

Patuxent Research Refuge



Summer Programs, 2023

June

NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive
Laurel, MD 20724

Learning to Bird by Ear

Sat., June 10th, 8:00 am - 9:30 am

Ages 8+, registration required.

One of our shy sparrows, the Eastern Towhee, can sometimes sound like it's commanding us to "Drink your tea!" Learn about strategies to help identify birds by ear using mnemonic devices and smartphone apps, as well as habitats and behaviors of the birds. Beginners welcome! Small songbirds can be challenging to spot so please bring binoculars if you have some.

Riding Bikes to Experience Patuxent Research Refuge's North Tract

Sat., June 24th, 10:00 am to 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

Managing Your Butterfly Garden

Sat., June 10th, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

All ages, registration required

Tour the South Tract gardens and discover how to build a butterfly garden. Learn the best timing for planting a garden, how to manage invasive plants, and how restore your garden without herbicides.

Easy Butterfly-Habitat Gardens

Sat. June 17th, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

All ages, registration required

Learn how to provide basic habitat to attract common native butterflies and birds to your yard. In this class we will look at on-line resources available to help you invite more wildlife to your yard. Some free native plants may be available.

Family Fun -- Welcome Wildlife To Your Yard

Fri., June 23rd, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sat., June 24th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

All ages, No registration

As houses and shopping centers continue to replace wildlife habitat, the birds, bugs and animals need to find new places to live. Why not welcome them to your back yard? You don't need a big yard -- even a small balcony can provide a mini habitat. Come learn various ways to attract and help wildlife, while you enjoy hands-on activities, games and crafts. There will be something for everyone! This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

Pollinators in a Pot

Sat., June 24th, 2:00 pm - 3:30 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 Ranger Fishing Event

Sat., June 10th, session 1, 9:00 - 10:00 am

Sat., June 10th, session 2, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Ages 5-15, registration is required.

In partnership with National Park Service and Chesapeake Bay Office join us for a morning of fishing. Learn more about the Junior Angler program to raise awareness of the Chesapeake watershed. Youth will learn the basics of fishing.

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

July

NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive
Laurel, MD 20724

Wonderful Warblers

Sat., July 8th, 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Ages 8+, registration required

Search for tiny, colorful warblers that summer at North Tract, including American Redstart, Northern Parula, Prairie Warbler, Pine Warbler, and Hooded Warbler. There's also a chance of seeing Worm-eating Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, or Kentucky Warbler. Beginners welcome! These active songbirds can be challenging to spot, so please bring binoculars if you have some. Also bring your water bottle, bug repellent, and a snack if you like. The program will involve some driving and easy walking.

Photo-Adventure Scavenger Hunt

Sat., July 22nd, 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 Bikes to Experience North Tract

Sat., July 22nd, 10:00 am to 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.

Night Hike

Sat., July 29th, 8:30 pm - 10:00 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.

SOUTH TRACT PROGRAMS

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
Laurel, MD 20708

Easy Butterfly-Habitat Gardens

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

All ages, registration required

Learn how to provide basic habitat for attracting common native butterflies and birds to your yard. In this class we will look at on-line resources available to help you invite more wildlife to your yard. Some free native plants may be available.

Family Fun -- Welcome Wildlife To Your Yard

Fri., July 21st, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sat., July 22nd, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

All ages, no registration

As houses and shopping centers continue to replace wildlife habitat, the birds, bugs and animals need to find new places to live. Why not welcome them to your back yard? You don't need a big yard -- even a small balcony can provide a mini habitat. Come learn various ways to attract and help wildlife, while you enjoy hands-on activities, games and crafts. There will be something for everyone! This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

Pollinators in a Pot

Sat., July 22nd, 2:00 pm - 3:30 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.



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Patuxent Research Refuge

August

NORTH TRACT PROGRAMS

230 Bald Eagle Drive
Laurel, MD 20724

Photo-Adventure Scavenger Hunt

Sat., Aug. 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 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 Bikes to Experience North Tract

Sat. Aug. 19th, 10:00 am to 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

Pollinators in a Pot

Sat., Aug. 5th, 2:00 - 3:30 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.

Easy Butterfly-Habitat Gardens

Sat., Aug. 12th, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

All ages, registration required

Learn how to provide basic habitat for attracting common native butterflies and birds to your yard. In this class we will look at on-line resources available to help you invite more wildlife to your yard. Some free native plants may be available.

Junior Wildlife Ranger

Sat., Aug. 12th, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

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!

BARK Ranger Training

Sat., Aug. 12th, 2:00 pm - 3:30 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 -- Welcome Wildlife To Your Yard

Fri., Aug. 25th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sat., Aug. 26th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

All ages, No registration

As houses and shopping centers continue to replace wildlife habitat, the birds, bugs and animals need to find new places to live. Why not welcome them to your back yard? You don't need a big yard -- even a small balcony can provide a mini habitat. Come learn various ways to attract and help wildlife, while you enjoy hands-on activities, games and crafts. There will be something for everyone! This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

Evening Wildlife Hike at Cash Lake

Sat., Aug. 26th, 5:45-7:45 pm

Ages 12+, registration required

Take a leisurely hike around Cash Lake led by former Refuge Manager Brad Knudsen as we look for wildlife and learn about their habitats and refuge management. Bug spray and binoculars recommended. Enjoy a beautiful sunset over Lake Redington.



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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: June 4th, July 1st

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](https://www.friendsopatuxent.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:

JUNE: What animal doesn't have arms or legs, eyelids that cover their eyes, voice that makes noise, external ears, nor hair on their body? This often, misunderstood reptile is a **SNAKE!** Come learn about the wonders of Maryland's snake populations, while engaging in fun activities, crafts, and games! Children receive a FREE take-home activity booklet and surprise after completing a session at the Kid's Discovery Center!

JULY: Nocturnal Animals. Find out whooo's on the prowl when you're asleep, and learn about Maryland's night creatures this month at the KDC. Children and parents work together to complete over 16 fun-filled activities, crafts, and games! Children receive a FREE take-home activity booklet and surprise after completing a session at the Kid's Discovery Center!

AUGUST: TIMBER! Who likes **rotting trees**? Whether birds, mammals, insects, or vegetation like rotting trees best, is anybody's guess! You be the judge, while learning and completing our fun activities, crafts, and games with your parent/child team! Children receive a FREE take-home activity booklet and surprise after completing a session at the Kid's Discovery Center!

Monarch Magic

Come see young monarch caterpillars grow into beautiful monarch butterflies. The exhibit is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm. Visitors who come to the exhibit at noon might also be able to see the release of mature monarchs to the wild.

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!