

Blackwater NWR 2024 Eagle Festival Schedule

| Time | Activity/Program | Description |
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| 8:00 – 9:30 am | Birding With a Guide (approx. 1.5 hrs.) | EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!! Observe resident and migratory birds, including eagles, geese, ducks, herons, and songbirds with expert guide Terry Allen. Bring binoculars. Park at the Education Building on Wildlife Drive. |
| Tours (Visitor Center Parking Lot) | | |
| 10:00 & 11:30 am 1:00 & 2:30 pm | Eagle Prowl (approx. 1 hr. 15 min.) | Join our experienced volunteers and staff as we search for bald eagles on the refuge. Seating is limited. Registration begins at 9:30 am for all prowls. Limit 4 tickets per person. Once tickets are gone, seats will be filled on a stand-by basis. Tickets go fast so plan accordingly. |
| 10:00 & 11:30 am 1:00 & 2:30 pm | Wildlife Drive Van Tour (approx. 1 hr. 15 min.) | Join refuge staff on a tour of the wildlife drive as we search for bald eagles. Learn how the refuge manages habitat for wildlife from the comfort of a commercial van. Registration begins at 9:30 am for all tours. Limit 4 tickets per person. Once tickets are gone seats will be filled on a stand-by basis. Tickets go fast so plan accordingly. |
| Live Bird Programs (in the Program Tent) | | |
| 10:30 am | Raptors Rule! | Mike Callahan of Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center will present an interactive live birds of prey program with fun information about the exciting lives of bald eagles and other native raptors of Maryland! |
| 11:30 am | Egg Crush Demonstration | Learn about the effects of DDT on the bald eagle population with an interactive demo, and how we came together to save our national symbol. |
| 12:30 pm | Birds in Action | Join us for an exciting free-flight bird encounter with species from around the world. Meet a hornbill, sun conure, magpie-jay and cockatoo. The thirty minute program will educate and connect all ages to conservation action. Program is provided by Animal Behavior & Conservation Connections. |
| 2:00 pm | Egg Crush Demonstration | A second chance to learn about the effects of DDT on the bald eagle population with an interactive demo, and how we came together to save our national symbol. |
| 2:30 pm | Raptors Rule! | A second chance to see Mike Callahan of Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center present a live birds of prey program with fun information about the exciting lives of bald eagles and other native raptors of Maryland! |
| Exhibits/Demonstrations/Presentations (Visitor Center) | | |
| All day | Throughout the Visitor Center | View live birds of prey with exhibitors from the Salisbury Zoo and Nanjemoy Creek Education Center. Exhibits from the Friends of Blackwater, Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Maryland Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, USFWS Wildlife Inspectors, and Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research. Decoy carving demonstrations by Warren Saunders. 11 am – 3 pm Kids' face painting 10 am – 3 pm Live reptiles from Maryland Park Service's "Scales and Tales" |
| Kids' Stuff (Activity Tents) – All Day While Supplies Last | | |
| Nest Box Tent | Build a Bird Box | Construct a wren nest box to take home. All materials supplied. |
| Kids Activity Tent | Owl Pellet Exploration | Learn about the foods owls eat by dissecting an owl pellet. |
| | Kids' Make-and-Take | Make a wildlife button, bookmark, and a bald eagle! |
| Range Tent | Archery | Kids can try their hand at archery at the indoor "Hoverball" range. |
| | BB Gun Range | A fun and safe shooting range staffed by the National Wild Turkey Federation. |
| All Day | Wildlife Drive | Free of Charge! |
| | Food | Purchase vittles from Boy Scout Troop 532. Visitor Center parking lot. |
| | StoryWalk® along the Woods Trail | Families can enjoy a "StoryWalk®" along the Woods Trail with the picture book "Over in The Forest" by Marianne Berkes. |