



# What's Happening at Blue Marsh Lake?

US Army Corps of Engineers

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## America's Great Outdoors!

The 21st century is witnessing a constant change in technology. Society lives by technology—cell phones, blackberries, computers, I Pods, etc. Less people are spending time outdoors.

On February 16, 2011, at President Obama's request, the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), released a report titled "America's Great Outdoors: A Promise to Future Generations." The Report's objective is to launch a 21st century conservation and outdoor recreation agenda that builds on community-based approaches to protect our lands and waters, connects all Americans to our natural heritage, and empowers local communities to accomplish their conservation priorities.

Outdoor recreation provides us with physical and emotional rejuvenation and promotes respect for protecting our natural heritage. Federal agencies, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), provide excellent opportunities on more than 600 million acres of land that receive more than a billion visits annually.

The Administration is responding to the priorities of Americans by taking several actions, including increasing recreation access and opportunities on Federal lands and waters, and building stewardship values and engaging youth in conservation and recreation.

The USACE at Blue Marsh Lake has joined in this initiative and is working to increase the public's awareness of the many recreation opportunities that are available at the lake. There is a great variety of recreation available at Blue Marsh, both on land and water. Visit us, and enjoy the great outdoors and all that it has to offer, both physically and mentally. **So, lets move and get outdoors!**

## National Get Outdoors Day

National Get Outdoors Day is a new annual event that was created to encourage healthy, active outdoor fun. This year's event is on Saturday June 11, 2011.

Participating partners will offer opportunities for American families to experience traditional and non-traditional types of outdoor activities. The main goals of the day

are to reach first-time visitors to public lands and reconnect our youth to the great outdoors.

Make the move and get outdoors at Blue Marsh Lake on June 11. Visit our annual Water Safety Festival and participate and learn about the diversity of recreational opportunities available at Blue Marsh.

Get outdoors & play! See you there!

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**Get Outdoors at Blue Marsh Lake and Enjoy a Multitude of Recreational Activities!**

**National Trails Day Hike with a Ranger: Saturday June 4, 2011, 8:30 a.m.**

**National Trails Day Volunteer Project: Saturday June 4, 2011 9:00 a.m.**

**National Get Outdoors Day: Saturday, June 11, 2011**

**Water Safety Festival: Saturday June 11, 2011, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

## Take Pride in Blue Marsh Volunteer Clean-up

Another Take Pride in Blue Marsh Day (TPIBM) has come and gone. Unfortunately, mother nature did not cooperate this year. On April 16th, despite the approach of some nasty weather, about 500 volunteers converged on Blue Marsh to donate their time and effort. Some of the projects that were completed were seedling planting, picnic table construction, mulching of the gardens and play areas, and several projects on the hiking trail.

The morning started with a rush of activity to try to beat the approaching storm. The weather radar showed us that we had until about 1000 a.m. to get the work

done before the rain. Most of the projects scheduled were completed. Some left over seedlings, mulching, and some finishing touches on a few trail projects were all that was left over.

Donations from local vendors allowed us once again to provide a lunch to all of the volunteers in attendance. Hot dogs, chips, soda, water, and candy shared by all. By the time lunch rolled around, the bad weather had set in and most people ate huddled under the Lakeview Pavilion. The second night of camping was spoiled for the Boy Scouts, there was just too much rain in the forecast.

As we wrap up another year of TPIBM, we can look at it from a different perspective and realize how important Blue Marsh Lake is to the local community. Despite the horrible weather, over 400 people still showed up to lend a helping hand, when it would have been just as easy to stay home.



## 2011 Spring Programs

**National Trails Day Hike with a Ranger:** Saturday June 4, 2011, 8:30 a.m. at the Church Road Access (off of PA State Route 183). We will celebrate National Trails Day by hiking along the multi-use trail. The length of the hike will be 4 miles, and will include some hills.

**National Trails Day Volunteer Work Project:** Saturday June 4, 2011, 9:00 a.m. at the Visitor Center. Wear long pants, and the use

of insect repellent is recommended. Participants will be involved in trimming back brush along a one-mile section of trail. Tools are provided.

**National Get Outdoors Day & Water Safety Festival at Blue Marsh Lake:** Saturday June 11, 2011, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Dry Brooks Day Use Area. Enjoy a great day outdoors at Blue Marsh Lake. Visit the many displays, play

the “Water Safety Search,” and check out the numerous presentations that will be occurring throughout the afternoon.

**Kayak with a Ranger:** Friday July 1, 3:00 p.m. at the Stilling Basin. Call for additional details.

**Star Watch:** Friday July 22, 2011, 8:30 p.m. at the Vista Pavilion, Dry Brooks Day Use Area. Telescopes provided.

## Water Safety Festival

Looking for something to do! Visit the Water Safety Festival at Blue Marsh Lake on Saturday June 11, 12:00—5:00 p.m. at the Dry Brooks Day Use Area. There is no charge for the event, and it is being held in conjunction with the National Get Outdoors Day. No fees are being charged!

There will be numerous displays to visit throughout the afternoon, and presentations will also be occurring. Thus far we have re-

ceived confirmations from 23 organizations who plan on participating in this event unique to Berks County. Play the Water Safety Search and be eligible to win a free prize. Stop by the 3D Outdoor Rentals display and try out a kayak. Take in the K9 demonstration put on by the Berks County Sheriff's K9 Unit or the Berks County Dog Training Club. And kids, if you like to fish try out your luck at the fishing pond.

There is something for everyone at the festival. Participants will include American Red Cross, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Middle Creek Search & Rescue, Berks Safe Kids, Federated Sportsmen's Clubs of Berks County, Greenfields Fire Company, Western Berks Fire Department, Reading Fire Department Scuba Team, Coast Guard Auxiliary Greater Philadelphia Search and Rescue, Peter's Marine Service, New-Pen-Del Newfoundland Club, and many more!

## Boating at Blue Marsh Lake (answer on page 4)

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A	U	N	B	E	A	V	E	Y	O										


## The Stilling Basin under repair

Recently, you might have seen some work being done at the Stilling Basin. An underwater dive operation took place to repair concrete baffles that were worn away.

The concrete baffles are there to calm the water rushing out of the dam. These structure mainly serve their purpose when we have a high water release. They are there to tame the rushing water, and prevent erosion and other damage caused by a high release.

After thirty years of run-

ning water, it was time to have them repaired. This was done with money from the economic stimulus plan. A company out of Michigan called Future Net Inc. won the bid and the subcontractor that did the work was a team from Kentucky called Marine Services Inc.

The old concrete was chipped away, underwater forms were placed, and a concrete mix was pumped down to the divers to fill the forms. After the concrete set, the forms were pulled and inspected. It was a job well done.



## National Trails Day—Made with all Natural Ingredients

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Blue Marsh Lake is joining the American Hiking Society in celebrating the 19th Annual National Trails Day on Saturday, June 4, 2011. This year’s theme “Made with all Natural Ingredients” encourages all Americans to get outside, connect with local outdoor clubs, community groups, and

parks and recreation departments as well as federal land managing agencies to experience, appreciate and celebrate the natural places where we can find a spread of scenery, a plateful of peace, and a heap of happiness and health.

Two different activities are planned at Blue Marsh Lake. Meet at the Church Road Access to “Hike

with a Ranger” at 8:30 a.m. The length of the hike will be four-miles, and will include some hills.

A volunteer work project will also take place on June 4. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9:00 a.m., and please wear long pants, and bring along insect repellent. Tools are provided. Hope to see you on Saturday June 4, 2011!

## US Army Corps of Engineers

Blue Marsh Lake  
1268 Palisades Drive  
Leesport, Pennsylvania 19533

Phone: 610-376-63337  
Fax: 610-376-1919  
Web Site:  
[http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/sb/bm\\_guide.htm](http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/sb/bm_guide.htm)

Newsletter prepared by:  
Natural Resource Specialist Ranger Kathy Grim  
Email: [Kathleen.J.Grim@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kathleen.J.Grim@usace.army.mil)  
Natural Resource Specialist Nathan Freiwald  
Email: [Nathan.T.Freiwald@usace.army.mil](mailto:Nathan.T.Freiwald@usace.army.mil)



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Philadelphia District**

**Letter tile answer:** Be sure to have all of your safety equipment on board before you launch, its better to be safe than sorry!

## Your Spring Boating checklist

With the warmer weather on the horizon, it is time to get your water craft out of its winter storage and hit the water. But before you do, There are a few things you should do before you set sail.

### **Power boats:**

-Make sure your boat has the proper registration and carry it on board.

-There has to be a life jacket on board for every person and if your vessel is over 16 feet, you must have a type 4 throwable device. (type 4 devices do not count as wearable life jackets)

-your vessel must have a mechanical means of producing sound like a horn, bell, or whistle.

-If your power boat has a closed compartment that could trap fumes, you must carry a fire extinguisher.

-It is also good to carry on your boat an anchor, rope, bailer, first aid kit, radio/phone, spare fuses, and visual distress signals.

### **Non Powered Craft:**

-you must have a personal flotation device on board for each person. It does not have to be worn, but we

### **Personal Water Craft:**

- a PFD must be worn at all times
- your registration card must be on board
- you must have a sound producing device
- you must have a fire extinguisher
- all PWC operators must possess a valid Boating Safety Certificate

\*\*Please refer to the Pennsylvania Boating Handbook for regulations specific to the size and type of your vessel\*\*