, 10:00 A.M.             | Wee Ones Creek Critters  | Stilling Basin                     |
| 6/21 Fri, 5:00 P.M.              | Paddle & Pedal Along the Tulpehocken<br><b>Pre-Register 610-488-1900</b> | Stilling Basin                     |
| 6/22 Sat, 2:00 P.M.              | Bobber the Water Safety Dog Beach-side Safety Tips                       | Dry Brooks Day Use Area Swim Beach |
| 6/23 Sun, 10:00 A.M.             | Boat Safety Checks   | Dry Brooks Boat Launch             |



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## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

**Bird Walk, May 8:** 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.

**Blue Marsh Lake's Get Outdoors Day, June 15:** Enjoy a day of fun in the sun at this annual event. The event includes land and water based activities. There will be games, displays, presentations, a fun run, geo caching, a fish pond, kayaking and paddle boarding, nature trail walks, trail hikes, and guided bike rides throughout the day. Stop on by and meet Smokey the Bear and Bobber the Water Safety Dog! There will be no admission charged on June 15.

**Boat Safety Checks, June 23:** First time boating at Blue Marsh Lake? This is the program for you! Ranger staff will be meeting with boaters as they prepare to launch their boats into the lake. They will be checking to make sure you have all the required equipment, and answering questions concerning boating on Blue Marsh Lake. Informational handouts will also be available.

**Bobber the Water Safety Dog, June 22:** Bobber the Water Safety Dog wants to make sure everyone stays safe when recreating in or around the water. Join Bobber for a fun-filled program on how to be safe around the water. Activity books will be handed out at these sessions.

**Control Tower Tour, May 11:** 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).

**Family Fun Day Teddy Bear Hike, May 18:** 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.

**Family Fun Day Tulpehocken Creek Critters, June 8:** This program promises to be packed with fun for the whole family. 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 jars will be supplied.

**Float the Tulpehocken, June 7:** Bring your kayak or canoe for a paddle down the Tulpehocken Creek. Start - Stilling Basin & end at the Red Bridge Picnic Area. For all levels of paddlers; limit 15 boaters. Bring your own boat, life jacket and transportation. Cost: \$5 for American Canoe Association event insurance. Pre-registration required – call 610-374-2944 by June 3.

**Get Outdoors with Cabela's: Hiking & Geo Caching 101, May 25:** 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 Tulpehocken Creek Valley Geo Trail, April 6:** Join us for a mini-tour of the Tulpehocken Creek Valley Geo Trail, and improve your geocaching skills. Geocaching is a fun hobby to add to your hiking adventures. You will learn how Blue Marsh Lake is connected to the Berks County Parks by finding caches along the canal. A brief overview of Blue Marsh Lake and some interesting historical facts about Berks County heritage will be discussed. You will be walking, so wear comfortable shoes.

**Hike with a Ranger:** Join the ranger staff on a monthly hike along the trail system at Blue Marsh Lake. Wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water to drink. All of these hikes will start at 8:00 a.m. to beat the heat of the day. The May 4 hike will start at State Hill Boat Ramp, and will be 1-3 miles in length. For those of you who wish to hike a greater distance, we will be offering a five mile hike on June 1. Meet at Church Road Access at 8:00 a.m.

**Home School Field Day, Bountiful Birds, April 30:** We will learn about the parts of a bird and bird migration. Your child will have the opportunity to learn to use binoculars, a spotting scope, and a field guide. Understand why birds sing. We'll go outdoors and identify as many birds as we can by sight and by song.

**Mountain Bike Know How, May 19:** Join members of Berks Area Mountain Biking Association (BAMBA) and park staff for a fun, informative workshop covering mountain bike maintenance and essential equipment for any ride. Learn how to repair a punctured tire, what clothing to wear, what equipment to bring along on a ride, how to change gears effectively and so much more! After the program, we will put our newly learned skills to the test with an easy five mile ride to the State Hill Boat Ramp and back to the Visitor Center. Please bring your mountain bike and helmet if you plan on participating in the ride. Program and bike ride is for all ages and abilities.

**Paddle Blue Marsh, May 16:** 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.

**Paddle Blue Marsh Clean-up Cruise, April 24:** Kayak expert, Volunteer “Doc” Schoch will lead this paddling expedition on Blue Marsh Lake. Doc is a wealth of information when it comes to anything outdoors, so prepare to learn some interesting facts about the area. While paddling, you will also be picking up trash at areas that are hard to reach by foot, so you also have the opportunity to learn to be great stewards of your public land. Participants must provide their own equipment, and are required to wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket.

**Paddle & Pedal along the Tulpehocken Creek, June 21 (rain date June 28):** Can’t decide how best to experience the Tulpehocken Creek’s natural scenic beauty this summer? Join 3D Outdoor Rental and Parks staff for a double dose of outdoor recreational fun as we kayak AND bike along the Tulpehocken Creek. Starting at the Blue Marsh Lake Stilling Basin, we will paddle the creek to the county’s iconic Red Bridge. After we pull out by the picnic area, we’ll take a break for an energizing snack and a tour of the C. Howard Hiester Canal Museum. Then we’ll hop on our bikes and pedal back to the Stilling Basin via the Union Canal Towpath Trail to return to our starting point, approximately 8 miles round-trip.

The trip is limited to 15 boaters. Kayaks and bikes can be reserved through 3D Outdoor Rental, or you can bring your own. Cost: \$40, which includes kayak and bike rental from 3D Outdoor Rental and American Canoe Association insurance. Pre-registration with payment required to 3D Outdoor Rental, 610-488-1900 by June 17.

**Take Pride in Blue Marsh, April 20:** 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 more information.

**Wagging Tails on the Trails, May 23:** Bring your dog with you for a walk along the Blue Marsh Lake trails. You can socialize with other dog lovers, and learn interesting facts about Blue Marsh. There will be opportunities for your dog to go for a swim! Don’t forget water for both of you, and dogs must be on a leash.

**Wee Ones Spring Colors Scavenger Hunt, April 17:** It is time to move outdoors and enjoy the spring season. Buds are popping out on the trees, and the wildflowers are starting to bloom. The warmer weather means there will be a lot more colors in the fields and forests surrounding Blue Marsh Lake. We will take a walk in the Dry Brooks Day Use Area, and discover how many different colors we can find. This session will end with our budding little artists showing off their artistic skills!

**Wee Ones Teddy Bear Trot, May 15:** Calling all children! Bring your teddy bear (or other stuffed toy) for a walk 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.

**Wee Ones Creek Critters, June 19:** Did you ever wonder what kinds of animals live in creeks? Join us for a fun and educational program on the critters that live in the Tulpehocken Creek downstream of the dam. We will take a look at some of the birds, fish, frogs and other critters that love the water. Bring along a pair of shoes that you can get wet, because we will be wading in the Tulpehocken in search of creek critters. Nets and viewing jars will be available to help you experience Tulpehocken Creek critters up-close and personal!

**Wildflower Walk, April 12:** Spring has sprung, and the wildflowers are blooming. We will start our walk at the Stilling Basin, and will follow the Multi-use hiking trail for about one mile. Our return trip will be along an awesome trail following the Tulpehocken Creek that is teeming with spring wildflowers, as well as a variety of birds. Bring along your camera and binoculars! The walk will be 1.5 miles in length, with few hills.