



# Blue Marsh Lake Program Schedule



January 2015

Date and Time	Event	Location
1/10 Sat, 1:00 PM	Family Fun Day Berks Winter Games Pre-register 610-374-2944 By January 12	Berks County Parks Heritage Center
1/14 Wed, 1:00 PM	Bird Walk	Visitor Center
1/16 Fri, 10:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Visitor Center
1/21 Wed, 10:00 AM	Home School Field Day Wonderful Winter	Conference Center
1/22 Thur, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
1/24 Sat, 1:00 PM	Winter Wonderland Trek the Trails Pre-register 610-374-2944 By January 19	Dry Brooks Day Use Area Swim Beach

February 2015

Date and Time	Event	Location
2/7 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Visitor Center
2/11 Wed, 10:00 AM	Winter Adventure Making Tracks	Conference Center
2/12 Thur, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
2/18 Wed, 1:00 PM	Bird Walk	Visitor Center
2/21 Sat, 1:00 PM	Family Fun Day A Mid-Winter Adventure Pre-register 610-374-2944 By February 16	Dry Brooks Day Use Area Swim Beach Area

March 2015

Date and Time	Event	Location
3/7 Sat, 1:00 PM	Family Fun Day Hiding in Plain Site	Conference Center
3/14 Sat, Time to Be Determined	Geo Caching For Beginners Pre-register 610-374-2944 By March 9	Dry Brooks Day Use Area Swim Beach Area
3/18 Wed, 1:00 PM	Bird Walk	Visitor Center
3/21 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Visitor Center
3/25 Wed, 10:00 AM	Stroll with a Ranger	Swiftwater Access
3/26 Thur, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center

Note: Cross Country Ski Packages and Snowshoes may be rented by contacting Buckman's Ski Shop, Phone Number 610-678-5960.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Philadelphia District

[www.nap.usace.army.mil/Bluemarsh](http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Bluemarsh)

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

**Winter GO Day – Winter Games:** January 10, Saturday, 1:00 P.M., Berks Heritage Center: Get outdoors with the Berks County Parks and Blue Marsh Lake staff for a fabulous day of winter-time games! We'll have tons of fun activities throughout the day, including an introduction to cross country skiing, along with snowshoe relay races, winter wildlife tracking programs and much, much more. Of course, if there is not enough snow for the skiing or snow shoeing we will have alternate activities for your enjoyment. Some snowshoes will be available for trial. Cross country ski gear and snowshoes may be rented at Buckman's Ski Shop (610-678-5960), or you can bring your own. Please call 610-374-2944 to register by January 12th.

**Bird Walk:** January 14, 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.

**Hike with a Ranger:** January 16, Friday, 10:00 A.M., Visitor Center: No, this is not a typo, we are meeting on a Friday for January's hike. The route will start at the Visitor Center and make our way to the Dry Brooks Day Use Area. Once there, we will also hike portions of the Great Oak and Sensory Trails. Our return trip will take us along the shoreline. Dress warm for this hike!

**Home School Field Day Wonderful Winter:** January 21, Wednesday, 10:00 AM.: Join Volunteer Audrey Wells for a fun and educational look at winter weather. Be prepared to be outdoors, because if there is snow we are going to build snow creatures that will double as bird feeders. And that is just one of several activities we are planning on doing both indoors and outdoors. Join us for this excellent adventure!

**Control Tower Tour:** January 22, 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).

**Winter Wonderland Trek the Trails:** January 24, Saturday, 1:00 P.M., Dry Brooks Day Use Area: Bring snow shoes and/or cross country skis and join us for this wonderful combination program. Berks County Parks and Blue Marsh Lake staff will lead a cross-country ski and snow shoe trek on one of the many trails around Blue Marsh Lake. This is a great activity for people who want to work on developing their skiing or snowshoeing technique along varied terrain. There will be some snow shoes available for trial on the trails. Cross country ski packages and snowshoes can be rented at Buckman's Ski Shop (610-678-5960), in case you don't have your own. Please register by January 19<sup>th</sup> at 610-374-2944.

**Hike with a Ranger:** February 7, Saturday, 10:00 A.M., Visitor Center: Our three-mile loop will follow the multi-use trail, as well as two nature trails and the lake shoreline. Along the way we will keep our eyes open for wildlife. Participants will also learn some interesting Blue Marsh Lake information along the way. Dress for the weather!

**Winter Adventure – Making Tracks:** February 11, Wednesday, 10:00 A.M., Visitor Center: Wildlife leave many signs behind telling us they were in the area. One of those signs is their tracks. We will take a look at a variety of animal tracks, and go outside to see if we can identify animal signs, including tracks, feathers, fur, nests, etc. We will be both inside and outside for this session. Making Tracks will be a great program for home school students.

**Control Tower Tour:** February 12, 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).

**Bird Walk:** February 18, Wednesday, 1:00 P.M., Visitor Center: Avoid cabin fever – join local birding expert Joan Silagy for an excellent birding adventure. We meet at the Visitor Center, and go from there by both foot and car. You will most likely get to see a variety of winter birds, including titmice, white-throated sparrows, and chickadees. She will also point out the various bird songs. Don't forget your binoculars!

**Family Fun Day – A Mid-Winter Adventure:** February 21, Saturday, 1:00 P.M., Dry Brooks Day Use Area: Winter-time fun! Once again, get your snow shoes and/or cross country skis and join us for a spectacular

combination program. Berks County Parks and Blue Marsh Lake staff will guide you on a cross-country ski and snow shoe adventure on the trails around Blue Marsh Lake. This will be an awesome activity for people who want to work on enhancing their skiing or snow shoeing technique on varied terrain. We will, again, have some snow shoes available for trying on the trails. Cross country ski packages and snow shoes can be rented at Buckman's Ski Shop (610-678-5960), if you do not have your own. Please call 610-374-2944 to register by February 16.

**Family Fun Day Hiding in Plain Site:** March 7, Saturday, 1:00 P.M., Conference Center: One way wildlife can remain undetected by people is by blending in with their surroundings. This is also called camouflage, a term participants will experience up-close and personal! Activities will include a Camouflage Scavenger Hunt, hide-and-go-seek, and many others. Recommended for all ages, and will be a great family activity.

**Geo Caching for Beginners:** March 14, Saturday, time to be announced, Dry Brooks Day Use Area, Swim Beach: Join Berks County Parks and Blue Marsh Lake staff along with experienced geo cachers as we navigate a beginner's course on GeoCaching. Learn about the basics of GeoCaching and how you too can participate in this world-wide treasure hunting game. We'll explain the basics of GPS navigation and discover special geocachers hidden around Blue Marsh Lake. Come prepared with appropriate outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear. If you do not own a handheld GPS unit, don't worry; we will have some to share (call for more information if using your own GPS). This is a Free program that is fun for all ages! Please register by March 9 at 610-374-2944.

**Bird Walk:** March 18, Wednesday, 1:00 P.M., Visitor Center: Get outdoors and get some fresh air. Join birding enthusiast, Joan Silagy, for a birding adventure at Blue Marsh Lake. She will point out birds by their calls, as well as sight. This is a great opportunity to learn some of those tricky bird songs. Dress for the weather, and don't forget those binoculars.

**Hike with a Ranger:** March 21, Saturday, 10:00 A.M., Visitor Center: Lace up those hiking boots and join us for a hike that will take us to State Hill Boat Launch and back. We will follow the multi-use trail, as well as a trail that parallels the Tulpehocken Creek as we make our way to State Hill. Our return trip will take us along the lake shoreline, as it will still be at winter pool. The distance of this hike is approximately 5 miles.

**Stroll with a Ranger:** March 25, Wednesday, 10:00 A.M., Swiftwater Access: Our "strolling" programs are a bit milder than the Hike with a Ranger outing. Anyone is welcome to join us for a stroll along the Union Canal Connector Trail. This trail is also compatible for moms and dads who want to take their young children for a walk, as strollers can be used as well. We will discuss recreation opportunities in the area, as well as local history and anything else you want to talk about.

**Control Tower Tour:** March 26, 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).