

# 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-Saturday from 10am-5pm, and Sunday from 12pm-5pm. The Nature Center staff can be contacted by phone: 410-386-3580 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 the Hashawha staff at 410-386-3560, or via e-mail at [Hashawha@carr.org](mailto:Hashawha@carr.org).

**In case of inclement weather...** should inclement weather be in the forecast, please call the Nature Center before coming to your program to check and see if it has been cancelled or postponed. Note that if Carroll County Government is closed, the Nature Center is also closed.



## BEAR CUBS CLUB

Dec 3 OR Jan 14 OR Feb 18      1 session      Thursday  
 Program #09BB125 12/3  
 Program #09BB126 1/14  
 Program #09BB127 2/18  
 Join us for this series of programs just for the little ones!! 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! Age 4-6.  
 TIME: 10:30-11:30am      FEE: \$5

## ALL ABOUT NATURE FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

Dec 3 OR Jan 14 OR Feb 18      1 session      Thursday  
 Program #09BB128 12/3  
 Program #09BB129 1/14  
 Program #09BB130 2/18  
 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 being outside. Age 7-12 (children should be mature enough to attend the program on their own).  
 TIME: 2-3:30pm      FEE: \$5



## GREEN TEENS

Dec 3 OR Jan 14 OR Feb 18      1 session      Thursday  
 Program #09BB131 12/3  
 Program #09BB132 1/14  
 Program #09BB133 2/18  
 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 should be prepared and properly dressed for being outside. Age 13-18.  
 TIME: 2-3:30pm      FEE: \$5

## MAKING POMANDER BALLS

December 5      1 session      Saturday  
 Program #09BB134  
 Pomander balls date back hundreds of years and are a sweet smelling, natural air freshener made from oranges and cloves - and they are an easy, fun holiday craft that everyone can create! Age 8 and up.  
 TIME: 2-3pm      FEE: \$7

## FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AT BROOKSIDE GARDENS

December 10      1 session      Thursday  
 Program #09BB135 adult  
 Program #09BB136 child age 12 and under  
 Join us for a special holiday trip to Brookside Gardens. We'll travel by van to the gardens for a festive "walk through" of the grounds to see the lights galore! Bring a "bagged supper" if you'd like. Holiday snacks will be provided during the van ride. Age 14-adult (under 14 must be accompanied by a paying adult).  
 TIME: 5pm      FEE: \$15 adult  
    \$10 child (age 12 & under)

## NATURE CRITTERS CRAFTS AND HIKE

December 12      1 session      Saturday  
 Program #09BB137  
 Kids, let's go for a hike in the park. Then, using nature's resources, we will make some wonderful animals to decorate a tree, a gift or your room! Age 8-12 (under 10 must be accompanied by a paying adult).  
 TIME: 1-4pm      FEE: \$6

## WINTER WONDERLAND PARTY FOR PRESCHOOLERS

December 18      1 session      Friday  
 Program #09BB138  
 Join us as we celebrate winter with themed games, crafts and treats! For preschool aged children.  
 TIME: 10:30am-12pm      FEE: \$7



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**-- NO EARLY BIRD OR SENIOR DISCOUNTS for Bear Branch Nature Center programs --**

**PLANETARIUM SHOWS**



Dec 18 OR Jan 9 OR Feb 19 1 session Friday OR Saturday  
 Program #09BB139 12/18  
 Program #09BB140 1/9  
 Program #09BB141 2/19

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.  
 TIME: 7:30-8:30pm FEE: \$5

*\*\*Scout groups (or other organized groups) need to call the Nature Center directly to schedule their own planetarium show.\*\**

**WINTER BIRD LIFE**



December 19 1 session Saturday  
 Program #09BB142

This is the perfect time of year to learn about birds! Learn to identify common backyard birds, select the right types of seeds and other feeding techniques, and how to attract birds to your yard. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Age: adults.  
 TIME: 11am-12:30pm FEE: \$5

**COLD BLOODED CRITTERS**

December 20 1 session Sunday  
 Program #09BB143

The landscape is blanketed with snow and the temperatures are below freezing, so how do reptiles and amphibians survive? We'll learn about some animals at the nature center and then go for a walk to search for signs of life. Age: All.  
 TIME: 2-3:30pm FEE: \$5

**MAKE A SNOWFLAKE**



January 2 1 session Saturday  
 Program #09BB144

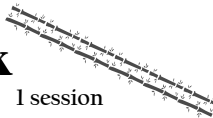
Learn how snowflakes form and then create and decorate your own flake to take home! Age: 7-adult.  
 TIME: 2-3pm FEE: \$5

**INSECTS ON ICE**

January 3 1 session Sunday  
 Program #09BB145

Do insects really like to ice skate? Over-wintering insects have amazing strategies to survive such cold weather. We'll learn about where butterflies, dragonflies, grasshoppers, and beetles have gone and then we'll go explore the woods and fields to find some. We'll also look under rotting logs and look for and learn about what galls are. Age: 6-adult (under 12 must be accompanied by a paying adult).  
 TIME: 2-3:30pm FEE: \$5

**TALKING STICK**



January 9 1 session Saturday  
 Program #09BB146

Listen to a Native American tale, hike for some natural materials, and then make a Native American "Talking Stick." Age: 5-8.  
 TIME: 1-3pm FEE: \$5

**WINTER SCAVENGER HUNT**

January 16 1 session Saturday  
 Program #09BB147

Winter is a time when the Earth settles down, but if you look closely, there's still many things going on outside! Join us as we go in search of signs of the season. Prizes will be awarded to all participants! Age: All.  
 TIME: 2-3pm FEE: \$5

**ORIGIN OF THE FECES**

January 17 1 session Sunday  
 Program #09BB148

We'll learn all about scat, chews, and other signs animals leave behind. Winter is the perfect time to look for tracks, especially in the snow. 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! Age: 6-adult.  
 TIME: 1-2:30pm FEE: \$7



**WISDOM OF OWLS FOR HOMESCHOOLERS**

January 22 1 session Friday  
 Program #09BB149

Meet these nocturnal wonders up close and dissect owl pellets. Bring a lunch and plan to hike to the raptor mews. Age: 10+.  
 TIME: 11am-3pm FEE: \$15

**WOODPECKER WANDER**

January 23 1 session Saturday  
 Program #09BB150

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. Binoculars would be helpful, but aren't necessary. Age: 10-adult.  
 TIME: 11am-12:30pm FEE: \$5

**RAPTOR PHOTO SHOOT**

January 30 1 session Saturday  
 Program #09BB151 ADULTS only, 9-10am

Program #09BB152 ALL ages, 10-11am (under 12 with paying adult)  
 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 winter conditions to photograph the birds in a natural setting. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a paying adult. Meet at the Raptor Mews. Parking available at BBNC and outside Hashawha Gates.  
 TIME: Choose above FEE: \$10



## TAPPING MAPLES & SAP COLLECTING

Feb 10-17 OR Feb 12-19 OR Feb 18-25

2 sessions Wed OR Thurs OR Fri

Program #09BB153 2/10 & 2/17 (Wednesdays 2pm)

Program #09BB154 2/12 & 2/19 (Fridays 10:30am)

Program #09BB155 2/18 & 2/25 (Thursdays 5pm)

Help us prepare for the upcoming Maple Sugarin' Festival by tapping our maple trees the first week and then coming back to collect sap the second week. Learn how and why we tap trees and about the boiling down process. Even try some real maple syrup! *We will be hiking and carrying equipment so dress appropriately.* You MUST be able to attend BOTH days in order to register for this program.

TIME: Choose above FEE: \$5



## WINTRY HIKE ALONG SPIEGLE HILL

February 14 1 session Sunday

Program #09BB156

Enjoy the wintry festiveness as we hike and explore the Spiegle Hill Trail, a part of the nearby Union Mills trails system. We'll also discover how to use the clues of bark, fruit, buds and twigs to identify trees during the wintertime. Bring a water bottle, and field guide if you have one. We'll conclude our jaunt with warm wintry treats!

TIME: 1-3pm FEE: \$5

## MAPLE SUGARIN' AND CRAFT

February 20 1 session Saturday

Program #09BB157 10:30am-12pm

Program #09BB158 1:30-3pm

Learn all about the history of Maple Sugarin' and tree tapping. Enjoy a short hike, movie and demonstration. Take a taste test and make a spile or mokuk! Age: 6-adult (under 12 must be accompanied by a paying adult).

TIME: Choose above FEE: \$5

## HOME SCHOOL MAPLE SUGARIN' AND CRAFT

February 26 1 session Friday

Program #09BB159 10:30am-12pm

Program #09BB160 1:30-3pm

Learn all about the history of Maple Sugarin' and tree tapping. Enjoy a short hike, movie and demonstration. Take a taste test and make a spile or mokuk! Age: 6-adult (under 12 must be accompanied by a paying adult).

TIME: Choose above FEE: \$5

## MAPLE SUGARIN' CAMP-OUT

Feb 27-Feb 28 1 session Saturday-Sunday

Program #09BB161

Teens join us for our sixth annual camp-out in the sugar bush! We will be traveling 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 this weekend, helping to tap maples, collect buckets of sap and even help with the boiling down



process in the sugar shack. We'll be spending the night inside the "old field station" at the Grove Farm. We'll also have the opportunity to tour Juniata's Lakeside Center and Schuster Hall, designed as a "green building." Please plan to attend a brief pre-trip meeting on Wednesday, February 24 at 4:30 pm at BBNC. Age: 13-18. REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 2/21/10.

TIME: 9am Saturday - approx. 6pm Sunday FEE: \$70

## SPECIAL EVENT:

### HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

December 13 Sunday

Bring the entire family to the Nature Center for Bear Branch's Holiday Open House.

Make some natural decorations and ornaments for the wildlife around the Nature Center and your own home,

and enjoy cookies and cocoa around the woodstove.

Age: families.

TIME: 1-4pm FEE: Free

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Numerous volunteer opportunities exist at the Nature Center. Call Bear Branch at 410-386-3580 or email [bbnc@carr.org](mailto:bbnc@carr.org) for more information about these and other upcoming volunteer opportunities.

### OUTDOOR EXPLORERS

Dec 12, Jan 9 Saturdays

Students assist with ongoing conservation projects in the park.

Age: 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

TIME: 2:30-4:30pm

### TRAIL BLAZIN'

Dec 6, Jan 10, Feb 21 Sundays

Help out with Hashawha's trails. Age: 14-adult.

TIME: 1-3pm

### GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

February 13 Saturday

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day bird counting event for birders of all ages and experience levels. Learn how to take part in this national event, and about some common birds you may encounter. Afterwards we'll enjoy cider and cookies. Age: 10-adult.

TIME: 1-2pm