



# Great Dismal Swamp

## BIRDING FESTIVAL

# 2016

### Thursday, April 21, 2016

Time	Event	Location to meet
7:00a-9:30a	Guided Bird Walk (adults)	Jericho Ditch (JD)
7:00a-9:30a	Guided Bird Walk (adults)	Washington Ditch (WD)
7:00a-10:30a	Bird Banding Station	JD-South @Banding Station
10:30a-12:00p	Bus Tour to Lake Drummond	Head Quarters (HQ)
1:00p-2:00p	Guided Nature Walk	WD
2:30p-3:30p	A Historical Look at the Great Dismal Swamp	HQ
3:45p-5:00p	Late Day Bird Walk	HQ
7:30p – 8:30p	Owl Prowl	JD

### Friday, April 22, 2016

7:00a-9:30a	Guided Bird Walk (adults)	JD
7:00a-9:30a	Guided Bird Walk (adults)	JD
7:00a-9:30a	Guided Bird Walk (adults)	WD
7:00a-10:30a	Bird Banding Station	JD
9:00a-12:00p	Canoe Birding	DS Canal Trail North
9:00a-11:00a	Birding Basics Workshop and Field Session	HQ
9:00a-11:30a	Motorized Boat Tours on Lake Drummond	HQ
11:30a-12:30p	Return of the Red Cockaded Woodpecker to the Great Dismal Swamp	HQ
1:00p-3:30p	Motorized Boat Tours on Lake Drummond	HQ
1:30p-3:00p	Bus Tour to Lake Drummond	HQ
3:45p-5:00p	Late Day Bird Walk	HQ

### Saturday, April 23, 2016

7:00a-9:30a	Guided Bird Walk (adults)	JD
7:00a-9:30a	Guided Bird Walk (adults)	JD
7:00a-9:30a	Guided Bird Walk (adults)	WD
8:00a-10:30a	Guided Bird Walk (adults)	DS Canal Trail North
7:00a-10:30a	Bird Banding Station	JD
9:00a-12:00p	Canoe Birding	DS Canal Trail North
9:00a-3:00p	Virginia Bio-Blitz 2016 Activity	WD
9:00a-11:30a	Motorized Boat Tours on Lake Drummond	HQ
9:30-2:00p	Nature Crafts, Exhibits	HQ
10:00a-12:00p	Nature Photography Workshop and Field Session	HQ/ then WD
11:00a-12:30p	Bus Tour to Lake Drummond	HQ
1:00p-2:00p	Beyond the Bird Feeder: How to Attract Birds by Creating Habitat at Home	HQ
1:00p-3:30p	Motorized Boat Tours on Lake Drummond	HQ
2:15p-3:30p	Guided Nature Walk	WD
4:00p-5:00p	Late Day Bird Walk	HQ

# 2016 Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival

## Activities

**Guided Bird Walks (adults)** – Expert bird guides will lead your group to find many of the neo-tropical migratory birds that are traveling through or searching for nesting territories in the swamp. Travel is on dirt roads. Distance range from ½ to 2 miles. Various meeting locations as noted on schedule. Ages: adults and youth ages 16 and up. Reservations required.

**Bird Banding Station** – Watch experienced bird banders collect, examine, and band an array of migratory birds passing through the swamp. Banding Station is located in the Jericho Ditch entrance, approximately ½ mile south of the parking area.

**Bus Tour to Lake Drummond** – Travel the route to Lake Drummond and back in one of our refuge buses. Your guide will be a local expert and will offer a broad overview of the wildlife, habitat, and history of the Great Dismal Swamp. Stops will include the Underground Railroad Pavilion, the West Ditch Boardwalk, and of course, Lake Drummond. Bus departs from the refuge headquarters. Reservations required.

**Guided Nature Walk** - Let our local guide lead your walk around the Washington Ditch Boardwalk Trail. Learn about the swamp's connection to our first president, as well as, this special place known as the Great Dismal Swamp. Travel distance about 1 mile, most on a boardwalk trail. Meet at the Washington Ditch parking area. Reservations suggested.

**Late Day Bird Walks** – As the day winds down, take the short walk around our Pines Trail with an expert guide. Expect to see any of the woodpeckers common to the trail. Barred Owls have even made a special appearance as the refuge settles for the evening. Distance travel approximately ½ mile. Meet at the refuge headquarters. Reservations suggested.

**Owl Prowl** - As darkness settles over the swamp, the owls get busy searching for their evening meals. Join the refuge biologist as he calls in some of the visitor's favorite guests. Walking distance approximately ¼ mile. Meet at the Jericho Ditch parking area. Reservations suggested.

**Canoe Birding** – Explore the Dismal Swamp Canal with an expert bird guide. Meet at the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail North parking area. Ages: 18 and older. Reservations required.

**Virginia Bio-Blitz 2016** – Be a part of the state-wide Bio-Blitz! In the swamp we will be taking survey of wildlife along the Washington Ditch Boardwalk Trail throughout the day. Activity registration and information will be at the tent in the Washington Ditch parking area. Reservations suggested.

**Motorized Boat Tours on Lake Drummond** – Take a cruise on our pontoon boat around the lake. Your guide will take you to the giant cypress trees that everyone wants to see but are hard to get to. While cruising keep on the lookout for our active Eagle families. Group departs by bus from the refuge headquarters. Reservation required. Special note: For children less than 5 years of age, you must supply your own approved life safety vest.

**Nature Crafts** – Build a blue bird house, get your face painted or paint a keepsake. Visit our nature craft area to make a take home gift.

## **Presentations and Workshops**

**A Historical Look at the Great Dismal Swamp** – A complex and often overlooked history adds a new dimension to the story of the Great Dismal Swamp. Learn about this Refuge for People before it was a Refuge for Wildlife. Presentation in refuge headquarters meeting room. Reservations required.

**Birding Basics Workshop & Field Session-** Do you enjoy watching the birds in your backyard, but wish you knew what they were? Then this class is for you! This workshop will introduce you to the pastime of birding and will cover all of the basics: how to identify birds, tips for finding birds, and the materials and equipment you need to get started. There will be an indoor presentation, followed by an outdoor nature walk to practice your new birding skills! A limited supply of binoculars will be available for loan during the class, but if you have your own, it is recommended to bring them. Recommended for new birders Ages: adults and youth ages 12 and up with an adult. Meet at refuge headquarters. Reservations required.

**Return of the Red Cockaded Woodpecker to the Great Dismal Swamp** – Refuge biologist, Kelly Morris, will explain the re-introduction process for this endangered woodpecker, bringing it back into the swamp for the first time in 60 years. Ages: adults and youth ages 12 and up with an adult. Meet at refuge headquarters. Reservations required.

**Nature Photography Workshop & Field Session** – Professional photographer Mike Brown leads this popular workshop sharing expert advice on taking nature pictures. After the classroom presentation Mike will re-join the group for a field session at the Washington Ditch parking area. Cameras are suggested but not required. Ages: adults and youth under age 16 with an adult. Meet at the refuge headquarters. Reservations required.

**Beyond the Bird Feeder:** How to Attract Birds by Creating Habitat at Home - This presentation will teach the basics of how to create landscaping around your home that will attract and support birds. Ages: adults and youth ages 12 and up with an adult. Meet at refuge headquarters. Reservations required.

# Festival Meeting Locations

