

# BEAR BRANCH NATURE CENTER PROGRAMS

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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 12-5pm. The Nature Center staff can be contacted by phone: 410-848-2517 or email [bbnc@carr.org](mailto: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 at 410-848-9040, or e-mail [Hashawha@carr.org](mailto:Hashawha@carr.org).

**In case of inclement weather...** if inclement weather is 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.

**There is no early bird or senior discount offered for Bear Branch programs.**

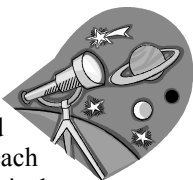
## PLANETARIUM SHOWS Friday OR Saturday

**Program #09BB55** July 31  
**Program #09BB56** August 29  
(June 5 - see SPRING guide #09BB26)

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! Age 8-adult; meet at BBNC. *Organized groups (i.e., Scouts) please call the Nature Center to schedule your own Planetarium Show.*

**TIME:** 7:30pm **FEE:** \$5/person



## BEAR CUBS CLUB Thursdays

**Program #09BB57** July 2  
**Program #09BB58** August 6  
(June 11 - see SPRING guide #09BB6)

Join us for this series of programs just for the little ones!! Each month we will have a nature related program and craft geared 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/person

## ALL ABOUT NATURE FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

Thursdays

**Program #09BB59** July 2 – Surface Tension  
**Program #09BB60** August 6 – Healthy Streams  
(June 11 - Dragonflies - see SPRING guide #09BB12)

Calling all Junior Naturalists! Each month you will learn “all about” some of your favorite nature topics with a Naturalist through hikes, experiments and other hands-on activities. Join us for just one month, or every month! Each month will feature a different topic. Age 7-11 (children should be mature enough to attend the program on their own); meet at BBNC.

**TIME:** 2-3:30pm **FEE:** \$5/person

## GREEN TEENS! Thursdays

**Program #09BB61** July 2  
**Program #09BB62** August 6  
(June 11 (see SPRING guide #09BB18)

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 age 13-18 should be prepared and dressed for the outdoors; meet at BBNC.

**TIME:** 2-3:30pm **FEE:** \$5/person

## MEET THE BEEKEEPERS

June 20 Saturday

**Program #09BB63**  
Learn all about this amazing insect. Do bees really dance? How is honey made? What do beekeepers do? Learn the answers to these questions and more, and meet a real beekeeper! For all ages; meet at BBNC.

**TIME:** 10am-12pm **FEE:** \$5/person

## HIKING HASHAWHA - VISTA TRAIL

June 28 Sunday

**Program #09BB64**  
Join a Naturalist for a 1.2 mile guided hike on the Vista Trail. Highlights will include a visit to the Raptor Mews. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring a water bottle. Recommended for age 7 and up; meet at BBNC.

**TIME:** 2-3pm **FEE:** \$5/person



## OSPREY BANDING TRIP ON THE PATUXENT RIVER

June 30 Tuesday

**Program #09BB65**  
Join us as we head to Jug Bay on the Patuxent River to spend the day learning all about the “fish hawk” with Naturalist, Greg Kearns. For over 20 years, Greg has banded osprey chicks each spring in the Chesapeake region. During this incredible trip, you will have the chance to get up close with the birds, as well as help collect and record important banding data. Bring water, hat/sunglasses, sunscreen and a camera. Fee includes transportation, admission, boat tour and riverside picnic lunch. Recommended for age 14-adult; registration deadline: June 24.

**TIME:** 8am-5pm **FEE:** \$25/person

## HOORAY FOR HUMMINGBIRDS

July 5 Sunday

Program #09BB66

Learn all about the “flying jewels” of the bird world, including what to feed them and how to attract them to your garden. Make a feeder of your own and plant some hummingbird flowers to take home. Age 12+; meet at BBNC.

TIME: 2-3:30pm FEE: \$8/person



## LIFE UNDER A LOG

July 11 Saturday

Program #09BB67

All sorts of critters live under logs and leaves on the ground. Join us for a hike into the woods as we see who might be lurking in and under the soil. Age 6-adult; meet at BBNC.

TIME: 11am-12pm FEE: \$5/person

## FIREFLY FIREWORKS

July 18 Saturday

Program #09BB68

Summertime is firefly time. We’ll go for a short walk as we try to catch some fireflies and learn why they light up the night with their natural fireworks display. All critters will be released at the end of the evening. Please bring a flashlight. Age 6-adult; meet at BBNC.

TIME: 7:30-9pm FEE: \$5/person

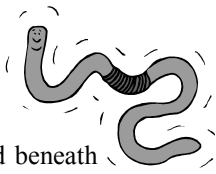
## WIGGLY WORMS

July 23 Thursday

Program #09BB69

Join us as we discover the wondrous world beneath our feet. We’ll go on a worm walk around the park in search of worms at work and any other wiggly creatures we might find along the way. Includes an edible, earthy treat! Age 6-8; meet at BBNC.

TIME: 11am-12:30pm FEE: \$5/person



## SOLAR RAY TREATS

July 25 Saturday

Program #09BB70

Can the sun’s rays really make me a nice summer treat? Come on out to engage the sun’s energy. We will make a solar oven, cook our own treats and see what else the sun has in store. Age 8-adult; meet at BBNC.

TIME: 1-3pm FEE: \$6/person

## HIKING HASHAWHA-STREAM TRAIL

July 26 Sunday

Program #09BB71

Join a Naturalist for a 1.8 mile hike along Bear Branch. 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

## TALKIN’ ABOUT TOADS

August 1 Saturday

Program #09BB72

If you love toads, this is the program for you! First we’ll talk

about these hopping amphibians and then make a toad home that you can decorate and take home! Age 6-adult; meet at BBNC.

TIME: 11am-12:30pm FEE: \$7/person

## HIKING HASHAWHA - BEAR PATH

August 2 Sunday

Program #09BB73

Join a Naturalist for a very short hike around the Nature Center on a trail that is fully accessible and filled with wildflowers and wildlife! This is ideal for families with small children, and folks that may have difficulty on unpaved trails. For all ages; meet at BBNC.

TIME: 12:30-1:30pm FEE: \$5/person

## HIKING HASHAWHA-WILDERNESS TRAIL

August 2 Sunday

Program #09BB74

Join a Naturalist for a 2.2 mile hike along the Wilderness Trail to enjoy some of the “wilder” areas of Hashawha. This trail is a bit more strenuous, but worth it! Age 12+; meet at BBNC.

TIME: 2-4pm FEE: \$5/person



## TOTALLY TURTLES

August 5 Wednesday

Program #09BB75

Turtles are amazing animals! Join us for an up close look as we meet several of the center’s shelled critters. Age 6-adult; meet at BBNC.

TIME: 11am-12:30pm FEE: \$5/person

## “WINGS OF FANCY” - TRIP TO BROOKSIDE GARDENS

August 7 Friday Registration Deadline:

Program #09BB76 - adult

August 1st

Program #09BB77 - child 12 and under

Spend the afternoon at Brookside Gardens surrounded by many North American butterfly species flying freely among their native host and nectar source plants. Learn about the life cycles of butterflies and observe other butterfly species from as far away as Costa Rica. Afterwards we’ll explore the flower gardens and have lunch at the Brookside Nature Center. Fee includes transportation and entrance fees. Please bring a water bottle and bag lunch on the trip. Age 7-adult (under 12 must be accompanied by a paying adult); meet at BBNC.

TIME: 10am-5pm FEE: \$16-adult  
\$10-child 12 and under



## WESTERN MARYLAND MOUNTAIN CAMPOUT

August 12-14

Wednesday-Friday

Program #09BB78

Calling all teens! We’re heading out to Western Maryland for some camping, hiking and exploring. We’ll be visiting places such Swallow Falls State Park, Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park, all of which are loaded with beautiful and unique scenery. Fee includes transportation, camping, meals, and instruction; meet at BBNC. Please plan to attend a short pre-trip meeting on Sunday, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. Age 13-18; registration deadline: August 5<sup>th</sup>

TIME: 8am Wed. - 6pm Friday FEE: \$100/person

**FLOAT BOAT RACES**

August 21

Friday

Program #09BB79

Let us go down to the stream and have boat races. We will make great boats from the leaves of the cattails just as the Native American children did long ago. Wear old tennis shoes and plan on getting wet. Age 9-adult; meet at BBNC.

TIME: 1pm-3pm

FEE: \$5/person



**SAVE THE DATE!**

This year's MONARCH MADNESS FESTIVAL at Bear Branch Nature Center is scheduled for Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 12noon - 4pm! Additional details coming in our Fall Recreation and Parks Program Guide.

**SUMMER CAMPS AT BEAR BRANCH**

This summer, BBNC is offering a variety of camps to provide summertime fun and environmental education for campers age 6-18. Bear Branch is an ideal location for camp providing streams, meadows, forests and wetlands to explore. Campers will learn about nature, work on conservation projects, explore the park and participate in games, crafts and field trips. For more information about any of our Bear Branch camps and/or to receive a registration brochure, please stop by the Nature Center or call BBNC at 410-848-2517.

**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.

**SUMMER CAMP COUNSELOR TRAINING** - Sunday, June 7, 1-3pm

**TRAIL BLAZIN'**- Sundays, June 14, July 19, August 9, September 27, 1-3pm. Ages 14-adult. Help out with Hashawha's trails.

**OUTDOOR EXPLORERS** - Saturdays, June 13, July 11, August 1, September 12, 2:30-4:30pm. Ages: 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Students assist with ongoing conservation projects in the park.

**GARDENING DAYS** - Saturdays, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, 9am-12pm. All ages (under 12 must be with an adult). Help maintain the nature center gardens, no previous experience required!

**BEAR BRANCH AND PINEY RUN NATURE CENTER MEMBERSHIP**



**Are you a Nature Center Member?**

Nature Centers Members play an important role within our parks and membership has numerous privileges! Membership benefits include: discount registration for Nature Camps, 10% discount in either Nature Center Gift Shop, invitations to "Members Only" programs and activities, an opportunity to serve on your affiliate Council, plus Library book check out privileges at Piney Run and Bear Branch. As a member of either Piney Run or Bear Branch, you also know that you are helping to support quality environmental education programs at the Nature Centers in Carroll County.

Membership Rates:

Family	\$15
Individual	\$10
Senior Citizen (62+)	\$8
Senior Couple	\$12
Full Time Student	\$8
Organization	\$25
Contributing	\$50
Sustaining	\$100
Patron	\$500
Benefactor	\$1000
Lifetime	\$250

YES, I would like to become a member of (please check one):

Bear Branch Nature Center  
 Check payable and mailed to:  
 Friends of Hashawha/Bear Branch  
 300 John Owings Road  
 Westminster, MD 21158

Piney Run Nature Cntr  
 Check payable and mailed to:  
 Piney Run Recreation &  
 Conservation Council  
 30 Martz Road  
 Sykesville, MD 21784

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

(type) membership

\*Contributions in excess of your membership fee are tax deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_