

BEAR BRANCH NATURE CENTER PROGRAMS

Hashawha and Bear Branch Nature Center are located just north of Westminster, off of Rt. 97 at 300 John Owings Road. Bear Branch Nature Center is open year round Wednesday through Saturday from 10am-5pm and Sunday from Noon-5:00pm. The Nature Center staff can be contacted by phone: 410-848-2517 or email bbnc@carr.org. All Nature Center programs require pre-registration, unless otherwise noted. Groups should schedule programs directly with the Nature Center.

Hashawha's trails are open to the public from dawn until dusk 365 days a year. Parking is only available at Lake Hashawha or Bear Branch Nature Center. There is no entrance fee for the park. **PLEASE NOTE:** The Hashawha Environmental Facility is not open to the public except through reservation. Please do not enter the Hashawha gates or the posted restricted areas. For more information about group rentals of the facility, contact Hashawha staff by phone: 410-848-9040 or email Hashawha@carr.org.

In case of bad weather... if snow or icy conditions are in the forecast, please call before coming to your program to see if it has been cancelled/postponed. If Carroll County Government is closed, the Nature Center is closed.

BEAR CUBS CLUB

- 1 session Thursday
- Program #09BB2 February 5
- Program #09BB3 March 5
- Program #09BB4 April 9
- Program #09BB5 May 7
- Program #09BB6 June 11

Join us for this series of programs just for the little ones!! Each month we will have a nature related program and craft for children ages 4-6. Your youngster will learn about the natural world through hikes, games and other hands-on activities, so get your aspiring naturalist started early with our Bear Cubs Club! Join us for just one session or the entire series. Meet at BBNC.
TIME: 10:30-11:30am **FEE:** \$5/child

ALL ABOUT NATURE FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

- 1 session Thursday
- Program #09BB8 February 5
- Program #09BB9 March 5
- Program #09BB10 April 9
- Program #09BB11 May 7
- Program #09BB12 June 11

Calling all Junior Naturalists! Through hikes, experiments and other hands-on activities each month you can learn "all about" some of your favorite nature topics with a naturalist. Dress for going outside. Join us for just one month, or every month! Each month will feature a different topic. For ages 7-12 (children should be mature enough to attend the program on their own); meet at BBNC.
TIME: 2-3:30pm **FEE:** \$5/child

GREEN TEENS!

- 1 session Thursday
- Program #09BB14 February 5
- Program #09BB15 March 5
- Program #09BB16 April 9
- Program #09BB17 May 7
- Program #09BB18 June 11

If your home schooled teen is feeling green, then this monthly foray is suited just for them. Every session we'll meet and spend our time outdoors learning about natural history and completing conservation related projects. Teens ages 13-18 should be prepared and dressed for the outdoors; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 2-3:30pm **FEE:** \$5/child



INSECTS ON ICE

January 25 Sunday
Program #09BB21

Do insects really like to ice skate? Over winter insects have amazing strategies to survive cold weather. Learn about where butterflies, dragonflies, grasshoppers, & beetles have gone and explore the woods and fields to find some. We'll also look under rotting logs and look for and learn about what galls are. For ages 6+ (under 12 must be accompanied by paying adult); meet at BBNC.
TIME: 2-3:30pm **FEE:** \$5/person



PLANETARIUM SHOW

- 1 session Friday OR Saturday
- Program #09BB22 Friday, February 6
- Program #09BB23 Saturday, March 7
- Program #09BB24 Friday, April 3
- Program #09BB25 Saturday, May 2

Program #09BB26 Friday, June 5
 Join the Westminster Astronomical Society under the star dome to learn the stars and constellations of the night sky. Following each planetarium show, the Westminster Astronomical Society invites you outside for a Star Party to observe the nighttime sights. Bring your own telescope or look through one of theirs! For ages 8-adult; meet at BBNC. Organized groups should call to schedule their own planetarium show.
TIME: 7:30pm **FEE:** \$5/person

SNOWFLAKE MAKING

February 7 Saturday
Program #09BB27



Learn about how snowflakes form and then make your own to take home with you! For ages 7 and up; meet at BBNC.
Time: 2:00-3:00pm **Fee:** \$5/person

FOR THE BIRDS! - "GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT"

February 14 Saturday
Program #09BB28

The Great Backyard Bird Count, scheduled for Feb. 13-16, is an annual 4-day bird counting event for birders of all ages and experience levels. We will teach you how to take part in this national event, how to enter your results, learn about common birds you may encounter, and then we'll enjoy hot cocoa, cider and cookies while watching the birds around Bear Branch. Ages 10-adult.
TIME: 1-2pm **FEE:** \$5/person

VALENTINE NATURE BEARS

February 14 Saturday
Program #09BB29

Learn about our bears in Maryland as you use natural materials to make your Valentine a special "prickly" bear. Bring your imagination, sense of humor and patience. For ages 12 and up; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 2-3:30pm **FEE:** \$5/person



WOODPECKER WANDER

February 15 Sunday
Program #09BB30

Let's go for a walk in the woods looking and listening for woodpeckers. We'll look for their homes and learn about the different types of woodpeckers found in the park and find out what they're actually doing when they are banging their heads against trees. We'll also look for Chickadees, Titmice and Nuthatches. Bring binoculars if you have them. For ages 7 and up; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 1-2:30pm **FEE:** \$5/person

MAPLE SUGARIN' CAMP-OUT

March 7-8 Saturday-Sunday
Program #09BB31

Teens, join our 5th annual camp-out in the sugar bush! Travel to Juniata College's Raystown Field Station to spend the weekend in the maple grove to learn all about the maple sugaring process. Be prepared to work in the woods, helping to tap maples, collect buckets of sap and even help with the boiling down process in the sugar shack. We'll spend the night inside the "old field station" at Grove Farm. We'll also have the opportunity to tour Juniata's Lakeside Center and Schuster Hall, designed as a "green building." Ages: 13-18; meet at BBNC. (Brief pre-trip meeting at BBNC on Thurs, 3/5/09 at 4:30pm.)
TIME: Leave 9am Saturday FEE: \$70/child
Return approx. 6pm Sunday



BUDS, BRANCHES & BARK

March 14 Saturday
Program #09BB32

How do you tell what type of tree it is without the leaves? We'll go for a walk and discover how to use the clues of bark, fruit, buds, and twigs to identify trees during the wintertime. We'll also look among the leaf litter for any insects that might be brave enough to show themselves. For ages 7 and up (under 12 must be accompanied by an adult); meet at BBNC.
TIME: 1-2:30pm FEE: \$5/person

SIGNS OF SPRING

March 21 Saturday
Program #09BB33

The first day of Spring was just yesterday! Spring really is coming, right? Let's go for a hike looking for those wonderfully subtle tell-tale signs. We will use all of our senses in hopes of seeing Spring. Recommended for ages 9 and up (under 12 accompanied by an adult); meet at BBNC.
TIME: 2-3:30pm FEE: \$5/person

FABULOUS FOSSILS

March 28 Saturday
Program #09BB34

If it weren't for fossils, we would have a very different view of what life on our planet used to be like. Join us as we talk about how fossils are formed, take a look at some samples, and then make a fossil of your own to take home! For ages 10 and up; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 2-3:30pm FEE: \$5/person

HIKING HASHAWHA - VISTA TRAIL

March 29 Sunday
Program #09BB35

Enjoy a leisurely walk along the 1-mile Vista Trail with a Naturalist. Highlights will include a visit to the Raptor Mews. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring a water bottle. Recommended for ages 7 and up; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 2-3pm FEE: \$5/person

ORIGIN OF THE FECES

April 5 Sunday
Program #09BB36

We'll learn all about scat, chews, and other signs animals leave behind. Spring is the perfect time to look for tracks, especially in the mud. Join a Naturalist to learn how to identify animals by their tracks and traces. Bring a pillowcase or plain shirt to decorate. We'll even have a scat snack! For ages 6 and up; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 2-3:30pm FEE: \$5/person



MEET THE BEEKEEPERS

April 11 Saturday
Program #09BB37

Learn all about this amazing insect. Do bees really dance? Are there boy bees? How is honey made? What do beekeepers do? Learn answers to these questions and more, and meet a real beekeeper! All ages; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 10am-12noon FEE: \$5/person

EGG-CITING EGGS

April 11 Saturday
Program #09BB38

Learn all about eggs and the animals that lay them. Eggs are laid by all sorts of different creatures and come in all sorts of sizes and colors. Finish up this program with an egg-cellent egg inspired craft. Ages 6 and up; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 2-3pm FEE: \$5/person

HIKING HASHAWHA - STREAM TRAIL

April 19 Sunday
Program #09BB39

Join a Naturalist for a 1.8 mile hike along the Bear Branch Stream. Highlights will include the Martin Log Cabin, an active beaver pond and the cable bridge. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring a water bottle. Recommended for ages 10 and up; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 2-3:30pm FEE: \$5/person

FAMILY LETTERBOXING

April 25 Saturday
Program #09BB40

We will learn all about this wonderful family activity. It is a hike, a collection and a scavenger hunt, all rolled into one great outing. This activity can be done throughout Carroll County, Maryland, and the US of A! We will make our own stamp before heading out on a hike to look for the Bear Branch Letterbox. Then you are all set to go "a-hunting." BBNC will provide all required supplies. Ages 9 and up (under 12 with a paying adult); meet at BBNC.
TIME: 1-3:30pm FEE: \$8/person



RAPTOR PHOTO SHOOT

May 2 Saturday
Program #09BB41 9-10am (Adults only)
Program #09BB42 10-11am (All ages)

Calling all photographers! Here is your chance to get up close and personal with Hashawha's birds of prey. Take advantage of the morning light and spring colors to photograph these birds in a natural setting. Meet at Raptor Mews. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a paying adult. Parking at BBNC / outside Hashawha Gates.
TIME: Choose above FEE: \$10/person

DEEPER PROWL

May 2 Saturday
Program #09BB43

Peeps! Croaks! Snore! You'll be hearing these sounds and more this spring when the frogs start talking. Learn to identify some of our amphibians by their springtime songs. Join us for a short excursion to the wetlands to listen and look for the peepers! For ages: 7- adult (under 12 must be accompanied by a paying adult); meet at BBNC.
TIME: 7-8:30pm FEE: \$5/person



PLANT SWAP AND WILDFLOWER WALK

May 3 Sunday
Program #09BB44

Celebrate the beauty of flowers & spring by joining us for our plant swap and wildflower walk. Bring your divided and labeled flowers, shrubs, and trees (native plants preferred, please do not bring invasive, exotic plants) to swap with others, and then enjoy a leisurely stroll around Bear Branch's gardens filled with native wildflowers. For adults; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 2-3:30pm FEE: \$5/person

SIGNS OF THE SEASON: SPRING SCAVENGER HUNT

May 9 Saturday
Program #09BB45

Spring is here! Join us as we head out into the park in search of signs of new life and warmer weather. Prizes will be awarded to all participants! For all ages; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 2-3pm FEE: \$5/person

LAKE LIFE

May 16 Saturday
Program #09BB46

All sorts of animals call Lake Hashawha home. We'll take a walk around the lake to see what we can spot, then use dip nets to see what's living below the water's surface! We'll be getting muddy, so wear old clothes and shoes! For ages 6 and up; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 2-3:30pm FEE: \$5/person

HIKING HASHAWHA - BEAR PATH

May 17 Sunday
Program #09BB47

Join a Naturalist for a very short hike around the nature center. This hike is ideal for families with small children, and folks that may have difficulty on unpaved trails. For all ages; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 12:30-1pm FEE: \$5/person

HIKING HASHAWHA- WILDERNESS TRAIL

May 17 Sunday
Program #09BB48

Join a Naturalist as we enjoy some of the "wilder" areas of Hashawha on this two-mile hike. This trail is a bit more strenuous, but worth it! Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring a water bottle. Recommended for ages 12 and up; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 2-4pm FEE: \$5/person



MOTH BROTH

May 22 Friday
Program #09BB49

This is a night for moths! We will learn about the secret lives of moths and the ingredients of a special moth enticing brew. Then we are off on a hike to our feeding area to identify as many of these night fliers as we can. Bring a flashlight. All ages (12 and under accompanied by a paying adult); meet at BBNC.
TIME: 8-9:30pm FEE: \$5/person

BUSY BEAVERS

May 29 Friday
Program #09BB50

Are the beavers really busy? We'll find out during this nocturnal program as we learn about beavers, then hike to the wetland in search of Hashawha's resident beavers. Bring a flashlight. Wear old, sturdy shoes that you don't mind getting a little wet and/or dirty. For ages 8-adult (under 12 accompanied by a paying adult); meet at BBNC.
TIME: 6:30-8pm FEE: \$5/person



HIKING AT MORGAN RUN

May 31 Sunday
Program #09BB51

Join a Naturalist as we stroll through mature forests along Morgan Run while looking for wildlife. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring a water bottle. Van transportation provided. Recommended for ages 12 and up (under 16 accompanied by a paying adult); meet at BBNC.
TIME: 12noon-4pm FEE: \$10/person

STRAWBERRY MOON OWL PROWL

June 6 Saturday
Program #09BB52

Join us for an exciting night hike under the full "Strawberry Moon" where we will try to call in the screech, barred and great horned owls that live in our forests. For ages 10 and up; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 7:30-9:00pm FEE: \$5/person



FLYING DRAGONS AND DAMSELS

June 20 Saturday
Program #09BB53

On sunny days the dragonflies and damselflies flit about our ponds and streams. What are they doing? Let us find out! We'll take a hike down to the pond and see how many we can spot. Afterwards we'll make a dragonfly to take home. Recommended ages 5 and up; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 1-3pm FEE: \$5/person

SIGNS OF THE SEASON: SUMMER SCAVENGER HUNT

June 27 Saturday
Program #09BB54

Summer is here! If you look around there are clues of its arrival everywhere! Join us to see how many signs of summer we can find around the park. Prizes will be awarded to all participants! For all ages; meet at BBNC.
TIME: 2-3pm FEE: \$5/person

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Numerous volunteer opportunities exist at Bear Branch Nature Center. Call or email Bear Branch for more information or to register for these and other upcoming volunteer opportunities.

OUTDOOR EXPLORERS - Saturdays: January 17, February 7, May 9, June 13; 2:30-4:30pm. Ages: 4th-12th grade. Students assist with ongoing conservation projects in the park.

TRAIL BLAZIN' - Sundays: January 4, February 8, March 15, April 26, May 10, June 14; 1-3pm. Ages 14-adult. Help out with Hashawha's trails.

GARDENING DAYS - Fourth Saturday of the month, April-October: April 25, May 23, June 27; 9am-Noon. All ages (under 12 must be with an adult). Help maintain the nature center gardens, no previous experience required!

ADOPT-A-BLUEBIRD - (VOLUNTEERS NEEDED) Sunday, March 22 - Bear Branch Nature Center is continuing to improve our Bluebird Trail, but we sure could use some extra help! We need help monitoring nesting boxes this spring and summer so as many bluebirds are raised as possible. If you are interested in this project, then join us as we discuss monitoring, learn about bluebirds, and go for a hike along the Bluebird Trail! For ages 7-adult (under 12 must be accompanied by an adult). Meet at BBNC. Time: 1-3pm.

PROJECT CLEAN STREAM - (VOLUNTEERS NEEDED) Saturday, April 4 - Join us for Project Clean Stream, the region's largest coordinated stream clean-up and restoration project, with 100's of sites in the Central Maryland Area! Be prepared to get wet and/or dirty! Wear old clothes and shoes. Scout groups welcome! Contact the Nature Center for location and additional information. For all ages (under 12 must be with an adult). Time: 9am-12Noon.

CAMP COUNSELOR TRAINING - Sunday, June 7 - All volunteers planning to be camp counselors for any of Bear Branch's summer camps must attend this training session. We will go over important volunteer guidelines and take a behind the scenes tour to get ready for camp. Please call ahead for a camp counselor application, which must be turned in at the training. For ages 14-adult. Time: 1-3pm.

MAPLE SUGARIN' FESTIVAL

Sunday, March 1, 2009

The Annual Maple Sugarin' Festival will take place on the grounds of Hashawha Environmental Center on Sunday, March 1st, 10:30am-4pm. A pancake breakfast with REAL maple syrup starts the day with plenty of other maple foods available until closing. The admission charge is \$2 per vehicle (vans included). For more information about the festival, please call Hashawha at 410-848-9040.



This festival celebrates the American tradition of collecting maple sap and boiling it down to rich maple syrup. Activities and demonstrations will take place both indoors and out, and include tree taping, sap boiling, bread baking, tasting, wagon rides, an indoor children's activity area with crafts, games, and face painting.

Volunteers are needed for this event. Teens can earn student service learning hours. If interested in volunteering at the festival, contact Bear Branch Nature Center, 410-848-2517.

ATTENTION SCOUTS & HOMESCHOOL GROUPS!!

Private group "Maple Sugarin" programs may be scheduled between February 24th and March 7th with Tina Shupp by calling Bear Branch Nature Center at 410-848-2517.