

Patuxent Research Refuge



Spring Programs, 2023

March

NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive
Laurel, MD 20724

Riding Bicycles to Experience North Tract

Sat., March 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.

Photo-Adventure Scavenger Hunt

Sat., March 18th, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm
Sat., March 25th, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

All ages, no registration
Using clues, hunt for sculptured stones, mystery objects, plants and animals while learning about the history and features of the refuge. Bring a camera or cell phone to record your observations. This is a "drop-in" program. Come when you wish and leave when you are ready. This activity requires driving a small area (1-2 miles) of the refuge and walking short distances near trails.

Woodcock Sky Dance

Sat., March 25th, 6:45 pm - 8:15 pm
Age 11+, registration required

Learn about the biology and courtship habits of this secretive upland shorebird as the males take to the sky at dusk for their elaborate courtship dance. There will be opportunities to see other wildlife too, as the night comes alive right after sunset.

Interactive Nature Hike

Sat., March 25th, 10:00 - 11:30 am
Ages 10+, registration required

Join fellow walkers on a short stroll of Forest Trail. Discussion topics will include the history of North Tract, the role and importance of pollinators, the ecology and biodiversity within a forest habitat.

SOUTH TRACT PROGRAMS

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
Laurel, MD 20708

Welcoming Butterflies and Birds to Your Yard

Sat., March 11th, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
All ages, registration required

Learn how to provide the basics of habitat for common native butterflies and birds in your yard. What foods are best in winter? In this class we will look at on-line resources available to help you plan to attract and see more wildlife.

Becoming a Citizen Scientist: Documenting Bird and Monarch Migrations on a Computer

Sat., March 18th, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
All ages, registration required

Learn how you can document your observations on migrating birds and monarchs, and then track them on-line. Help scientists observe and document wildlife migrations that are different every year because of changing weather conditions.

Meet an American Kestrel

Sat., March 18th, 1:00 - 1:30 pm
All ages, no registration

Come meet an American Kestrel. In this informal show-and-tell time, see what makes the American Kestrel an expert at hunting in meadows.

Family Fun: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Fri., March 24th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sat., March 25th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Did you know that, on average, every American throws away almost 5 pounds of trash each day? That's a LOT of garbage! And it's causing problems for wildlife and for the earth. Enjoy hands-on activities, crafts and games while you learn how you can reduce, reuse and recycle in order to generate less trash. This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

Early Spring Birdwalk

Sat., March 25th, 8:00 am - 11:00 am
Ages 11+, registration requested

This walk will focus on lingering and early sparrows, waterfowl, and resident birds. We will walk around Cash Lake and end our trip at the feeders where there are Great opportunities to photograph birds at the feeders. Beginners are most welcome; bring your questions. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot at the wolf statues at 8:00 am.

Tree Treasures

Sat., March 25th, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Ages 4-8, registration required

What kinds of things might be treasures for trees? Join Ranger Diana on a tree treasure hunt to find out in this interactive kids' program.

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.

April

NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive
Laurel, MD 20724

Photo-Adventure Scavenger Hunt

Sat., April 1st, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Sat., April 15th, 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 cell phone to record your observations. This is a "drop-in" program. Come when you wish and leave when you are ready. This activity requires driving a small area (1-2 miles) of the refuge and walking short distances near trails.

Interactive Nature Hike

Sat., April 1st, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Sat., April 29th, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Ages 10+, registration required.

Join fellow walkers on a short stroll of Forest Trail. Discussion topics will include the history of North Tract, the role and importance of pollinators, the ecology and biodiversity within a forest habitat.

Night Hike

Fri., April 7th, 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

All ages, registration required

Join a former North Tract ranger for an evening stroll on Merganser Pond Trail. Expect to see bats, possibly beaver, and hear lots of frogs and crickets.

Woodcock Sky Dance

Sat., April 8th, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

Age 11+, registration required

Learn about the biology and courtship habits of this secretive upland shorebird as the males take to the sky at dusk for their elaborate courtship dance. There will be opportunities to see other wildlife, too, as the night comes alive right after sunset.

Riding Bicycles to Experience North Tract

Sat., April 15th, 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

Forest Friends

Sat., April 8th, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Ages 4 - 8, registration required

How do forest animals use trees for food and homes? Join Ranger Diana on a nature walk to find out in this interactive kids' program.

Family Fun: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Fri., Apr. 14th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sat., Apr. 15th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

All ages, no registration

Did you know that, on average, every American throws away almost 5 pounds of trash each day? That's a LOT of garbage! And it's causing problems for wildlife and for the earth. Enjoy hands-on activities, crafts and games while you learn how you can reduce, reuse and recycle in order to generate less trash. This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

Meet an American Kestrel

Sat., April 15th, 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm

All ages, no registration

Come meet an American Kestrel. In this informal show-and-tell time, see what makes the American Kestrel an expert at hunting in meadows.

Welcoming Butterflies and Birds to Your Yard

Sat., April 15th, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

All ages, registration required

Learn how to provide basic habitat for common native butterflies and birds to your yard. What foods are best in winter? In this class we will look at on-line resources available to help you plan to attract and see more wildlife.

Easy Pollinator-Habitat Gardens

Sat., April 22nd, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

All ages, registration required

Did you know you can help wildlife right from your home? Planting just a few native plants can make a great home for native pollinators, including monarchs. 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.

May

NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive
Laurel, MD 20724

Night Hike

Fri., May 12th, 8:30 pm - 10:00 pm
All ages, registration required

Join a former North Tract ranger for an evening stroll on Merganser Pond Trail. Expect to see bats, possibly beaver, and hear lots of frogs and crickets.

Riding Bicycles to Experience North Tract

Sat., May 20th, 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.

Photo-Adventure Scavenger Hunt

Sat., May 27th, 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 cell phone to record your observations. This is a "drop-in" program. Come when you wish and leave when you are ready. This activity requires driving a small area (1-2 miles) of the refuge and walking short distances near trails.

SOUTH TRACT PROGRAMS

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
Laurel, MD 20708

Family Fun: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Fri., May 12th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sat., May 13th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
All ages, no registration

Did you know that, on average, every American throws away almost 5 pounds of trash each day? That's a LOT of garbage! And it's causing problems for wildlife and for the earth. Enjoy hands-on activities, crafts and games while you learn how you can reduce, reuse and recycle in order to generate less trash. This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

Easy Pollinator-Habitat Gardens

Sat., May 13th, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
All ages, registration required

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

Bugs and Slugs

Sat., May 13th, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Ages 4 - 7, registration required

How are bugs nature's recyclers? Join Ranger Diana on a nature walk to find out in this interactive kids' program.

Pollinators in a Pot

Sat., May 20th, 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 and attract monarchs.



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.

BSA Personal Fitness Merit Badge

Join us to work on the Personal Fitness merit badge. Registration for this merit badge is only online. In person attendance that the refuge is required. 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: March 12th, April 8th, May 7th

More information & registration: <https://bit.ly/3h9lzJS>

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. The focus of the research includes contaminants, migratory birds and studies of endangered species.



FriendsOfPatuxent.org

KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER

Daily, Tuesday through Saturday: 9:00am, 10:00am, 11:00am, and 12:00noon. Duration: 35 minutes, each. Designed for ages 3-9; adult accompaniment required. Registration strongly recommended.

Activities are designed for children ages 3 to 9, with parent/guardian support; for young Special Needs populations, with adult support; and young English language-learners, with adult support. Older siblings are encouraged to join with parents and work with their younger siblings to help them understand and complete the activities.

Upcoming Themes:

MARCH: "Trees in Spring." Come learn how to tell that spring is truly on its way. Winter is almost finished! Discover all the wonders of our "tree forecasters" while completing over a dozen hands-on activities and arts & crafts!

APRIL: "Turtles." Come to our Kids' Discovery Center and learn all about Maryland's turtle populations through our fun-filled activities and arts & craft projects. Wake-up! Wake-up! The turtles are starting to wake up from their winter naps! As soon as the winter soil warms up in the springtime, turtles emerge and begin feeding and searching for mates.

MAY: "Ants." Ants are often thought of as pesky little pests; they can ruin a picnic, invade your home, and make you scratch until you can't itch anymore! But... come to the KDC and learn the truth about these micro super-heroes! Did you know that these tiny insects do SO MUCH GOOD for our world that we would be lost without them? They're HERE...they're THERE... they're EVERYWHERE...they're ANTS!

Monarch Magic

During the month of May, we usually start seeing monarch butterflies passing through Maryland on their way north to Canada. The MONARCHS are coming... The MONARCHS are coming... Sometime soon! The second that we start spotting them, we'll be hunting for eggs and caterpillars to fill our Monarch Magic Center! Keep checking back to see if we have any of our amazing visitors on-site that you can come watch and enjoy!

May, Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

If you would like to join our Monarch Team and help us support these beautiful, magical wonders of the sky, please call Barrie, or leave a message with your phone number@ 301 497-5772, for more information on how you can help!