

# Patuxent Research Refuge



## Spring Programs, 2022

### March

#### NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive  
Laurel, MD 20724

##### Photo-Adventure Scavenger Hunt

Sat., March 12th, 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 and leave when you are ready. This activity requires driving a small area (1-2 miles) of the refuge and walking short distances.

##### Untold Stories of North Tract

Sat., March 19th, 2:00 - 3:15 pm

Recommended ages 10+, registration required

You may know that the military once trained in the area, but there's much more to the story of North Tract. Lead removal from soil, deals struck with beavers, and generals almost losing their heads? Join former refuge manager, Brad Knudsen, on this driving tour of Wildlife Way.

##### Interactive Nature Hike

Sat., March 26th, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Sat., March 26th, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

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.



#### Your Own Fun Native Pollinator Garden

Sat., March 19th, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

All ages, registration required

Did you know you can help wildlife right from your home or apartment? Just a few native plants, even in a pot on a deck, can be a great home for native pollinators. Come to this class for help starting your own backyard wildlife refuge.

#### Owl and Kestrel

Sat., March 19th, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

All ages, no registration

Meet two of North America's smallest birds of prey: the American Kestrel and 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.

#### SOUTH TRACT PROGRAMS

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop  
Laurel, MD 20708

##### Family Fun: Habitats and Adaptations

Fri., March 11th, 10:00am - 1:00pm

Sat., March 12th, 10:00am - 1:00pm

Ages 3+, no registration

Learn about the different habitats at Patuxent and around the world, and how animals have adapted to survive in even the harshest environments. This is a self-paced drop-in program. Come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

### REGISTRATION

Programs are **free**. Some programs require advance registration by calling **301-497-5887**. Masks are required for attendees in accordance with State and Federal guidelines. 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](mailto:timothy_parker@fws.gov).

# April

## NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive  
Laurel, MD 20724

### Star Watch

Sat., April 2nd, 8:30-9:30 pm

All ages, registration required

Take a look at stars through a telescope and hear a few ancient stories about them. North Tract's darker skies help us appreciate the night sky that we rarely get to see in the city.

### Photo-Adventure Scavenger Hunt

Sat., April 9th, 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.

### Riding Bicycles to Experience North Tract

Sat., April 9th, 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.

### Untold Stories of North Tract

Sat., April 16th, 2:00 - 3:15 pm

Recommended ages 10+, registration required

You may know that the military once trained in the area, but there's much more to the story of North Tract. Lead removal from soil, deals struck with beavers, and generals almost losing their heads? Join former refuge manager, Brad Knudsen, on this driving tour of Wildlife Way.

### Night Hike

Fri., April 22nd, 8:00pm - 9:30pm

All ages, registration required

Join the North Tract ranger for an evening stroll on Merganser Pond Trail. Expect to see bats, possibly beaver and hear lots of frogs and crickets. Bring a flashlight if you wish.

### Interactive Nature Hike

Sat., April 23rd, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Sat., April 23rd, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

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.

### Early Spring Wildflowers

Sat., April 30th, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

All ages, registration required

The Patuxent Plant Inventory Project presents a spring ephemerals walk along the Patuxent River and the North Tract. Field guides are helpful but not necessary.

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## SOUTH TRACT PROGRAMS

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop

Laurel, MD 20708

### Your Own Fun Native Pollinator Garden

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

Sat., April 30th, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

All ages, registration required

Did you know you can help wildlife right from your home or apartment? Just a few native plants, even in a pot on a deck, can be a great home for native pollinators. Come to this class for help starting your own backyard wildlife refuge.

### Bird & Sketch

Sat., April 9th, 8:30 - 9:30 am

Ages 5+, registration required

Before the color camera, naturalists recorded observations of birds with paint. Learn some of the time-honored techniques of bird illustration during this short walk near the visitor center.

### Family Fun: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Fri., April 8th, 10:00am - 1:00pm

Sat., April 9th, 10:00am - 1:00pm

Age 3+, no registration

On average, every American throws away almost 5 pounds of trash each day. That's a LOT of garbage! Come enjoy hands-on activities and games for ages 3 to adult while you learn how you can reduce, reuse and recycle in order to generate less trash. This is a self-paced, drop-in program. Come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

### Junior Wildlife Ranger

Sat., April 16th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Ages 6 - 10, registration required

Join a Refuge Ranger to explore 5 nature-related activities. Complete your Junior Wildlife Ranger activity booklet and earn a JWR badge!

### Owl and Kestrel

Sat., April 23rd, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

All ages, no registration

Meet two of North America's smallest birds of prey: the American Kestrel and 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.



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# May

## Photo-Adventure Scavenger Hunt

Sat., May 14th, 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.

## Riding Bicycles to Experience North Tract

Sat., May 14th, 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.

## Untold Stories of North Tract

Sat., May 21st, 2:00 - 3:15 pm

Recommended ages 10+, registration required

You may know that the military once trained in the area, but there's much more to the story of North Tract. Lead removal from soil, deals struck with beavers, and generals almost losing their heads? Join former refuge manager, Brad Knudsen, on this driving tour of Wildlife Way.

## Night Hike

Friday May 20th, 8:30pm - 10:00pm

Join the North Tract ranger for an evening stroll on Merganser Pond Trail. Expect to see bats, possibly beaver, and hear lots of frogs, crickets, and maybe fireflies. Bring a flashlight if you wish.

## Interactive Nature Hike

Sat., May 28th, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Sat., May 28th, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

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.

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## SOUTH TRACT PROGRAMS

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop  
Laurel, MD 20708

## Family Fun -- Endangered Species

Fri., May 6th, 10:00am - 1:00pm

Sat., May 7th, 10:00am - 1:00pm

Ages 3+, no registration

National Wildlife Refuges like Patuxent play an important role in protecting threatened and endangered species in the US. Come learn more about endangered species, where they live, and some of the things you can do to help protect them. This is a self-paced, drop-in program. Come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

## Junior Wildlife Ranger

Sat., May 7th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Ages 6 - 10, registration required

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

## Your Own Fun Native Pollinator Garden

Sat. May 21st, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

All ages, registration required

Did you know you can help wildlife right from your home or apartment? Just a few native plants, even in a pot on a deck, can be a great home for native pollinators. Come to this class for help starting your own backyard wildlife refuge.



## Dragons & Damsels

Sat., May 28th, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Ages 5+, registration required

Zippering through the air dragonflies are masters of flight. Learn to use nets to catch them, and for those daring enough, hold one in your hand.

## REGISTRATION

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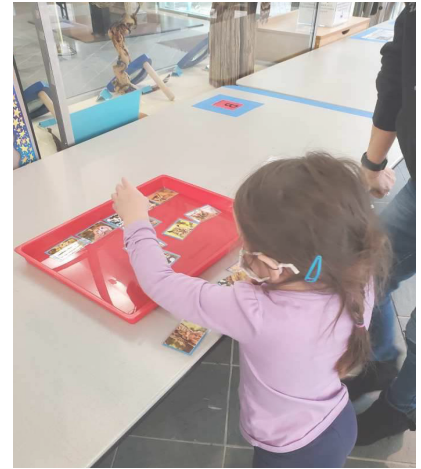
# KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER

Lots of exciting learning activities and crafts await you at the KIDS' DISCOVERY CENTER! New themes are presented monthly to engage kids (ages 3-8) and adults in nature-related fun. FREE TICKETS can be picked up at the Information Desk in the Visitor's Center lobby, Tuesday through Saturday. Timed entry is on the hour from 9:00 to 12:45, and advanced reservations are recommended due to limited spaces. 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.

**MARCH:** What's the difference between FROGS & TOADS? Discover the answer to this question while completing exciting hands-on activities and crafts. Learn about 13 different FROGS & TOADS that can be found outside on the beautiful grounds of Patuxent Research Refuge, then go on a family hike and search for some of them!

**APRIL:** What does MILKWEED have that other spring plants don't have? Come find the answer to this question, and pick up your FREE MILKWEED SEEDS at our Gift Shop after your Discovery Center adventures! (Just in time for spring planting!)

**MAY:** BEE EXCITED! Learn about our super-pollinators, THE BEES, while making fun crafts and completing educational games. Our parent-led activities are designed to help little ones (and big ones!) feel more "at ease" around these most important insects.



## BSA Personal Fitness Merit Badge

Join us to work on the Personal Fitness merit badge. **Registration for this merit badge is only online.** 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.

Sun., March 13th, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Sun., April 10th, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Sun., May 8th, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3h91zJS>

## 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>