

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

PHOTO CONTEST 2026 CALENDAR



In 2025, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Philadelphia District ran a social media-based photo contest for the public. Participants were encouraged to submit their best photos of the District's five dams in Eastern Pennsylvania (Blue Marsh Lake, Beltzville Dam, Francis E. Walter Dam, Prompton Dam, and General Edgar Jadwin Dam) and adjacent state park areas. In response, images flowed in from across the region.

We are pleased to present this downloadable calendar featuring the top images, based off votes to include all five dam locations. Thank you to all of the talented photographers for submitting photos and to the participants who voted!





JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

When temperatures fluctuate, a lake's ice sheet will expand and contract, causing the ice to buckle under stress and push onto the shoreline. This process, known as an "ice shove," can be seen along the shorelines of all the Northern Area's reservoirs.



FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 President's Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Invasive Species Awareness Week					

This clear blue ice, seen during a plane ride over Blue Marsh Lake during the winter of 2025, is considered to be the strongest type of ice. White ice, which is formed from frozen snow or slush, is only about half as strong as clear ice. Ice thickness is not monitored at the Northern Area reservoirs and caution should be taken by visitors when venturing out on the ice. Wearing a life jacket when exploring lake ice can help reduce the risk of drowning from cold water shock.



MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Daylight Savings Begins						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

With flowers that resemble upside-down grape bunches, grape hyacinths are not a true hyacinth despite their name. They are among the earliest ephemeral flowers to bloom during the spring season.



APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 <small>Easter Sunday</small>	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	
26	27	28	29	30		

Known as “spring ephemerals,” trout lilies complete most of their life cycle in early spring before overhead tree canopies block out sunlight from the forest floor. Their mottled leaves resemble markings on brook trout, giving them their common name. From March through May, check out the forested sections of Blue Marsh Lake’s 50+ miles of trails to spot these short-lived blooms.

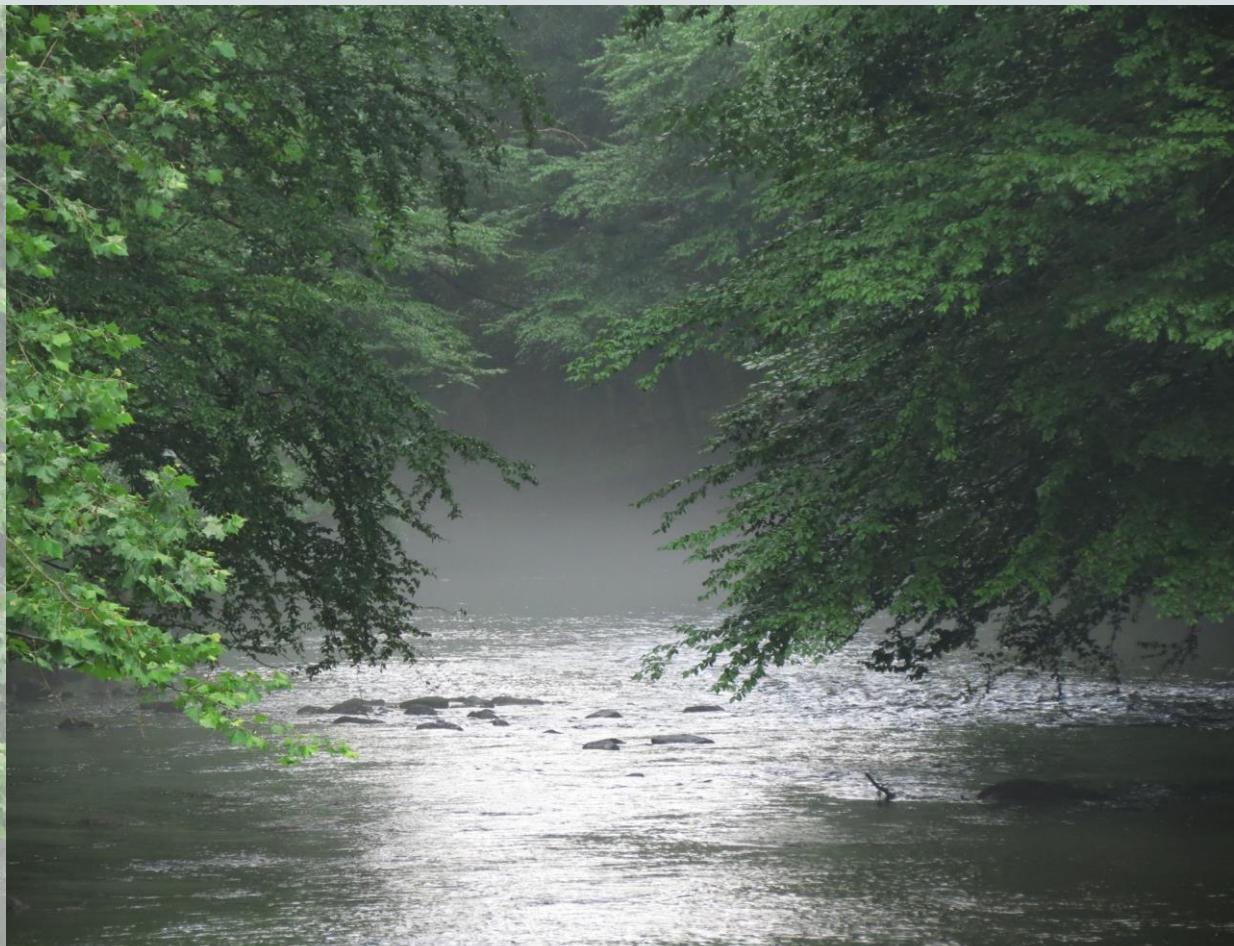


MAY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16 National Safe Boating Week
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 National Dam Safety Awareness Day						

Deer are surprisingly strong and efficient swimmers. Did you know they are capable of swimming several miles at a time and at speeds up to 13 miles per hour? This spring buck in velvet was captured swimming at Blue Marsh Lake, where deer are a common wildlife sighting.

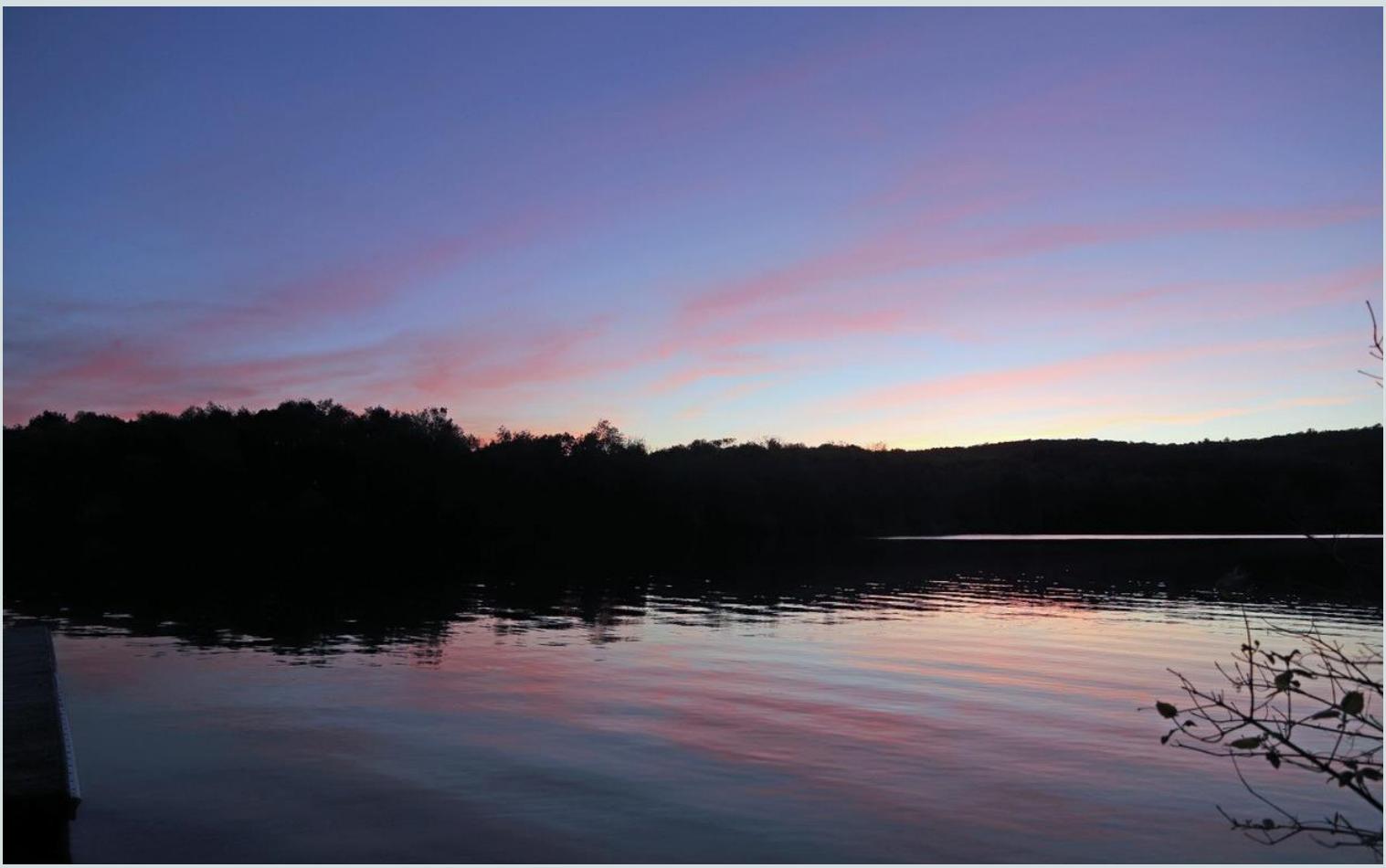
Spring Category, Buck Jumped in the Water, Blue Marsh Lake, Photo by Carl J. Fischer, Jr.



JUNE 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
						National Get Outdoors Day
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Army Birthday, Flag Day				National Go Fishing Day	Juneteenth	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Father's Day						
28	29	30				

The West Branch Lackawaxen River flows 21.5 miles into the reservoir created by Prompton Dam. The dam captures water from a 59.7 square mile drainage area. Since 1960, Prompton Dam has prevented more than \$42.5 million in flooding damages.



JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Prompton Dam Commissioned 1960	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Blue Marsh Lake Dam Commissioned 1979	16	17	18
19	20	21 Philadelphia District Established 1866	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
World Ranger Day						

Beltzville Lake, a 949-acre body of water with 19.8 miles of shoreline, was constructed in 1971-1972 primarily for flood control, water supply, and recreational use. Sunset viewing is a popular recreational activity, only to be enhanced by the reflections seen on the reservoirs surface.



AUGUST 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Sunsets appear red and orange due to a phenomenon called "Rayleigh scattering." As sunlight passes through the Earth's atmosphere, shorter wavelengths of light (like blue and violet) are scattered more efficiently by air molecules, leaving the longer wavelengths (red and orange) to reach our eyes. The view from the Blue Marsh Lake Visitor Center is a popular sunset viewing spot.



SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <small>Labor Day</small>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 <small>Beltzville Dam Commissioned 1971</small>	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 <small>National Public Lands Day</small>	28	29	30			

Stand-up paddleboarding is a popular water sporting activity that also serves as a full-body workout! Remember, stand-up paddleboards are classified as vessels and require paddlers to have all of the required safety equipment onboard, such as a life jacket and whistle, and to adhere to posted restriction buoys while out on the water.

Fall Category, *Sunrise on the Lake, Blue Marsh Lake, Photo by Kami Kiritsis*



OCTOBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 <i>Columbus Day</i>	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Turkey and black vultures are masters of the air, able to soar for hours on rising thermal air currents and updrafts with minimal flapping of their wings. They are frequently seen at their favorite soaring spot within the updrafts, along the upstream face of the Blue Marsh Lake Dam.



NOVEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <small>Daylight Savings Ends</small>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 <small>Veteran's Day</small>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 <small>Thanksgiving</small>	27	28
29	30					

Hunting is a popular fall activity that takes place on the public lands at all of the Northern Area's dams and reservoirs. Hunter's wear bright orange as a safety requirement, and so should you! It helps you be seen while participating in outdoor recreational activities during the variety of hunting seasons, such as pheasant, which these hunters are enjoying together with their birding dogs.



DECEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Christmas Day	

The Harrity Covered Bridge, also known as the "Buck" covered bridge, located in Beltzville State Park, was originally built in 1841 to cross Pohopoco Creek. When the creek was dammed in 1970 to create Beltzville Lake, the bridge was dismantled and reconstructed on dry land within the state park, where it now serves as a pedestrian bridge.