

Patuxent Research Refuge

September, 2023



NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive
Laurel, MD 20724

Photo-Adventure Scavenger Hunt

Sat., Sept. 2nd, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

All ages, no registration

Using clues, individuals and/or groups can hunt for sculptured stones, mystery objects, plants and animals while learning about the history and features of the refuge. Bring a camera or a cell phone to record your observations. This is a "drop-in" program. Come when you wish; leave when you are ready. This activity requires driving a small area (1-2 miles) of the refuge and walking short distances near trails.

Early Fall Migration Birding

Sat., Sept. 9th, 8:00 am - 11 am

Ages 10+, registration required

Search the refuge for quick, small, migrating songbirds like warblers, thrushes, grosbeaks, and vireos. We will do some driving and some short walks. Beginners, welcome! Bring water, sunscreen, insect repellent, binoculars if you have them, and a snack if you wish. This event is weather-dependent.



Night Hike

Fri., Sept. 15th, 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Fri., Sept. 29th, 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

All ages, registration required

Many nocturnal animals like bats, owls, and coyotes excel in the darkness of our refuge. Join Ranger Tim for an exploration of North Tract at night and learn more about these animals.

Riding Bicycles to Experience North Tract

Sat., Sept. 16th, 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
Laurel, MD 20708

Building a Butterfly Garden

Sat., Sept. 8th, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

All ages, registration required

Tour the Pollinator Habitat Garden at the National Wildlife Visitor Center and learn how to plan and build a butterfly garden. Take home a native pollinator plant grown at the refuge. Learn the best timing for planting a pollinator garden, and when to cut plants back to encourage more frequent blooms. Hear of "green" techniques for managing plant invaders; maintain your garden without herbicides. Dress for outdoor weather conditions.

Owl and Kestrel

Sat., Sept. 9th, 11:00 am - 11:30 am

All ages, no registration

Meet two of North America's smallest birds of prey: the American Kestrel and the Eastern Screech Owl. Both expert hunters, the American Kestrel uses its acrobatic prowess, while the Eastern Screech Owl is a stealthy hunter. Program will be inside the Visitor Center.

Family Fun: TREE-mendous Trees!

Fri., Sept. 22nd, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sat., Sept. 23rd, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

All ages, no registration

Trees do much more than give us shade in the summer and provide a place for birds and squirrels to live. Trees help us in many ways. Trees also help wildlife and help the environment. Learn how TREE-mendous they are through hands-on games, crafts, and activities for all ages. This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

Hollingsworth Art Gallery, September

Prize-winning wildlife artist Ron Orlando helps us "experience nature's wild creatures in a very personal way" and seeks to bring precious wildlife encounters into our hearts and homes through his acrylic paintings. His trademark is a detailed layering technique. Ron, based in Odenton, MD, is a member of Artists for Conservation, "supporting nature through art," among others.

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.

Patuxent Research Refuge

October, 2023



NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive
Laurel, MD 20724

Photo-Adventure Scavenger Hunt

Sat., Oct. 7th, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

All ages, no registration

Using clues, individuals and/or groups can hunt for sculptured stones, mystery objects, plants and animals while learning about the history and features of the refuge. Bring a camera or a cell phone to record your observations. This is a "drop-in" program. Come when you wish; leave when you are ready. This activity requires driving a small area (1-2 miles) of the refuge and walking short distances near trails.

Riding Bicycles to Experience North Tract

Sat., Oct. 21st, 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
Laurel, MD 20708

Winterizing Your Butterfly Garden

Sat., Oct. 7th, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

All ages, registration required

Discover how to help pollinators successfully overwinter in your butterfly garden. Learn successful seed collection and storage methods for growing next year's plantings from this year's plants. Learn how to attractively make native plant seeds available for other wildlife through winter. Fall is a great time to plant new plants; take home a free native plant or two.

Urban Wildlife Conservation Day

Sat., Oct. 14th, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

All ages, no registration

This year's theme is all about our local bird populations. We will have crafts for kids, fun games, demonstration and live animals. We will also be dedicating the new Wisdom trail and renovated Dr Chandler S. Robbins Outdoor Education Center

Owl and Kestrel

Sat., Oct. 14th, 11:00 am - 11:30 am

All ages, no registration

Meet two of North America's smallest birds of prey: the American Kestrel and the Eastern Screech Owl. Both expert hunters, the American Kestrel uses its acrobatic prowess, while the Eastern Screech Owl is a stealthy hunter. Program will be inside the Visitor Center.

Family Fun: TREE-mendous Trees!

Fri., Oct. 20th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

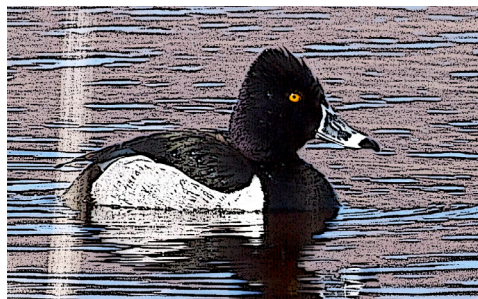
Sat., Oct. 21st, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

All ages, no registration

Trees do much more than give us shade in the summer and provide a place for birds and squirrels to live. Trees help us in many ways. Trees also help wildlife and help the environment. Learn how TREE-mendous they are through hands-on games, crafts, and activities for all ages. This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

Hollingsworth Art Gallery

Members of the Southern Comforters Quilt Guild invite the public to view nature and wildlife-themed quilt art on display in the gallery during the month of October.



REGISTRATION

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Patuxent Research Refuge

November, 2023



NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive
Laurel, MD 20724

Welcoming Winter Birds

Sun., Nov. 12th, 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Ages 10+, registration required

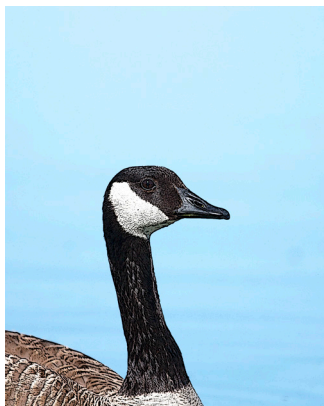
Explore the refuge in search of winter birds like Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco, and Fox Sparrow. We will do some driving and some short walks. Beginners, welcome. Bring water, sunscreen, binoculars if you have them, and a snack if you wish. This event is weather-dependent.

Riding Bicycles to Experience North Tract

Sat., Nov. 18th, 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
Laurel, MD 20708

Owl and Kestrel

Sat., Nov. 11th, 11:00 am - 11:30 am

All ages, no registration

Meet two of North America's smallest birds of prey: the American Kestrel and the Eastern Screech Owl. Both expert hunters, the American Kestrel uses its acrobatic prowess, while the Eastern Screech Owl is a stealthy hunter. Program will be inside the Visitor Center.

Winterizing Your Butterfly Garden

Sat., Nov. 11th, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

All ages, registration required

Discover how to help pollinators successfully overwinter in your butterfly garden. Learn successful seed collection and storage methods for next year's plantings from this year's plants. Learn how to attractively make native plant seed available for other wildlife through winter. Fall is a great time to plant new plants.

Family Fun: TREE-mendous Trees!

Fri., Nov. 17th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

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

All ages, no registration

Trees do much more than give us shade in the summer and provide a place for birds and squirrels to live. Trees help us in many ways. Trees also help wildlife and help the environment. Learn how TREE-mendous they are through hands-on games, crafts, and activities for all ages. This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

Hollingsworth Art Gallery, November

Impressionistic oil paintings of Maryland nature, marsh and landscapes, aglow with painterly light and 23k gold leaf, brighten the gallery this month. Nationally-listed Maryland artist David Terrar, inspired by a near-death experience, embraces both the magical sunlight hour at day's end and the medic-coined "golden hour," the "last hour of a patient's life," in his art.

REGISTRATION

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BSA Personal Fitness Merit Badge

Join us to work on the Personal Fitness merit badge. This class is in person. Registration is online. We need one BSA adult leader to stay with each class. Scouts must have a current BSA physical and blue card from their Scoutmaster. Requirements 1, 6, and 7 will be covered in class. Scouts will also work on requirements 2-5 in class. Homework is required. For more details you may contact misholler@gmail.com. More information will be included in the Welcome and Reminder letters after registration.

Dates/Times: Please sign up for only ONE class: either Sun., Oct. 22nd, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm EST, or Sun., Nov. 19th, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm EST.

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 raises funds for educational programs, exhibits, and research.



KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER

Daily, Tuesday through Saturday: Sessions start at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, and 12 noon. Duration: 35 minutes, each.

Ages 3-10; adult accompaniment required. Registration strongly recommended. Call the Kids' Discovery Center (KDC) Registration line at 301-497-5760 to reserve a 35-minute time slot for you and your child. (To work with KDC volunteers to help develop curriculum activities for children, please call the front desk (301-497-5772); ask for Barrie.)

Children ages 3-10* explore and learn about nature and the environment through engaging, age-appropriate activities, crafts and games, with parent/guardian support. Older siblings are welcome to join with parents and work with younger siblings to help them understand and complete the activities.

*NOTE: The Kid's Discovery Center is neither baby-proofed nor appropriate for children younger than 3, due to small items featured in the exhibits and activities. Parents are required to work with their child at each of the parent-led activities.

Upcoming Themes:

September: SQUIRRELS & CHIPMUNKS- Each season, we marvel at the ability of these animals to leap from tree to tree and scamper quickly away from dangerous cars. But how much do we really know about the life cycle of squirrels and chipmunks? Come and learn about these common rodents and the good deeds they perform around your home!

October: BATS! BATS! BATS! Bats have gotten a "bad rap" because of their connection to the holiday at the end of October. You can, however, say "THANKS" to them for keeping pesky mosquitoes from attacking you in droves! What else do bats do? Come discover for yourself the magic that these nighttime fliers perform!

November: WHOOOOO'S that flying around the neighborhood? It's neither Superman, Spiderman, nor Batman. Give up? It's the silent, night hunter of the skies...the beautiful owl! Come and learn what jobs these magnificent creatures perform each night while you sleep!

Monarch Magic

Daily (Tues. – Sat.) in September and October, from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

All ages, no registration

The monarchs are on their way! Join us as we send these beautiful pollinators back south, on their migration route to wintering grounds in Mexico. Talk with our knowledgeable staff of volunteers about how you can help support these wonders of nature. Daily butterfly releases begin at noon; the number of monarchs available each day is limited. We encourage all visitors to come in and sign-up at the front desk to help release our monarchs. Don't forget your camera! If interested in volunteering to help the butterflies, please call the front desk (301-497-5772); ask for Barrie.