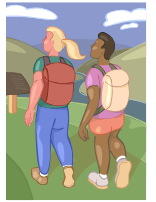




# Blue Marsh Lake Program Schedule



May 2014

Date and Time	Event	Location
5/7 Wed, 7:30 AM	Bird Walk	Church Road Access
5/9 Fri, 2:00 PM	Wildlife Kayak <b>Pre-register 610-376-6337</b>	Peacock Road Access
5/10 Sat, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
5/14 Wed, 10:00 AM	Wee Ones Get Outdoors!	Conference Center
5/17 Sat, 10:00 AM	Hiking 101 With Cabela's	Church Road Access
5/17 Sat, 2:00 PM	Ready, Set, Wear It!	Dry Brooks Boat Launch
5/24 Sat, 8:00 AM	Paddle Blue Marsh Lake	Church Road Access
5/24 Sat, 8:30 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Church Road Access

## June

Date and Time	Event	Location
6/4 Wed, 7:30 AM	Bird Walk	Church Road Access
6/7 Sat, 1:00 – 4:00 PM	National Trails Day Scavenger Hunt	Swiftwater Access
6/8 Sun, 9:30 – 11:30 AM	Boat Safety	State Hill Boat Launch
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 Ones 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, 8:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Church Road Access



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Philadelphia District

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## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

**Bird Walk:** May 7, Wednesday, 7:30 a.m., Church Road Access, The birds are most active in the early morning hours and the evening hours in mid-Spring. So rise and shine and make your way to Church Road Access to join birding expert and naturalist Joan Silagy for an informative birding adventure. Joan will guide you along trails and roadways in search of a variety of birds. Walking should be easy with few hills. Don't forget those binoculars!

**Watchin' Wildlife from the Water:** May 9, Friday, 2:00 p.m., Peacock Road Access: Birds, fish and frogs or maybe turtles on logs. You never know just what we'll meet but it's sure to be a relaxing treat! We will launch our kayaks or 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 spring. Water safety and local history will be discussed before launching. 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 May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Call 610-376-6337 to register.

**Control Tower Tour:** May 10, 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 10 steps).

**Wee Ones Program Let's Get Outdoors:** May 14, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m., Conference Center, This program is designed for all you Moms and Dads who are looking for something to do with your pre-school age children. We will meet at the Conference Center, and weather permitting, will spend most of the time exploring the great outdoors. We will hunt for treasures among the trees, play animal games and learn how animals travel from place-to-place.

**Hiking 101 with Cabela's:** May 17, Saturday, 10:00 a.m., Church Road Access, Interested in going hiking but not sure what kind of gear you need? This is the program for you. Jeff Hartman, Camping Lead at Cabela's, will be here to take you through the steps of how to have a fun and successful hike. He will have a variety of camping and hiking gear for you to see, and might even have some delectable food for you to try. We will be going for a short hiking excursion as part of this program.

**Paddle Blue Marsh Lake:** May 24 and July 12, 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:** May 24, Saturday, 8:30 am, Church Road Access: All you land-lovers join us for a hike along the multi-use trail. Our route will take us along trails and grass lanes. We will take some time to check out the wildlife and plant life along the way. Approximate length of the hike will be 5 miles.

**Bird Walk:** June 4, Wednesday, 7:30 am, meet at the Church Road Access: The birds are most active in the early morning hours and the evening hours in mid-Spring. So rise and shine and make your way to Church Road Access to join birding expert and naturalist Joan Silagy for an informative birding adventure. Joan will guide you along trails and roadways in search of a variety of birds. Walking should be easy with few hills. Don't forget those binoculars!

**National Trails Day "Scavenger Hunt":** June 7, Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, Swiftwater Lane Access, Union Canal Connector Trail: Celebrate National Trails Day on bike or foot, by collecting clues along the Union Canal Connector Trail from 1 – 4 pm. Scavenger Hunt and area trail maps will be available at the Swiftwater Lane Parking Area. Bring binoculars, a small notebook and water for this fun, all ages activity. If you like to geo cache, there are caches in the area so bring your GPS unit along. Free program presented by Blue Marsh Lake and Berks County Parks and Recreation.

**Know Before You Go!** June 8, Sunday, 9:30 – 11:30 am, State Hill Boat Launch: Heading out to spend a day boating on Blue Marsh Lake? Be prepared, and make sure you have the required equipment before heading out, and learn about the special regulations that apply at the lake. Learn how to expect the unexpected, and don't become a statistic. Materials will also be available for distribution.

**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!

**Blue Marsh Lake's 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.

**Canoe or Kayak the Creek:** 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!

**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 Church Road Access: Our first summer season hike will take us through forests and fields as we walk Skinner's Loops, and make some side-trips to other areas along the multi-use hiking trail. We will be car-pooling to Lake Road, where we will start the hike.

**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 8 miles round-trip.

The trip is for people with paddling experience, and 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.

**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.

**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 10 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.