



FALL 2023 PROGRAMS

Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Natural Resources Division

See a full listing of all the upcoming programs at www.calvertparks.org.

Online registration is recommended.

Join or renew today

The schedule of events is subject to change based on the status of the coronavirus response, weather, staffing and other situations that may arise. If Calvert Nature Society or Calvert County Natural Resources Division cancels a program, a full refund will be issued.



Programs for Families

Families experience the fascinating natural world found in our area. These programs incorporate activities for learners of all ages.

Most programs spend time outdoors: dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear.

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org.

Adult participation required unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.

Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

September Programs

**Registration Opens for Members on July 7
Nonmembers July 21**

Hoppers!

Ages 3-5

Tuesday, September 5, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

Come learn about and look for crickets, grasshoppers, and other insects in this fun outdoor adventure. We will read a story about these animals and look at some wild ones up close.

One Fish Two Fish

Ages 6-9

Saturday, September 9, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Gene Groshon

We will head to the beach to use a seine net to find out who is living in the waters along the shoreline of the bay. Parents will help Gene use the net in the water and children will collect the animals once we bring the net ashore. From crabs to shrimp to small fish we will identify everything we catch.

Wonderful Worms

Ages 1.5-5

Tuesday, September 19, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Naturalist: Kim Curren

Come learn what makes worms so wonderful and then join us as we look for worms in the dirt and under logs. Come prepared to get dirty.

Wonderful Worms

Ages 1.5-5

Tuesday, September 19, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Naturalist: Kim Curren

Come learn what makes worms so wonderful and then join us as we look for worms in the dirt and under logs. Come prepared to get dirty.

Pawpaw Party!

All Ages

Sunday, September 24, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Kim Curren

Come meet Maryland's best kept secret fruit - the native Pawpaw. Take a hike to learn about these delectable, tropical-tasting fruits and taste some of the many ways you can enjoy them.

School's Out Camp

3-5 grade

Friday, September 29, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

Naturalist: Tania Gale

\$25 for members, \$40 for nonmembers

Come explore the outdoors, meet new friends, discover new interests, and create memories that last a lifetime. We will spend the day exploring the park - hiking through the woods, exploring the meadow, and playing games.

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.

Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

October Programs

**Registration Opens for Members August 7
Nonmembers August 21**

"Walktober" Hike

All Ages

Sunday, October 1, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Kim Curren

Join us for a hike on the first day of Walktober. This tradition officially began in 2020 as a celebration of Maryland's official state exercise- walking. We will hike the trails of Kings Landing Park and enjoy the first signs of fall along the Patuxent River.

All About Owls

Ages 3-5

Thursday, October 12, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 12, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Naturalist: Gene Groshon

Learn about these birds of the night. We will learn about types of owls that call our area home and how they use their special features to hunt in the darkness. We will even get a chance to see our ambassador owls up close.

Owl Pellet Dissection

Ages 6-9

Saturday, October 21, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Kim Curren

Join us as we dissect and identify the contents of Barn Owl pellets from our local nest boxes. We will learn about owl pellets and identify the prey items the owls ate.

(Not so) Creepy Creatures

Ages 3-5

Tuesday, October 31, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Paige Stevens

Bats, Owls, Spiders, oh my. Come learn about our creepy critters and make a Halloween craft.

November Programs

**Registration Opens for Members September 7
Nonmembers September 21**

Fall Colors Hike

Ages 1.5-5

Saturday, November 11, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 11, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

Naturalist: Kim Curren

Let's explore the park looking for the beautiful colors of Fall.

Beyond 'Smoes: Campfire Cooking

Ages 8 and older

Saturday, November 18, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

Most everyone knows how to make s'mores over a fire, but campfire cooking can be so much more. Come discover some new campfire cooking methods and recipes. Dress for the weather - and bring your appetite.

Leaf Crafts

Ages 1.5-5

Wednesday, November 22, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Kim Curren

There are so many fun things we can do with leaves after they fall from the trees. We will collect freshly fallen leaves and use them to create a variety of craft projects. Drop in any time between 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and stay for as long as you'd like. All materials will be provided.

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.
Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

December Programs

**Registration Opens for Members October 7
Nonmembers October 21**

Animal Stories Campfire

All ages

Friday, December 1, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Kim Curren

Come get cozy around the campfire and roast marshmallows while the naturalist shares some traditional animal folk stories. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on.

Where'd the Animals Go?

Ages 3-5

Tuesday, December 12, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Paige Stevens

Come learn about how animals survive the winter, read a book and enjoy a craft.

Winter Nature Play

Ages 3-5

Monday, December 18, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Flag Pods Nature Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

Come spend the morning outdoors with your preschooler. We will explore the weather and how it impacts the residents of the park in the winter.

Candy Canes and Compasses

Ages 5 and older

Saturday, December 23, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

Naturalist: Kim Curren

Children will learn some basic compass skills and use what they have learned to find candy canes hidden in the park.

Winter Woods Adventure

Ages 6-9,

Saturday, December 2, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

\$10 for members, \$20 for nonmembers

What is happening in the woods right now - early winter? How are animals and plants dealing with the changes in the seasons? We will have both indoor and outdoor activities as we explore the park and these changes.

Adult participation is NOT required.

**Join or renew today to support
your nature parks...and get
member pricing on programs.**

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org

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For Teens (& Tweens)

<https://www.calvertparks.org/programs/teens.html>

Fall Series Outdoor Skills

Ages 12-16

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

Fee is Per Teen Per Program

Free for members, \$8 per person for nonmembers

Finding Food

Wednesday, September 13, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

We will cover finding food and water safely outdoors. With luck, we will include sampling some wild fruit is that is in season.

Finding Your Way

Wednesday, October 4, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

we will practice with different kinds of maps and compasses and practice using these tools, focusing on what types of situations each is good for, and practice making our own maps.

Shelter Building

Wednesday, November 8, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

From a one-person emergency shelter to a bigger, long-term structure - knowing how to create your own shelter could come in handy. Learn about different types of shelters, what materials to use, and then put that knowledge to practice.

Fire Building

Wednesday, December 6, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Free for members, \$8 for nonmembers

Come practice a variety of ways to build fires – from some of the oldest to modern ways and learn basic fire safety. We'll end by cooking a snack in the fire we make together.

Teen Birding: Blackwater Wildlife Refuge Trip

Ages 12-18

Saturday, December 9, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Naturalist: Gene Groshon

\$25 for members, \$40 for nonmembers

Join us for a trip to Blackwater Wildlife Refuge on the eastern shore of Maryland. This park is an important wintering ground for many waterfowl species. We will get the chance to see Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, and many species of ducks. We will meet at Kings Landing Park and take the county van to the refuge. Please bring a packed lunch, snacks, binoculars and a water bottle.

Teen Birding: Winter Raptor Survey

Ages 12-18

Thursday, December 28, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Gene Groshon

Free for members, \$8 per person for nonmembers

As part of our raptor research, staff are conducting surveys of wintering hawks and falcons to better understand their survivability. Join us as we conduct roadside raptor banding surveys throughout Calvert County to collect more data for this study. We will meet at Battle Creek and travel in the county van to various areas.

[September Programs](#)

Registration Opens for Members July 7

Nonmembers July 21

[October Programs](#)

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[November Programs](#)

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[December Programs](#)

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REGISTRATION & NATURE PARK INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CALVERTPARKS.ORG

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.
Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

HOMESCHOOL FRIDAYS

This fall's homeschool series covers "Outdoor Skills," with each month focusing on something different.

Ages 4-12, with adult

September 8: Finding food and water

October 6: Finding your way

November 3: Shelter building

December 1: Fire building

Session A: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Session B: 1:30-3:30 p.m.

SEE ABOVE FOR REGISTRATION OPENING DATES

<https://www.calvertparks.org/homeschool/>

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Tania Gale

Reservations required.

Free for society members.

Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

Homeschool First Fridays is a series of environmental education programs developed especially for homeschoolers ages 4 to 12 years. These classes are a great way to get hands-on science and nature lessons, receive help on projects and research and network with other homeschooling families. Each two-hour program will consist of indoor and outdoor hands-on learning. Depending on the topic, students may observe live animals, collect aquatic creatures, take measurements of water quality or play games. Students will be grouped by age to allow for age appropriate topic exploration.

Parents with younger children will stay with the group; parents of older children have the option to stay and participate as mentors and teachers. Siblings younger than 3 years are welcome but must be under the care of a parent/guardian at all times and should not distract other participants.

CALVERT STEWARDS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Assisting at the parks is a rewarding way to raise awareness of the importance of our natural lands. Use your experience to help preserve our future in Calvert County by becoming one of our Calvert Stewards.

Some projects are appropriate for families and teens.

Explore our Calvert Steward web site

<https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com>

[Calvert County Biodiversity via iNaturalist](#)

Document the distribution and abundance of plants, animals, fungi and other species found throughout Calvert County. Use iNaturalist to photograph and map your observations in a few easy steps.

[Gardening Days](#)

Help with the upkeep of the gardens at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Kings Landing Park and Flag Ponds Nature Park. From invasive plant removal, to routine garden care, to maintaining the nature play space - there is always something to be done.

[Service Projects for Groups](#)

We have a wide variety of opportunities suitable for an organized group (ex: scout, church, school group, etc.) looking to perform a service project in the park.

[Trail Monitoring & Park Maintenance](#)

Volunteer assists park staff in maintaining trails at all of our nature parks. Duties include removing debris and obstacles from trails and reporting unusual conditions, such as items too large or dangerous for volunteers.

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.

Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

Adults & Older Teens

Adventures in Raptor Research

Adults and older teens

Friday, October 6, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Gene Groshon

Free

Raptors are an important part of our ecosystem but they are facing some hard times these days. Come learn about what is being done to study these birds and help save them. Naturalist Gene Groshon will talk about the current research project going on in Calvert County to monitor wintering raptor populations and how you can help.

Owl Prowl

Adults and older teens

Saturday, November 4, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Naturalist: Gene Groshon

Free for members, \$8 per person for nonmembers

Ever wondered what owls live in Maryland? We will go on a 2 mile hike through the forest to see WHOOOO we can find. We will discuss the different species and their special adaptations for living at night. Be sure to bring a headlamp or flashlight, one with a red light is best.

Senior Strides

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Ages 60 and older

Gatewood Preserve Saturday, October 14,

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, Wednesday, December 13

Naturalist: Amy Werking

Free for members, \$8 per person for nonmembers
Join us on a guided hike of our nature parks. We'll be walking for about two hours on moderately hilly and somewhat uneven terrain, enjoying nature and all the nature preserve has to offer.

Heritage Kayak Trip

Saturday, September 16

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Location: Lower Marlboro Wharf

For ages 9 years and older

Must be at least 12 years old to ride in a single kayak.

<https://www.calvertparks.org/kayak.html>

Paddle through history on this heritage themed kayak tours along the Patuxent River. Local archaeologist and historic preservationist Chris Sperling along with naturalist, Tania Gale, will guide visitors along waters used by enslaved people as a path to freedom during the War of 1812.

Members Only

\$15 per person for Society members.

\$10 discount if you bring your own kayak

Reservations required, www.calvertparks.org

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CANCELATIONS

Many of our programs fill quickly and have waitlists. If you need to cancel your registration, please call 410-535-5327 or email info@calvertparks.org

Weather Policy. Most programs are held rain or shine. If Calvert County schools or government are closed due to weather, programs are canceled. If there is a delayed opening, morning programs are canceled. We try to post cancellations as timely as possible.

Cancellations Due to Illness. In most cases, full refunds will be issued when participants must cancel due to illness. For summer camps we reserve the right to withhold a portion of the registration fees for non-recoverable fees.

Calvert Nature Society is dedicated to the protection and preservation of Calvert County's natural heritage and the creation of an environmentally literate and aware community. We provide opportunities for appreciation and understanding of our natural world through our outreach initiatives and in support of the mission of the Calvert County Natural Resources Division. The Society is a 501(c)3 organization.

Join or Renew Today

Support your nature parks

- Access to early program registration
- Free, or reduced fees, for programs

Your donations directly support our programs and activities

- \$500 supports our efforts to preserve and protect land in Calvert County
- \$250 supports participation of at-need children in summer camps
- \$150 supports research projects at our parks (including the Adopt an Owl program)
- \$100 provides materials for volunteer projects in the parks
- \$50 builds a strong community for our nature parks

Any amount directly funds the excellent nature education programs for Calvert County's nature parks

REFUND POLICY

Refunds are available only for transactions involving the purchase of goods and services. Dues payments are not refundable.

If Calvert Nature Society or Calvert County cancels the program, a full refund will be given.

When a cancellation occurs at least a month before the program, the Society will refund payments for program fees over \$10, less a \$5 administrative fee; Program fees of \$10 or less will not be refunded.

Summer Camp Refunds: Refunds will not be issued for incomplete registration. Refunds, less a \$25 administration fee, will be issued when cancellations are received in writing 30 days before camp start date. Refunds will not be issued due to partial attendance in a camp.

For Programs at Flag Ponds Nature Park: Program participants do not need to pay the entrance fee on the day of the program. The entrance fee will be required on any other visit to the park.

For general questions: CypressSwamp@CalvertCountyMD.gov (will receive a response during business hours). Most programs do not allow for email registrations.

PARTICIPANT WAIVER

The safety, health, and well-being of all participants in our programs is paramount and if the participant(s) or anyone in the immediate household is ill they should stay home. Prior to participation in any Society sponsored program, each individual, if under 18 a parent or guardian, is required to read and agree to the participant waiver. The waiver agreement needs to be completed for each in-person program during the registration process.

[Read the full waiver](#)