

# Patuxent Research Refuge



## Summer Programs, 2022

June

### NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive  
Laurel, MD 20724

#### Cemeteries & Generals Driving Tour

Sat., June 4th, 8:30 am - 11:30 am

All ages, registration required

Discover some of the hidden cemeteries and military sites of North Tract on this gravel-road driving tour. Some walking involved on rough terrain. This tour begins at the Visitor Information Station and will go to some areas normally closed to the public.

#### Breathing in Nature -- Carrie Rose Flute Concert

Fri., June 10th, 8:00 pm - 9:45 pm

All ages, registration required

Darkness, stillness, fireflies, and the sounds of pond life at night will surround this flute concert. Solo flute interlaces with videos and sounds from nature. The program includes compositions by Rose and other contemporary and classical composers, and a film by Ron Toole. Woven into the program is an exploration of Maryland environmentalist Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring* and *The Sense of Wonder*. Music begins at 8:30. Attendees may also register at:  
<https://bit.ly/3kBFgCgR>



#### Night Hike

Fri. June 10th, 8:30pm - 10:00pm

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, crickets, and possibly fireflies. Bring a flashlight if you wish.

#### Photo-Adventure Scavenger Hunt

Sat., June 11th, 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.

#### Riding Bicycles to Experience North Tract

Sat., June 11th, 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., June 18th, 2:00 pm - 3:45 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. Removing lead from soil? Deals struck with beavers? Generals almost losing their heads? Join former Refuge Manager Brad Knudsen on this driving tour of Wildlife Way.

#### Interactive Nature Hike

Sat., June 25th, 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, and the ecology and biodiversity within a forest habitat.

Due to road construction there will be no programs at South Tract during the month of June. Please check our webpage for updates on the dates of the closure.

### 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@fus.gov](mailto:timothy_parker@fus.gov).

# July

## NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive  
Laurel, MD 20724

### Photo-Adventure Scavenger Hunt

Sat., July 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 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., July 2nd, 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., July 16th, 2:00 pm - 3:45 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. Removing lead from soil? Deals struck with beavers? Generals almost losing their heads? Join former Refuge Manager Brad Knudsen on this driving tour of Wildlife Way.

### Interactive Nature Hike

Sat., July 23rd, 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, and the ecology and biodiversity within a forest habitat.



## SOUTH TRACT PROGRAMS

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop  
Laurel, MD 20708

### Family Fun: Butterflies & Moths

Fri., July 8th, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sat., July 9th, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Age 3+, no registration

Butterflies are nature's flying jewels! Come enjoy hands-on activities, games and crafts for all ages as you learn more about butterflies and their nocturnal cousins, the moths. This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

### Owl and Kestrel

Sat., July 9th, 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm

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.

### Easy Pollinator-Habitat Gardens

Sat., July 9th, 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., July 23rd, 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., July 30th, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Ages 6 - 10, registration required

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

### Monarch Magic

Daily (Tues. - Sat.), 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

All ages, no registration

The Monarchs are on their way! Join us as we welcome these beautiful pollinators back to Maryland, on their journey north to Canada. Talk with our knowledgeable staff of volunteers about how you can help support these wonders of nature. Butterfly releases begin at noon; bring a camera!

## 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](mailto:timothy_parker@fws.gov). More information can be found at: [www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent).



# August

## NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive  
Laurel, MD 20724

### Riding Bicycles to Experience North Tract

Sat., Aug. 6th, 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., Aug. 13th, 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.

### Untold Stories of North Tract

Sat., Aug. 13th, 2:00 pm - 3:45 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. Removing lead from soil? Deals struck with beavers? Generals almost losing their heads? Join former Refuge Manager Brad Knudsen on this driving tour of Wildlife Way.

### Interactive Nature Hike

Sat., Aug. 27th, 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, and the ecology and biodiversity within a forest habitat.

### Wildlife Conservation Day

Saturday, Aug. 27th, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

All ages, no registration

Explore and enjoy being in nature at North Tract. This year's Conservation Day will include a family adventure scavenger hunt, crafts, fishing, archery, and air rifle target shooting.

## SOUTH TRACT PROGRAMS

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop

Laurel, MD 20708

### Owl and Kestrel

Sat., Aug. 6th, 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm

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.

### Easy Pollinator-Habitat Gardens

Sat., Aug. 6th, 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.

### Family Fun: Reptiles

Fri., August 12th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sat., August 13th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Ages 3+, no registration

Turtles and lizards and snakes -- oh my! Patuxent is home to lots of fascinating reptiles. 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., Aug. 13th, 1:30 pm - 3:00 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!

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

Sat., Aug. 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.

### Monarch Magic

Daily (Tue. - Sat.), 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

All ages, no registration

The Monarchs are on their way! Join us as we welcome these beautiful pollinators back to Maryland, on their journey north to Canada. Talk with our knowledgeable staff of volunteers about how you can help support these wonders of nature. Butterfly releases begin at noon; bring a camera!



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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.

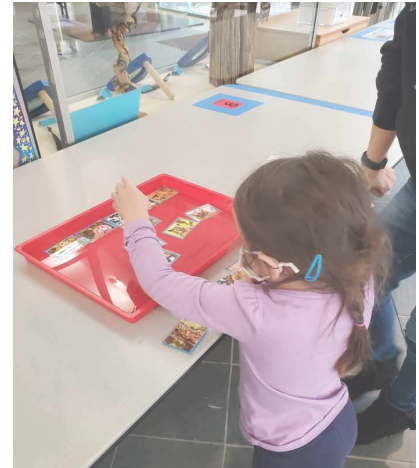
Call our front desk at **301-497-5760** to reserve a 35-minute time slot for you and your child. NOTE: Parents are required to work with their child at each of the parent-led activities.

## Upcoming Themes:

June- CLOSED

July- Mosquitoes & Ticks- It's that time of year again when the mosquitoes and ticks are out and looking for food. Don't let that food be YOU! Come and learn about what mosquitoes and ticks like to eat, how to protect yourself when you go outside to hike and play, and how to keep these pests at bay!

August- Hummingbirds- HUUUUUUUMMMMMMMM! What was that whizzing by, making a humming noise? Was it a large bee? NO! It was a hummingbird! Hummingbirds are those tiny gems of color that dart in and out of flowers, drinking nectar and spreading pollen on their journeys. But, did you know that they also eat meat? Come and learn about these "rainbows of flying beauty" and what we can do to help keep them off the endangered list.



## 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:

June 5  
July 3  
July 31  
Aug 28

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>