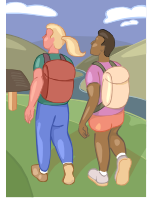




Blue Marsh Lake Program Schedule



June

Date and Time	Event	Location
6/7 Fri, 3:00 P.M.	Float the Tulpehocken Pre-register 610-374-2944	Stilling Basin
6/8 Sat, 10:00 A.M.	Family Fun Day Tulpehocken Creek Critters	Stilling Basin
6/15 Sat, 11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.	Blue Marsh Lake's Get Outdoors Day	Dry Brooks Day Use Area
6/19 Wed, 10:00 A.M.	Wee One's Creek Critters	Stilling Basin
6/21 Fri, 5:00 P.M.	Paddle & Pedal Along the Tulpehocken	Stilling Basin Pre-register 610-488-1900
6/22 Sat, 2:00 P.M.	Bobber the Water Safety Dog Beach-side Safety Tips	Dry Brooks Day Use Area Swim Beach
6/23 Sun, 10:00 A.M.	Are You Safe?	Dry Brooks Boat Launch

July

Date and Time	Event	Location
7/6 Sat, 2:00 P.M.	Bobber the Water Safety Dog Beach-side Safety	Dry Brooks Day Use Area Swim Beach
7/10 Wed, 3:00 P.M.	Damsels & Dragons – A Look at Damselflies and Dragonflies	Conference Center & Stilling Basin
7/12 Fri, 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.	Paddle Boarding for Beginners Pre-register 610-374-2944	Church Road Access
7/13 Sat, 8:00 A.M.	Hike with a Ranger	State Hill Boat Launch
7/17 Wed, 10:00 A.M.	Wee Ones Wonderful Wetlands	Stilling Basin
7/18 Thu, 1:00 P.M.	Control Tower Tour	Visitor Center
7/20 Sat, 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.	Paddling Skills Workshop Pre-register 610-374-2944	Stilling Basin
7/27 Sat, 8:00 A.M.	Paddle Blue Marsh	Church Road Access
7/27 Sat, 9:00 AM – 1:00 P.M.	Family Fun Day: Fishing 101	Stilling Basin
7/27 Sat, 8:30 P.M.	Star Watch	Church Road Access

August

Date and Time	Event	Location
8/9 Fri, 3:00 P.M.	Paddle Up! The Tulpehocken Pre-register 610-376-6337	Route 183 Pull-off North of Sheidy Boat Ramp
8/10 Sat, 8:000 A.M.	Hike with a Ranger	Church Road Access
8/16 Fri, 8:00 P.M.	Whooo Goes There	Squirrel Run Nature Trail State Hill Boat Launch
8/17 Sat, 10:00 A.M.	Family Fun Day Butterfly Walk	Swiftwater Court
8/21 Wed, 10:00 A.M.	Wee Ones What's It All About	Visitor Center
8/22 Thu, 6:00 P.M.	Paddle Blue Marsh	Church Road Access
8/24 Sat, 8:00 P.M.	Star Watch	Church Road Access
8/31 Sat, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Fish For Fun	Stilling Basin



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PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Float the Tulpehocken, June 7: Bring your kayak or canoe for a paddle down the Tulpehocken Creek. Start - Stilling Basin & end at the Red Bridge Picnic Area. For all levels of paddlers; limit 15 boaters. Bring your own boat, life jacket and transportation. Cost: \$5 for American Canoe Association event insurance. Pre-registration required – call 610-374-2944 by June 3.

Family Fun Day Tulpehocken Creek Critters, June 8: This program promises to be packed with fun for the whole family. We will be taking a close-up look at how Blue Marsh Lake ties into the habitat downstream of the dam, especially the Tulpehocken Creek. Participants will have the opportunity to get their feet wet as we wade in the shallow areas of the creek in search of water critters. Nets and viewing jars will be supplied.

Blue Marsh Lake's Get Outdoors Day, June 15: Enjoy a day of fun in the sun at this annual event. The event includes land and water based activities. There will be games, displays, presentations, a fun run, geo caching, a fish pond, kayaking and paddle boarding, nature trail walks, trail hikes, and guided bike rides throughout the day. Stop on by and meet Smokey the Bear and Bobber the Water Safety Dog! There will be no admission charged on June 15.

Wee One's Creek Critters, June 19: Wee Ones Creek Critters, June 19: 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!

Paddle & Pedal Along the Tulpehocken, June 21: Can't decide how best to experience the Tulpehocken Creek's natural scenic beauty this summer? Join 3D Outdoor Rental and Parks staff for a double dose of outdoor recreational fun as we kayak AND bike along the Tulpehocken Creek. 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 limited to 15 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 American Canoe Association insurance. Pre-registration with payment required to 3D Outdoor Rental, 610-488-1900 by June 17.

Bobber the Water Safety Dog Beach-side Safety Tips, June 22 & July 6: Bobber the Water Safety Dog wants to make sure everyone stays safe when recreating in or around the water. Join Bobber for a fun-filled program on how to be safe around the water. Activity books will be handed out at these sessions.

Are You Safe, June 23: Did you know that 90% of those who drown at Corps of Engineers lakes may have survived if they had just worn a life jacket? Learn how you can stay safe and enjoyable summer participating in water-based recreation activities. Handouts will also be available.

Damsel & Dragons: A Look at Damselflies & Dragonflies, July 10: 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.

Paddle Boarding for Beginners, July 12: 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.

Hike with a Ranger, July 13 & August 10: Join the ranger staff on a monthly hike along the trail system at Blue Marsh Lake. Wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water to drink. Both hikes will start at 8:00 a.m. to beat the heat of the day. Distance will be approximately three miles.

Wee Ones Wonderful Wetlands, July 17: Marshes, swamps and bogs are all examples of wetlands. It was believed that swamps and other wet areas served no importance, and therefore were filled in. Because of this we have lost thousands of acres of valuable wetlands that serve so many important purposes. We will walk in a short distance to take a look at an example of wetlands, and will learn through fun and educational activities why wetlands are valuable to both people and wildlife. Wear shoes that you can get wet.

Control Tower Tour, July 18: 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).

Paddling Skills Workshop, July 20: Join members of the Keystone Canoe Club of Berks County for an informative, fun-filled afternoon of learning to paddle canoes and kayaks in flat water. This is your chance to learn some of the basics: paddle strikes, getting in and out of your watercraft safely, boat control, clothing and gear. Try out various boats on the water under supervision.

Age: 10 years – adult. Children 10-12 MUST be accompanied by an adult. Cost: \$10, including American Canoe Association insurance. Workshop is limited to 20 participants. **Pre-registration is required by July 15. Call 610-374-2944 to register.**

Paddle Blue Marsh, July 27 & August 22: 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.

Family Fun Day Fishing 101, July 27 & August 31: Join us for a fun-filled fishing adventure at the Stilling Basin. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will be providing fishing rods, and no license is required. All you need to bring is yourself!

Star Watch, July 27 & August 24: 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 UP! The Tulpehocken, August 9: Bring your kayak or canoe and come along for a flat water paddle on the upper portion of Blue Marsh Lake, starting at the small pull-off near Sheidy Boat Ramp, westward to the North Heidelberg Road Bridge. If water levels are high enough, we will paddle into the Tulpehocken Creek. The waters in this area are relatively calm/flat and provide a passive paddle up the Tulpehocken Creek arm of the lake. You will learn about water safety, Blue Marsh fast facts and natural resource management. The paddle will last approximately 1.5 hours and you will return to the same location from which you launched your watercraft. **Trip is for all levels of paddlers; limited to 15 boaters. Bring your own boat and life jacket. FREE unless you want to add American Canoe Association insurance for \$10. Pre-registration is required, and can be done so by calling 610-376-6337 by August 5.**

Whooo Goes There, August 16: When the sun goes down and night closes in around the area, Blue Marsh Lake comes alive with all types of mysterious sounds. Join park rangers on a night time safari and discover what (or who) goes bump in the night. Bring along a flashlight, insect repellent, and your sense of adventure.

Family Fun Day Butterfly Walk, August 17: Join Karl Gardner, local butterfly expert and naturalist, for a butterfly walk at Blue Marsh Lake. He will discuss and show you caterpillars, and then head out on a walk in search of butterflies. Karl always brings along some extra nets for participants to use to try to catch these beautiful insects. Don't miss this program – you'll be sorry!

Wee Ones What's It All About, August 21: We all know that Blue Marsh Lake provides great opportunities for recreation. But the lake is here for other more important purposes, including flood control, water supply and quality. Learn about some of the other purposes of Blue Marsh while we take a walk out onto the dam and take a look at the control tower. This walk will certainly be both fun and education for our younger park visitors!