



Blue Marsh Lake Program Schedule



June 2015

Date and Time	Event	Location
6/4 Thu, 8:00 AM	Bird Walk	Church Road Access
6/5 Fri, 5:00 PM	Paddle Down the Creek Pre-register 610-374-2944	Stilling Basin
6/6 Sat, 1:00 – 4:00 PM	National Trails Day	Antietam Lake Park
6/7 Sun, 1:00 PM	Tykes on Bikes	Heritage Center Pre-register 610-374-2944
6/12 Fri, 4:00 – 7:00 PM	Paddle and Pedal The Tulpehocken	Stilling Basin Pre-register 610-374-2944
6/13 Sat, 11:00 AM- 4:00 PM	Blue Marsh Lake's Get Outdoors Day	Dry Brooks Day Use Area
6/18 Thu, 10:00 AM	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
6/19 Fri, 1:30 PM	Show Your Love, Keep Them Safe Water Safety Program	Dry Brooks Day Use Area Swim Beach Area
6/20 Sat, 8:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Church Road Access
6/26 Fri, 5:00 – 8:00 PM	Paddle Boarding For Beginners	Church Road Access Pre-register 610-374-2944
6/27 Sat, 2:00 PM	Family Fun Day Water Safety with Bobber	Dry Brooks Day Use Area Swim Beach Area

July 2015

Date and Time	Event	Location
7/9 Thu, 8:00 AM	Hike with a Ranger	Stilling Basin
7/10 Fri, 4:00 – 7:00 PM	Paddle and Pedal the Tulpehocken Creek #2	Stilling Basin Pre-register 610-374-2944
7/11 Sat, 1:00 – 4:00 PM	Kid's Bike Rodeo	Parking Lot D Dry Brooks Day Use Area Pre-register 610-376-6337
7/12 Sun, 10:00 AM	Expect the Unexpected Boat Safety	Dry Brooks Boat Launch
7/15 Wed, 10:00 AM	Get Outdoors Wild About Wetlands	Stilling Basin
7/17 Fri, 1:00 PM	Reach, Throw, Don't Go!	Swim Beach
7/18 Sat, 1:00 – 4:00 PM	Paddling Skills Workshop With Keystone Canoe Club	Stilling Basin Pre-register 610-374-2944
7/18 Sat, 9:00 PM	Star Watch	Church Road Access
7/19 Sun, 10:30 AM	He's Out, He's Safe Boat Safety	State Hill Boat Launch
7/24 Fri, 5:00 PM	Beginner Paddle Boarding	Church Road Access Pre-register 610-374-2944
7/31 Fri, 7:30 PM	Full Moon Float	Church Road Access Pre-register 610-374-2944



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Philadelphia District

www.nap.usace.army.mil/Bluemarsh or like us on Facebook

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Bird Walk: June 4, Thursday, 8:00 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 Paddle Down the Creek: June 5, Friday, 5:00 pm, meet at the Stilling Basin: Bring your kayak or canoe and join us as we meander our way along the lower portion of the Tulpehocken Creek from the Blue Marsh Lake Stilling Basin to below the Berks Leisure Area. Water safety, local history, features of the creek and other water trails around the area will be covered before we launch. Participants must provide their own boat, life jacket and transportation. Event limited to 20 people (previous paddling experience suggested, and ACA insurance recommended). Pre-registration required by June 1; call 610-374-2944.

National Trails Day Explore the Trails of Berks County: June 6, Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, Antietam Lake Park: Celebrate National Trails Day while exploring the trail system around Antietam Lake. Trail maps will be available for other trails around Berks County. There will be a program presented by Environmental Educator Jennifer Brooks at the Angora Fruit Farm. Bring your binoculars, a small notebook and water for this fun, all ages activity. Also, if you like to geo cache, there are some caches in the area so bring your GPS. Free program presented by Blue Marsh Lake and Berks County Parks and Recreation. Please call 610-374-2944 for additional details.

National Trails Day Tikes on Bikes: June 7, Sunday, 1:00 pm, Berks County Parks Heritage Center: Bring out the whole family and pedal along the Union Canal Trail with members of Berks Area Mountain Bike Association (BAMBA) for National Trails Day weekend. This cycling adventure will begin at the Berks County Heritage Center where participants will learn about basic bike maintenance like how to fix a flat, bike safety and local history. We will then pedal down the trail to the playground area at Stonecliffe where we will pause for a snack break and some play time. Then we will mount up again and return to our starting point for a nice cool treat! It's important to stay hydrated, especially in the summer heat, so don't forget to bring a drink! Please call 610-374-2044 to register by June 1st.

Paddle and Pedal Along the Tulpehocken: June 12, Friday, 4:00 – 7:00 pm, Stilling Basin: Can't decide how to best experience the Tulpehocken Creek's natural scenic beauty? Join 3D Outdoor Rental and Park's staff for a double-dose of outdoor recreation fun as we kayak or canoe 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. 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 is limited to 20 boaters. Kayaks and bikes can be reserved through 3D Outdoor Rental, or you can bring your own equipment. Cost: \$40, which includes kayak and bike rental from 3D Outdoor Rental and American Canoe Association (ACA) insurance. Life jackets, bike helmets and ACE Insurance required. Call 610-374-2944 for more information. Pre-registration with payment required to 3D Outdoor Rental, 610-488-1900 by June 8th.

Blue Marsh Lake's Get Outdoors Day: June 13, Saturday, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, Dry Brooks Day Use Area: Let's move and get outdoors by joining us for a great day of fun in the sun. Learn about recreational opportunities in Berks County by visiting the many displays. Try out some of the activities, and play the scavenger hunt. You can also just sit back and enjoy the numerous presentations that will be offered throughout the day. Smokey Bear and Bobber the Water Safety Dog will be on-hand to meet and greet visitors. This is a fee-free event!

Control Tower Tour: June 18, 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 and 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.

Show Your Love, Keep Them Safe Water Safety Program: June 19, Friday, 1:30 pm, Dry Brooks Day Use Area Swim Beach: Summer is a great time to spend time in or around the water. But we all need to do so safely. Learn some important and invaluable water safety tips through this interactive presentation. We will take a look at how to rescue somebody in trouble in the water without placing ourselves in harms way. Participants will also have the opportunity to see and try out a variety of Coast Guard approved life jackets. Handouts will be available.

Hike with a Ranger: June 20, Saturday, 8:00 am, Church Road Access: A Blue Marsh park ranger will guide you on a five mile walk along the Hiking Trail and 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. And we will just have fun talking with one another. 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.

Paddle Boarding for Beginners: June 26, 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! 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 June 22nd; call 610-374-2944.

Family Fun Day with Bobber the Water Safety Dog: June 27, Saturday, 2:00 pm, Dry Brooks Day Use Area Swim Beach: Meet Bobber the Water Safety Dog, who is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water safety mascot. Bobber wants to make sure everyone stays safe when they head out to the lake to go swimming or boating. He and his friends will show you how to stay safe when you head out to the lake for a day of fun in the water. He also has some goodies for all participants!

Hike with a Ranger: July 9, Thursday, 8:00 am, Stilling Basin: July's hike will take us on a loop hike along the hiking trail and other local trails. This hike will offer some views of the lake, and possibly a walk along the Tulpehocken Creek downstream of the dam. There are some hills along the route, but it is not a difficult hike. Distance will be approximately three miles. Wear comfortable footwear.

Paddle and Pedal the Tulpehocken Creek #2: July 10, Friday, 4:00 – 7:00 pm, Stilling Basin: Can't decide how to best experience the Tulpehocken Creeks natural scenic beauty? Join 3D Outdoor Rentals and Parks staff for a double dose of outdoor recreational fun as we paddle 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. Then we will 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 equipment. Cost: \$40, which includes kayak and bike rental from 3D Outdoor Rental and American Canoe Association (ACA) insurance. Life jackets, bike helmets and ACA insurance are required. Call 610-374-2944 for more information. Pre-registration with payment required. Call 3D Outdoor Rental, 610-488-1900 by July 6th.

Kid's Bike Rodeo: July 11, Saturday, 1:00 pm, Parking Lot D, Dry Brooks Day Use Area: Saddle up your bike, and bring it to Parking Lot D, where kids ages 4 – 12 will learn safe and responsible biking. Members of Berks Area Mountain Biking Association will lead kids through stations on bike-fit and a safety check, helmet fitting, basic bike maintenance and a bike-safe obstacle course. Prizes will be awarded, and lunch provided for participants. For more information and to pre-register, call 610-376-6337.

Expect the Unexpected: July 12, Sunday, 10:00 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.

Wild About Wetlands: July 15, Wednesday, 10:00 am, Stilling Basin: What exactly are wetlands? Why are they so important to people and wildlife? Answer these and other questions through a fun and educational series that will be held at the Stilling Basin. We will be doing numerous fun and educational activities, as well

Reach, Throw, Row, Don't Go: July 17, Friday, 1:00 pm, Dry Brooks Day Use Area Swim Beach: You are having a picnic at Blue Marsh Lake, and hear someone yelling for help. It is a swimmer that is in trouble! Should you rush down to the lake and try to swim out and rescue the person? Find out the answer to this question by attending this hands-on program. Attendees will learn how to help a person in trouble without placing yourself in harms way.

Beginner Paddling Skills: July 18, Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, Stilling Basin: Are you ready to try something new, or to hone your paddling skills in a kayak or canoe? Join members of the Keystone Canoe Club for an informative land and flat-water session trying out different styles of boats. This is your chance to learn some of the basics: paddle strokes, getting in and out safely, boat control, clothing and gear, etc. Ages: 10 to adult. Children ages 10 – 12 MUST be accompanied by an adult. Cost: \$10 per person. Workshop limited to 25 participants. Pre-registration with payment required by calling 610-374-2944 by July 13.

Star Watch: July 18, Saturday, 9:00 pm, 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.

He's Safe, He's Out: July 19, Sunday, 10:30 am, State Hill Boat Launch: There are all kinds of excuses for why not to wear a life jacket. They are too hot! I know how to swim. I am not going in the water. And the list continues. Most drowning victims were not planning on going in the water that day. The majority of drowning victims were within 10 feet of safety, and 85% of the victims that drowned would still be alive if they had been wearing a lifejacket. Stop by State Hill Boat Launch and learn about the importance of lifejackets, how to properly fit and wear them, and get a look at the various jackets that are available.

Paddle Boarding for Beginners #2: July 24, Friday, 5:00 – 8:00 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 **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 paddles to move. No experience required. A safe and fun workshop for the whole family! Program is split into four sessions: 5:00, 5:45, 6:30 or 7:15 pm, and space is limited to six participants per time slot. Registration required by July 20, call 610-374-2944.

Family Fun Day Creek Critters: July 25, 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!

Picnic with a Ranger: July 29, Wednesday, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Cacoosing Meadows Park: Pack a picnic, pick up a pizza or grab McDonald's to go and join us for a daring and fun wildlife adventure with Blue Marsh Lake Park Ranger, Kathy Grim. Come listen to Kathy's wildlife stories, examine animal pelts, bones, shells and more; stay to make a wild about wildlife craft! **Registration required, please call 610-678-5399.**

Bats 101 with Dr. Karen Campbell: July 30, Thursday, 7:00 pm, Conference Center: Bats are one of the most misunderstood animals. Dr. Karen Campbell, Biology Professor at Albright College, is an expert on everything bats. Learn why bats are so important, and the challenges facing our local bat populations. You will also learn about local bat species, as well as those found across the world.

Full Moon Paddle: July 31, Friday, 8:30 pm, Church Road Access: Experience an evening of peace and serenity on Blue Marsh Lake under the full moon. Navigate the lake, look for wildlife and watch the night sky light up the water. Water safety, local history and features of the area will be covered before we launch. Participants must provide their own boat, lifejacket and boat running lights (flashlight or lantern qualifies). Event is limited to 20 people. (paddling experience suggested) Pre-registration required, and should be done-so by calling 610-374-2944 by July 27. Rain date: Saturday, August 1.