



# Blue Marsh Lake Program Schedule



June 2014

Date and Time	Event	Location
6/11 Wed, 10:00 AM	Wee Ones Water Safety with Bobber the Water Safety Dog	Visitor Center
6/14 Sat, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Get Outdoors Day	Dry Brooks Day Use Area
6/15 Sun, 10:00 AM	Trail Yoga	Swiftwater Access
6/20 Fri, 3:00 PM	Paddle the Tulpehocken	Stilling Basin <b>Pre-register 610-374-2944</b>
6/21 Sat, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Family Fun Day Fishing 101	Stilling Basin <b>Pre-register 610-376-6337</b>
6/22 Sun, 10 AM – 12 PM	Boating Safety	Dry Brooks Boat Launch
6/27 Fri, 5:00 – 8:00 PM	Paddle Boarding for Beginners	Church Road Access <b>Pre-register 610-374-2944</b>
6/28 Sat, 8:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	State Hill Boat Launch

## July

Date and Time	Event	Location
7/9 Wed, 10:00 AM	Wee One Creek Critters	Stilling Basin
7/11 Fri, 4:00 PM	Paddle & Pedal along the Tulpehocken Creek	Stilling Basin – Red Bridge and back <b>Pre-register 610-374-2944</b>
7/12 Sat, 8:00 AM	Paddle Blue Marsh	Church Road Access
7/16 Wed, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM	Boating and Water Safety Awareness Course	Conference Center <b>Pre-register 610-376-6337</b>
7/17 Thu, 10:00 AM	Damsels and Dragons	Conference Center
7/19 Sat, 1:00 – 4:00 PM	Family Fun Day Paddling Skills Workshop	Stilling Basin <b>Pre-register 610-374-2944</b>
7/24 Thu, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
7/26 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Church Road Access

## August

Date and Time	Event	Location
8/2 Sat, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Fishing 101	Stilling Basin <b>Pre-register 610-376-6337</b>
8/2 Sat, 8:45 PM	Star Watch	Church Road Access
8/8 Fri, 5:00 – 8:00 PM	Paddle Boarding for Beginners	Church Road Access <b>Pre-register 610-374-2944</b>
8/13 Wed, 10:00 AM	Wee Ones Trail Hike	Swiftwater Access
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
8/29 Fri, 7:30 PM	Night Hike	State Hill Boat Launch Squirrel Run Nature Trail



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## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

**Wee Ones Meet Bobber the Water Safety Dog:** June 11, Wednesday, 10:00 am, Visitor Center: Mom and Dad - bring your children out to Blue Marsh to meet Bobber the Water Safety Dog at the Visitor Center. Your children will learn how they can be safe around the water through fun hands-on activities. And it does not end there as Bobber has some presents for your children. Bobber wants to see a lot of children at this program, so make him happy and join us at the Visitor Center on June 11!

**Get Outdoors Day:** June 14, Saturday, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, Dry Brooks Day Use Area: Join the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and 40 plus organizations for a day of outdoor fun in the sun. You can try your luck at catching a catfish in the fish pond, learn how to fly fish, get your face painted, and visit numerous displays and presentations. Learn about the many recreation opportunities in the area, and how to stay safe when on land or in the water. Admission to the park is free that day.

**Trail Yoga:** June 15, Sunday, 10:00 AM, Swiftwater Access: Just Breathe Yoga invites you to jump on a path with this NEW DONATION ONLY program, benefiting the local Olivet's Boy's and Girl's Club. 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.

**Paddle the Tulpehocken:** June 20, Friday, 3:00 pm, Stilling Basin: Bring your own kayak or canoe and join us as we meander our way along the Tulpehocken Creek from the Stilling Basin to the Berks Leisure Area. Water safety, local history and features of the creek will be covered before we launch. Participants must provide their own boat, life jacket and transportation. Event limited to 20 people. Previous paddling experience is suggested. Cost is \$5.00 for American Canoe Association event insurance. Pre-registration is required by June 16; call to sign-up at 610-374-2944.

**Family Fun Day Fishing 101:** June 21, Saturday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Stilling Basin: Join us for a fun-filled fishing adventure at the Stilling Basin. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission provide fishing rods and bait. No fishing license is required. All you need to bring is yourself! Mom and Dad don't forget the cameras!

**Boating Safety Are You Next?** June 22, Sunday, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Dry Brooks Boat Launch: All boaters need to be prepared when they head out on the water. Park rangers will be available to give you some safety tips so that you can avoid being the NEXT statistic. We will make sure you have the required safety equipment, and also make you aware of special regulations that apply at Blue Marsh Lake. Handout materials will also be available.

**Paddle Boarding for Beginners:** June 27, Friday, 5:00 – 8:00 pm, Church Road Access: Come out to Blue Marsh Lake and enjoy one of the fastest growing water sports: paddle boarding. Trained professionals from 3-D 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 paddle to move. No experience required. A safe and fun workshop for the whole family! Program size is limited to 25 people, and is split into four sessions: 5:00, 5:45, 6:30 or 7:15 pm. Registration is required by June 23; call 610-374-2944 to sign-up.

**Hike with a Ranger:** June 28, Saturday, 8:00a.m., meet at State Hill Boat Launch: Our first summer season hike will take us through forests and fields as we walk along the multi-use trail. There will be some hills along our route. Bring along drinking water!

**Wee Ones Creek Critters:** July 9, Wednesday, 10:00 am, Stilling Basin: 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 & Pedal the Tulpehocken Creek:** July 11, Friday, (rain date July 18), 4:00 pm, Stilling Basin: Can't decide how best to experience the Tulpehocken Creek's natural scenic beauty this summer? Join 3D Outdoor Rentals and Berks County Parks and Blue Marsh Lake staff for a double-dose of outdoor recreational fun as we kayak down the creek and then bike along the trail. 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 eight miles round-trip.

The trip is for people with paddling experience, and is limited to 20 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 ACA insurance. Life jackets, bike helmets and ACA insurance required. Call 610-374-2944 for more information. Pre-registration with payment required to 3D Outdoor Rental, 610-488-1900 by July 7.

**Paddle Blue Marsh Lake:** July 12 & 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.

**Boating and Water Safety Awareness Course:** July 16, Wednesday, 8:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M., Conference Center: Classroom and in-water instruction covers basic skills for boating and water-based activities. It is recommended that participants know how to swim. Everyone will be required to wear a life jacket during ALL water activities. Bring a packed lunch (refrigerator available), swimsuit, towel and water shoes. For middle-high school age. Pre-register by calling 610-376-6337 by July 11.

**Damsel & Dragons: A Look at Damselflies & Dragonflies:** July 17, Thursday, 10:00 am, Conference Center: This program will take a look at the life cycle of damselflies and dragonflies. Volunteer Doc Schoch will address their life cycle, habitat, observation and ethical capture and release of these fascinating creatures.

**Family Fun Day Paddling Skills Workshop:** July 19, Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 P.M., Stilling Basin: Join members of the Keystone Canoe Club for an informative land and flat-water session. Try different style boats and learn some basics. For ages 10 – adult (children 10 – 12 must be with an adult). Limited to 25 participants. Cost: \$10 (includes American Canoe Association Insurance); Registration with payment, call 610-374-2944; deadline July 14.

**Control Tower Tour:** July 24, Thursday, 10:00 am, 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).

**Hike with a Ranger:** July 26, Saturday, 8:00 am, Church Road Access: Join us for a 3-5 mile hike along the Multi-use Trail and Skinner's Loops. Our route will take us through forested and field areas with rolling hills. Do not wear open-toed shoes, and we recommend that you bring along drinking water.

**Fishing 101:** August 2, Saturday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Stilling Basin: Join us for a fun-filled fishing adventure at the Stilling Basin. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission provide fishing rods and bait. No fishing license is required. All you need to bring is yourself! Mom and Dad don't forget the cameras!

**Star Watch:** August 2, Saturday, 8:45 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.

**Paddle Boarding for Beginners:** August 8, Friday, 5:00 – 8:00 P.M., Church Road Access: Come out to Blue Marsh Lake and enjoy one of the fastest growing water sports in the world: Paddle Boarding. What is Paddle Boarding you may ask? Paddle boarding is a water sport that requires the individual to stand upright on a surf board and use a paddle to propel oneself across flat water. In this beginner's program, trained professionals 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! Program may be split into 2 sessions, and participation is limited. Registration is required by July 8th call 610-374-2944 to sign-up.

**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.

**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!

**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 at Blue Marsh Lake. Today's route will pass through fields and forests as we traverse the multi-use trail. The length of the hike will be approximate three-miles.

**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.