



Blue Marsh Lake Program Schedule



August 2014

Date and Time	Event	Location
8/13 Wed, 10:00 AM	Wee Ones Trail Hike	Swiftwater Access
8/14 Thu, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
8/16 Sat, 10:00 AM	Family Fun Day Tulpehocken Creek Critters	Stilling Basin
8/23 Sat, 8:00 AM	Paddle Blue Marsh	Church Road Access
8/23 Sat, 8:30 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Church Road Access
8/24 Sun, 10:00 AM	Trail Yoga	Spring Creek Access
8/29 Fri, 7:30 PM	Night Hike	State Hill Boat Launch Squirrel Run Nature Trail

September

Date and Time	Event	Location
9/11 Thu, 6:00 PM	Paddle Blue Marsh	Church Road Access
9/13 Sat, 1:00 PM	Family Fun Day Hiking 101	Conference Center
9/14 Sun, 10:00 AM	Trail Yoga	Justa Road
9/17 Wed, 9:00 AM	Hawk Watch	State Hill Boat Launch Vista
9/20 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	State Hill Boat Launch Vista
9/27 Sat, 8:30 AM 9:00 – 11:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:30 AM 1:30 PM	National Public Lands Day Volunteer Work Day Geo Caching Event Control Tower Tour Hike with a Ranger Fall Float on Blue Marsh Lake Pre-registration needed for Fall Float	Visitor Center Visitor Center Visitor Center Visitor Center Visitor Center Church Road Access Pre-register 610-376-6337

October

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

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Wee Ones Trail Walk: August 13, Wednesday, 10:00 A.M., Swiftwater Access: Mom and dad, are you looking for something to do with your young children? Here is a great family activity for you! We will walk the Union Canal Connector Trail for a short distance, and see what neat things we can discover along the way. This trail runs parallel to the old Union Canal and the Tulpehocken Creek, and accommodates strollers.

Control Tower Tour: August 14, 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 the steps you can go as far as the control room (about 20 steps).

Family Fun Day Tulpehocken Creek Critters: August 16, Saturday, 10:00 A.M., Stilling Basin: - 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!

Paddle Blue Marsh Lake: August 23, 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.

Hike with a Ranger: August 23, Saturday, 8:30 A.M., Church Road Access: Lace up those hiking boots and come on out to Church Road Access for a scenic hike along the multi-use trail and Skinner’s Loops. Today’s route will pass through fields and forests as we make our way along the trails. The length of the hike will be approximately five-miles.

Trail Yoga: August 24, Sunday, 10:00 AM, 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 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.

Night Hike: August 29, Friday, 7:30 P.M., Squirrel Run Nature Trail, State Hill Boat Launch: Who goes there? Join us for this nighttime adventure along the Squirrel Run Nature Trail as the sun sets, and the nocturnal critters come to life as the skies darken. We will both look and listen for all types of animals along the way. Bring a flashlight for this adventure.

Paddle Blue Marsh: September 11, Thursday, 6:00 P.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.

Family Fun Day Hiking 101: September 13, Saturday, 1:00 A.M., Conference Center: We are all about getting outdoors at Blue Marsh Lake. Hiking opportunities are numerous at the lake. We will discuss equipment, as well as introduce you to the different trails in the area. After our brief discussion, we will head out for a short hike along some of the trails. Wear comfortable shoes for this program.

Trail Yoga: September 14, 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 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.

Hawk Watch: September 17, Wednesday, 9:00 A.M., State Hill Boat Launch Vista: Join birding expert, Joan Silagy, for a hawk watch at the State Hill Boat Ramp overlook off of Brownsville Road. If the conditions are right we may see broad-winged, coopers, sharp-shinned and red-tailed hawks, as well as bald eagles. Make sure you bring your binoculars and chairs or blankets.

Hike with a Ranger: September 20, Saturday, 10:00 A.M., State Hill Boat Launch: September's hiking adventure will take us along dirt and gravel roadways, as well as the multi-use trail. As we hike participants will learn about and witness some of Blue Marsh Lake's history first hand. Our route will pass through PA State Gamelands 280, as well as Blue Marsh Lake property. There are some hills, and the length of the hike will be approximately 3-4 miles.

Home School Field Day – Top Ten Misunderstood Critters: September 24, Wednesday, 10:00 A.M., Conference Center: Did you ever wonder why certain critters live upon the earth? Many of us are scared of spiders, snakes and bats. And of course there are those pesky insects, like bees and mosquitoes. We may not like them all that much, but they do serve a purpose. Learn what these critters are, and why they are so important to us. This session should end around 11:30 am.

National Public Lands Day: September 27, Saturday, 8:30 A.M., Visitor Center: Join us as we celebrate our public lands at Blue Marsh Lake. Work projects will include seedling planting, litter pick-up, trail work and bridge repair. Meet at the Visitor Center at 8:30 a.m. Gloves and necessary equipment will be provided.

National Public Lands Day Geocaching Event The BEST Trail at Blue Marsh #2: September 27, Saturday, 9:00 – 11:00 A.M., Visitor Center: Join us for our fall CITO event, and help put Blue Marsh to bed for the winter. At the Visitor Center we will organize into clean-up crews and venture out to various areas of shoreline and trail sections that need a good "FALL" cleaning. One of these sections will be our area of sponsored trail (see Trail Head coordinates). Please bring items (pruning shears, gloves, etc.) needed to help with the clean-up of our section of the trail.

National Public Lands Day Control Tower Tour: September 27, 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 20 steps).

National Public Lands Day Hike with a Ranger: September 27, Saturday, 10:30 A.M., Visitor Center: Help Blue Marsh Lake celebrate Public Lands Day by taking part in a ranger-guided hike. Our route will include a look at the dam, spillway and outlet works, and then our return trip will take us along the scenic Tulpehocken Creek. Our route will offer some nice vistas of the lake, and will pass through some great birding areas.

National Public Lands Fall Float on Blue Marsh Lake: September 27, Saturday, 1:30 A.M., Church Road Access: What better way to enjoy Public Lands Day than a paddle on Berks County's favorite lake! Bring your kayak or canoe for a paddle on the upper portion of Blue Marsh Lake. We will start and end at the Church Road Access Area. Water safety, history, and features of the lake will be covered before boats are launched. Bring your own boat and life jacket. Pre-registration required by September 22. Please call 610-376-6337 to register.

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 is ponsored by Berks Area Mountain Biking Association. 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 the steps you can go as far as the control room (about 20 steps).

Peacock Road Float: October 18, Saturday, 1:00 A.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 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.

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 pass through areas that are significant to our local history, as the trail also runs parallel to the old Union Canal.