



Blue Marsh Lake Program Schedule



August 2015

Date and Time	Event	Location
8/7 Fri, 5:00 – 8:00 PM	Paddle Boarding for Beginners Pre-Register 610-374-2944	Church Road Access
8/8 Sat, 8:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Church Road Access
8/9 Sun, 10:30 AM	Boat Safety Tips	Dry Brooks Boat Launch
8/12 Wed, 10:00 AM	Get Outdoors Detective	Lakeview Pavilion/Sensory Trail, Day Use Area
8/13 Thu, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
8/14 Fri, 7:30 PM	Night Hike	Squirrel Run Nature Trail State Hill Boat Launch
8/22 Sat, 10:00 AM	Family Fun Day Creek Critters	Stilling Basin

September 2015

Date and Time	Event	Location
9/5 Sat, 8:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Church Road Access
9/9 Wed, 10:00 AM	Get Outdoors Stream Detectives	Stilling Basin
9/12 Sat, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Mentored Youth Hunter Education & Demonstration Day	Hillside Pavilion Dry Brooks Day Use Area
9/16 Wed, 9:00 AM	Hawk Watch	State Hill Boat Launch Vista
9/19 Sat, 12:30 – 3:30 PM	Fly Fishing With Cabela's Pre-Register 610-374-2944	Red Bridge Recreation Area Berks County Parks
9/26 Sat, 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM 9:00 – 11:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM	National Public Lands Day Volunteer Work Day Cache In – Trash Out Hike with a Ranger Control Tower Tour Family Fishing Program	Stilling Basin Stilling Basin Stilling Basin Stilling Basin Visitor Center Stilling Basin



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PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Paddle Boarding for Beginners: August 7, Friday, 5:00 pm, Church Road Access: Come out to Blue Marsh Lake and enjoy one of the fastest growing water sports in the world: paddle boarding. Trained professionals from 3D Outdoor Rentals will teach participants the basics of paddle boarding; such as how to maintain your balance while standing on the board and how to properly and efficiently use the paddles to move. No experience required. A safe and fun workshop for the whole family! The program is split into four sessions: 5:00, 5:45, 6:30 and 7:15 pm, and space is limited to six participants per time slot. Registration is required by August 3; call 610-374-2944.

Hike with a Ranger: August 8, Saturday, 8:00 am, Church Road Access: A Blue Marsh park ranger will guide you on a three- mile walk along the Skinner's Loops. There are some hills along the way. We will talk about the purposes of Blue Marsh Lake; point out interesting plants and animals, as well as interesting features along the way. Bring along a trail snack and water or sports drink. You are also welcome to bring along your binoculars or camera. This will be a leisurely pace, and not a high-speed type of hike.

Boat Safety Tips: August 9, Sunday, 10:30 am, Dry Brooks Boat Launch: Before heading out on the water make sure you are properly equipped and prepared for anything that could possibly occur while on your journey. How can you plan for the unexpected? Well, stop by and find out at this session at Dry Brooks Boat Launch. Hand-outs will be available.

Get Outdoors Detective: August 12, Wednesday, 10:00 am, Lakeview Pavilion/Sensory Trail in the Dry Brooks Day Use Area: Step into the great outdoors and leave all of those electronic devices behind! Discover through your senses what critters live around Blue Marsh Lake. Learn how to identify the many signs that wildlife leave behind telling us that they, too, enjoy Blue Marsh. All you need to bring along for this outing is your sense of adventure!

Control Tower Tour: August 13, Thursday, 10:00 am, Visitor Center: One of the main purposes of Blue Marsh Lake is to lessen flooding downstream along the Schuylkill River. Learn how we are able to accomplish this by coming on this tour. After meeting at the Visitor Center you will stroll out to the dam at which time your guide will tell you some interesting facts about the structure that is responsible for holding back several billion gallons of water to form Blue Marsh Lake. You will then go inside the tower, see the control room, and continue down numerous steps to see the other features of the tower. This tour does involve going down and up numerous steps.

Night Hike: August 14, Friday, 7:30 pm, 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.

Creek Critters: August 22, Saturday, 10:00 AM, 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!

Hike with a Ranger: September 5, Saturday, 8:00 AM, Church Road Access: Lace up your hiking boots and meet at the Church Road Access area for a 3 – 4 mile hike along the hiking trail. We will be heading north on the trail running paralleling PA Route 183. This is one of the few hikes where we will be retracing the route on our return trip. This hike is mostly level, with a few small hills. There will be frequent views of the lake, and hopefully we will have some great wildlife sightings.

Get Outdoors Stream Detectives: September 9, Wednesday, 10:00 AM, Stilling Basin: This fun and educational program will take a look at the variety of animals that live in the Tulpehocken Creek. Come prepared to get your feet wet, as you will be wading in the creek. We will take a look a crayfish, caddis flies, and anything else we can find swimming in the water. Nets and viewing scopes will be supplied. Bring along your journals so you can take notes on what you found. This program is great for children who home school.

Mentored Youth Hunter Education and Demonstration Day: September 12, Saturday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Hillside Pavilion, Dry Brooks Day Use Area: Boys and girls (ages 10 – 16 years) will learn hunting safety, archery, trapping and wildlife identification. Staff from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Cabela's and the Corps of Engineers will be leading the activities. This is limited to 30 youth, and a boxed lunch will be provided. Presented by: U.S.A.C.E. Blue Marsh Lake and the Berks County Parks and Recreation Department. Cost is \$10; Registration with Payment; call 610-374-2944 by September 4.

Hawk Watch: September 16, Wednesday, 9:00 AM, State Hill Boat Launch Vista: It's hawk migration time! Join local birding expert, Joan Silagy, for a hawk watch atop the State Hill Vista. 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. When the hawk watching is slow, you can enjoy the great views of the lake.

Fly Fishing with Cabela's: September 19, Saturday, 12:30 – 3:30 pm, Red Bridge Recreation Area, Berks County Parks: Cabela's is proud to offer this industry-leading course which includes a two-hour introduction to fly fishing, followed by a one-hour introduction to fly rod casting with hands-on training. Members of the Berks Fly Tyers will also be on hand to demonstrate the art of fly tying. Limited to 15 participants. Call 610-374-2944 to register by September 11.

National Public Lands Day: September 26, Saturday, 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM, Stilling Basin: 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 26, 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 26, 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 26, 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 take us along the multi-use hiking trail as well as along the Tulpehocken Creek. We should also have opportunities to see wildlife, so bring along your camera and binoculars. Total mileage will be about three miles.

Family Fishing Program: September 26, Saturday, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM., Stilling Basin: Learn basic fishing skills like knot tying, casting, etc. Your family will have the opportunity to learn and fish together (no fishing license required). Equipment will be provided. Advanced registration required, which can be done so by visiting www.fishandboat.com. This event is free. Call 610-374-2944 for more information.