

Patuxent Research Refuge



Fall Programs, 2022

September

NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive
Laurel, MD 20724

Screech Owl Tim

Sun., Sept. 11th, 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm

All ages, no registration

Not all owls are the same. Meet a tiny screech owl and learn how it thrives in the forests of Maryland.

Riding Bicycles to Experience North Tract

Sat., Sept. 17th, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Ages 10+, registration required

Experience the beauty of local wildlife, plants and historical sites on this 12-mile guided ride. Bring your own bike, snack, water bottle and helmet. The ride is weather-dependent. The road surface is rough asphalt and may not be suitable for narrow road tires.

Pollinator Festival (Friends of Patuxent)

Sat. Sept. 24th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

All ages, no registration

Come learn about monarch butterflies and the many other animals that help pollinate our local plants. The day includes activities for kids, live monarchs, and bee keepers.

SOUTH TRACT PROGRAMS

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
Laurel, MD 20708

BARK Ranger Training

Sat., Sept. 3rd, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

All ages, registration required

Does your dog enjoy walking the trails at Patuxent? Bring your dog to our BARK Ranger training. Upon completion your dog can monitor the trails as a certified B.A.R.K. Ranger. (Participating youth must be accompanied by an adult.)

Family Fun - Ducks and Geese

Fri., Sept. 9th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sat., Sept. 10th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

All ages, no registration

Patuxent Refuge is an important stop-over point for migrating ducks and geese, and September is a great time to see them on our lakes and ponds. Come learn more about migratory waterfowl through hands-on activities, games and crafts for all ages. This is a drop-in program -- come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

Driving Tour- Solving Nature's Mysteries

Sat., Sept. 10th, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Recommended ages 10+, registration required

Join former Refuge Manager Brad Knudsen on a behind the scenes tour of the refuge's Central Tract to learn how wildlife research and refuge management have worked together to assist wildlife conservation efforts locally, nationally, and globally.

Pollinators in a Pot -- Native Plants for Patios and Decks

Sat., Sept. 17th, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

All ages, registration required

How do you create a wildlife home in the limited space of a patio or deck? Join in on this informative session and adopt a native plant grown at the USGS Bee Lab.

Junior Wildlife Ranger

Sat., Sept. 17th, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Ages 6 - 10, registration required

Join a Refuge Ranger to explore five nature-related activities. Complete your Junior Wildlife Ranger (JWR) activity booklet and earn a JWR badge!

Easy Pollinator-Habitat Gardens

Sat., Sept. 24th, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

All ages, registration required

Did you know that you can help wildlife right from your home? Planting just a few native plants can make a great home for native pollinators. Come to this class for help with starting your own backyard wildlife refuge.



REGISTRATION

Programs are **free**. Some programs require advance registration by calling **301-497-5887**. Programs are subject to changes or cancellation due to weather or low participation. Please notify the refuge of any special needs so that you may be accommodated. Join our email list by contacting timothy_parker@fws.gov.

October

NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive
Laurel, MD 20724

Riding Bicycles to Experience North Tract

Sat., Oct. 22nd, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
Ages 10+, registration required

Experience the beauty of local wildlife, plants and historical sites on this 12-mile guided ride. Bring your own bike, snack, water bottle and helmet. The ride is weather-dependent. The road surface is rough asphalt and may not be suitable for narrow road tires.

Skulls Identification

Sun., Oct. 16th, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Ages 5+, registration required

We see skulls for Halloween, but did you know animal skulls tell a story? Learn to examine the teeth, eye placement, and shape of a skull to make an educated guess as to how the animal lived its life.



SOUTH TRACT PROGRAMS

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
Laurel, MD 20708

Urban Wildlife Conservation Day

Sat., October 1st, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
All ages, no registration

Come celebrate the joys of having wildlife next to our homes in the city. This year's celebration includes live animals, arts and crafts, pop-up archery, and several programs on the trails.

Easy Pollinator-Habitat Gardens

Sat., Oct. 8th, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
All ages, registration required

Did you know that you can help wildlife right from your home? Planting just a few native plants can make a great home for native pollinators. Come to this class for help with starting your own backyard wildlife refuge.

Pollinators in a Pot -- Native Plants for Patios and Decks

Sat., Oct. 22nd, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
All ages, registration required

How do you create a wildlife home in the limited space of a patio or deck? Join in on this informative session and adopt a native plant grown at the USGS Bee Lab.

Driving Tour- Solving Nature's Mysteries

Sat., Oct. 8th, 1:00 - 3:30 pm
Recommended ages 10+, registration required

Join former Refuge Manager Brad Knudsen on a behind-the-scenes tour of the refuge's Central Tract to learn how wildlife research and refuge management have worked together to assist wildlife conservation efforts locally, nationally, and globally.

BARK Ranger Training

Sat., Oct. 8th, 10:00 am - 11:30 am
All ages, registration required

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Family Fun - Creepy Critters

Fri., Oct. 21st, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sat., Oct. 22nd, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
All ages, no registration

October means Halloween -- time for spooky owls, scary bats and crawly spiders. Are these animals creepy, or are they cool? Come learn more about them through hands-on activities, games and crafts for all ages. This is a drop-in program -- come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

Junior Wildlife Ranger

Sat., Oct. 22nd, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Ages 6 - 10, registration required

Join a Refuge Ranger to explore five nature-related activities. Complete your Junior Wildlife Ranger (JWR) activity booklet and earn a JWR badge!

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November

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230 Bald Eagle Drive
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Riding Bicycles to Experience North Tract

Sat., Nov. 19th, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Ages 10+, registration required

Experience the beauty of local wildlife, plants and historical sites on this 12-mile guided ride. Bring your own bike, snack, water bottle and helmet. The ride is weather-dependent. The road surface is rough asphalt and may not be suitable for narrow road tires.

SOUTH TRACT PROGRAMS

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
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Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Holiday Bazaar

Sat., Nov. 5th, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

All ages, no registration

The holiday bazaar returns to Patuxent. This is a great event to find the unusual holiday gift. In addition to the shopping there will be a live animals, door prizes, story time, and home-made treats at the bake sale.

BARK Ranger Training

Sat., Nov. 12th, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

All ages, registration required

Does your dog enjoy walking the trails at Patuxent? Bring your dog to our BARK Ranger training. Upon completion your dog can monitor the trails as a certified B.A.R.K. Ranger. (Participating youth must be accompanied by an adult.)

Family Fun - Hot Diggety Dirt!

Fri., Nov. 18th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sat., Nov. 19th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

All ages, no registration

Dirt does more than just hold us up and keep the trees from falling over. We take dirt for granted, but without it there would be no food, no animals and no people. Where does it come from? What is it for? Who lives in it? Come find out! Enjoy hands-on activities, crafts and games for all ages. This is a drop-in program; come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

Junior Wildlife Ranger

Sat., Nov. 19th, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Ages 6 - 10, registration required

Join a Refuge Ranger to explore five nature-related activities. Complete your Junior Wildlife Ranger (JWR) activity booklet and earn a JWR badge!

Driving Tour- Solving Nature's Mysteries

Sat., Nov 12th, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Recommended ages 10+, registration required

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KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER

The Kid's Discovery Center is open Tuesday thru Saturday, each day that the Visitor's Center is open. Pre-registered parent/child "Teams" are invited into the Center on the hour, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon for a 35-minute, fun-filled session. Each month, a new and exciting nature theme is presented for parents and children to explore.

Activities are age-appropriate for children ages 3 -8. *NOTE: The Kid's Discovery Center is not appropriate for children younger than 3 due to small items featured in the exhibit.

Call our front desk at **301-497-5760** to reserve a 35-minute time slot for you and your child. NOTE: Parents are required to work with their child at each of the parent-led activities.

Upcoming Themes:

September- My Oh My! Magnificent Monarchs! But... did you know that they are now on the "ENDANGERED LIST"? Join us at the Kid's Discovery Center to find out about their travel routes from Canada to Mexico and discover what you can do to help these majestic migrants.

October- What's that scurrying in the leaves? Is it a SQUIRREL or CHIPMUNK? Believe it or not, there's more than just color and size that separates the two animals! Join us at to find out about these small rodents: their similarity and differences as well as their likes and dislikes.

November- "Gobble, gobble!" It that a turkey? It doesn't look like the turkey we enjoy on Thanksgiving! Join us in November to learn about the Wild Turkey that you might see running around Patuxent.



BSA Personal Fitness Merit Badge

Join us to work on the Personal Fitness merit badge. Registration for this merit badge is only on-line. Scouts must have a current BSA physical. We will complete requirements 1, 6, & 7, plus we will work on requirements 2-5 in class. Requirements 8 & 9 will be homework. Sign up for only one class date.

Dates: Sept. 25th, Oct. 23rd, Nov. 20th

More information & registration: <https://bit.ly/3h9IzJS>

Get to Know Our Friends Group

The Friends of Patuxent Research Refuge Incorporated is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization, and was formed in 1992 to support the mission and programs of the Patuxent Research Refuge and the Eastern Ecological Science Center in Laurel, Maryland. Friends of Patuxent raise funds for educational programs, exhibits, and research. The focus of the research includes contaminants, migratory birds and studies of endangered species.



[FriendsofPatuxent.org](https://www.FriendsofPatuxent.org)

Volunteer on the Refuge

Volunteers assist with running the Visitor Center, maintaining the refuge, and supporting wildlife management. Want to learn more? Go to <https://go.usa.gov/xHMph>