



# BEAR BRANCH NATURE CENTER



Pre-registration is needed so that we can be fully prepared for you to enjoy our programs.  
Youth **MUST BE ACCOMPANIED** by a **PAYING ADULT** for any of our "All Ages" programs AND those listed as "age # - ADULT"

**410-386-3580**  
**300 John Owings Road**  
**Westminster**

The Nature Center is open year round and hours of operation are Wednesday-Saturday 11am-5pm, and Sunday 12-5pm. All Nature Center programs require pre-registration with Recreation & Parks (see form in back). Organized groups **MUST** schedule a separate program directly with the Nature Center; email [bearbranch@carrollcountymd.gov](mailto:bearbranch@carrollcountymd.gov), or phone.

Hashawha's trails are open to the public from dawn until dusk 365 days a year. Parking is only available at Lake Hashawha or the Nature Center. There is no entrance fee to 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 information regarding group rentals for Hashawha, call 410-386-3560, or email [Hashawha@carrollcountymd.gov](mailto:Hashawha@carrollcountymd.gov).

**In case of inclement weather:** should inclement weather be in the forecast, please call the Nature Center before heading to your program to see if it has been canceled or postponed. We follow school weather closings - please see our full Inclement Weather Policy at the back of this brochure for complete details. Please note the Nature Center is closed whenever Carroll County Government offices are closed.


## HIKE & LEARN

#19BB01 Sat, Mar 2 – 10-11am – Beautiful Bluebirds  
#19BB02 Sun, Apr 7 – 11am-12pm – Hashawha History  
#19BB03 Sat, May 4 – 10-11am – Incredible Insects  
Get to know Hashawha a little better this spring on a guided nature hike with the Park Naturalist. Each month we will focus on a different topic as we hike 1-2 miles. Upon returning, we'll record what we've observed to share with others. Don't forget your binoculars and water bottles!  
**All Ages / 1 session / \$5 person**

## PLANETARIUM SHOW

Saturday, 7:30-8:30pm  
#19BB04 March 9  
#19BB05 April 13  
#19BB06 May 11  
Join a member of the Westminster Astronomical Society, Inc. (WASI) for an indoor planetarium show highlighting what's happening in the night sky at this time of year. Then head outdoors to take a look through the observatory (weather dependent)! Great for older children and adults.  
**8-Adult / 1 session / \$6 person**

## JUNIOR PLANETARIUM SHOW

Saturday, 11-11:45am  
#19BB07 March 9 – The Pleiades  
#19BB08 April 13 – Ursa Major & Minor   
#19BB09 May 11 – Leo the Lion  
Join the naturalist for a kid-friendly, indoor planetarium show! The show will review the basics of sky watching and talk about what can be seen in the current night sky. We'll focus on a different topic each month with a craft to help you remember it! Great for young children and first-time planetarium-goers.  
**8-Adult / 1 session / \$5 person**

## FOSSIL FUN

#19BB10 Sunday, March 10, 2-3pm  
Think all rocks are the same? Think again! Some rocks have been able to preserve information about plants and animals through fossilization. This is your chance to learn more about these amazing rocks, view some real fossils up close and then make your own to take home!  
**3-9 years (w/ an adult) / 1 session / \$7 child**

## BEAR CUB EXPLORERS

Thursday, 2-3pm  
#19BB11 March 14 – Remarkable Reptiles  
#19BB12 April 11 – Life in Lake Hashawha  
#19BB13 May 9 – Amazing Amphibians  
After reviewing a nature-related theme with the help of one or more of our captive animals, we'll head outside to put our new knowledge to the test! We'll finish up with an interactive craft to remind us of our day. Each month explores a different theme; activities are planned for ages 3-9; tag-along siblings must register.  
**3-9 years (w/ an adult) / 1 session / \$6 child**

## RAPTOR PHOTO SHOOT

#19BB14 Saturday, March 23, 10-11am  
Capture our birds of prey on camera in their natural surroundings! Photographers of all levels are welcome. Bring your camera or smart phone and [meet at the Raptor Mews](#).  
**5-Adult / 1 session / \$5 person**

## PARK IN THE DARK - Salamander Search

#19BB15 Friday, March 29, 7:30-8:30pm  
Salamanders are fascinating creatures of the night. Meet our captive salamander up close and then head outdoors to search for salamanders as the park gets dark. Don't forget your flashlight!  
**All ages / 1 session / \$5 person**

## TRACKING TADPOLES

#19BB16 Sunday, April 7, 2-3pm  
It's been a cold winter but the frogs are ready for spring! Come out to bear branch nature center to hunt for eggs, tadpoles and the frogs themselves! We'll learn how to find and identify them then head down to the lake to see how many we can catch with our dip nets.  
**3-9 years (w/ an adult) / 1 session / \$5 child**

## FIRST TIME FISHING!

#19BB17 Wednesday, April 17, 4-5pm  
New to the sport of fishing and not sure what to do? Join a Naturalist in learning how to fish at Lake Hashawha! We will provide bamboo fishing poles, worms, lures and the information you need to get started! All fish caught at Lake Hashawha are catch & release.  
**3-12 years (w/ an adult) / 1 session / \$6 child**

## FAMILY FLASHLIGHT EGG HUNT

#19BB18 Saturday, April 20, 7:30-9:00pm  
Eggs aren't only for the birds! Learn more about eggs of all types and the animals that lay them. Then head outdoors to search for Easter eggs in the moonlight. Don't forget your flashlight!  
**3-12 years (w/ an adult) / 1 session / \$7 child**

## MEET THE BEEKEEPER

Saturday, 10 – 11am  
#19BB19 April 20  
#19BB20 May 18  
Join the Carroll County Beekeepers Association (CCBA) for an interactive, hands-on presentation on honeybees and beekeeping. Take a close look at the observation hive, discover what honeybees are doing this time of year, and learn all you need to know to start a hive of your own.  
**All ages / 1 session / \$5 person**



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## CANOE THE MONOCACY

Saturday, May 18, 10am – 5pm

#19BB21 Adult or Youth 12+ /PADDLER

#19BB22 Youth under 12 /PASSENGER

Explore the Monocacy Water Trail on a float down the Monocacy River. All equipment, instruction, and transportation provided. Pack a lunch, bottled water and sunscreen; wear closed-toe shoes, and dress for the weather. Two or three per boat; single paddlers will be paired with others; youth must be at least 50lbs and be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Space is limited!  
7-Adult / 1 session / \$25 person

## DINO & FAIRY GARDENS

#19BB23 Saturday, May 25, 3-4pm

Magical things are always happening in nature! Create a fairy or dinosaur garden with fun plants and decorations to bring a little bit of magic home. All materials provided, must indicate “fairy” or “dino” when registering.

All ages / 1 session / \$12 per garden

## CANOE AND CAMPFIRE

Saturday, May 25, 6:30 – 8pm

#19BB24 Adult or Youth 12+ /PADDLER

#19BB25 Youth under 12 /PASSENGER

Looking to try canoeing but not ready for a trip down river? Join us for an instructional evening paddling on Lake Hashawha; then hop out of the boat for s'mores and snacks by the campfire. Space is limited! Single paddlers will be paired with others; youth must be at least 50lbs and be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

7-Adult / 1 session / \$10 person

**NO EARLY BIRD or SENIOR DISCOUNTS for Bear Branch Nature Center programs.**

**All programs meet at the Nature Center unless otherwise noted in description.**

## BEAR BRANCH BULLETIN BOARD

410-386-3580 / [bearbranch@carrollcountymd.gov](mailto:bearbranch@carrollcountymd.gov)

Contact us about these or other upcoming opportunities or events.

### BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Looking for a fun way to celebrate your birthday? Come to Bear Branch! Packages include 3-hour use of the auditorium, a 45-minute naturalist-led program, and time to explore the Nature Center. We have five themes to choose from and can do goody bags for an additional fee!

PACKAGE FEE: \$175

### FIELD TRIPS

Are you an elementary school teacher looking for a fun, educational field trip for your class? Our field trips include a 45-minute naturalist-led presentation and hands-on, outdoor activities based on grade level (aligned with the Carroll County science curriculum).

FEE: \$4/student and chaperon (in-county), \$5 (out-of-county); + optional \$50 pavilion rental fee

### OUTREACH & PRIVATE PROGRAMS

Interested in organizing a hike, planetarium show, or nature-themed program for your group at Bear Branch? Ask us for topic ideas or request your own! We can even come to you (+\$25 traveling fee)!

FEE: \$4/student and chaperone (in-county); \$5 (out-of-county)

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### PROJECT CLEAN STREAM

Sunday, March 24, 2-4pm

“Every spring, tens of thousands of volunteers come together to pick up trash from local streams, creeks, rivers, parks, and neighborhoods as part of the Alliance’s Project Clean Stream — the largest cleanup event in the Chesapeake Bay region!” Be a part of this important program at Bear Branch Nature Center. Call or e-mail by 3/7/19 to sign up!

#### INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL

Friday, March 8, 1-3pm

Friday, April 12, 1-3pm

Friday, May 10, 1-3pm

Sunday, May 26, 1-3pm

Help us to maintain a healthy environment by removing harmful invasive plants. This activity will be guided by staff or volunteers to help with plant identification. Service hours are available; please call 410-386-3580 to register!

#### BEAR BRANCH GARDEN AID

Interested in volunteering and getting outdoors more? Come to Bear Branch Nature Center and help us in maintaining our various gardens, no experience necessary! Scheduling is flexible based on your availability Wednesday – Sunday.

Stop by the nature center or contact the naturalist to fill out an application.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### MAPLE SUGARIN’ FESTIVAL & PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 3, 10:30am – 3pm

Come out to Hashawha Environmental Center for our annual Maple Sugarin’ Festival and enjoy pancakes with real maple syrup, learn how to tap a maple tree, create a few crafts to take home, enjoy living history demonstrations, and so much more!

**\$5 parking fee; breakfast available until 2pm for \$4 per plate**

#### RAPTOR MEET AND GREET

##### MEMBERS ONLY

Saturday, March 23, 10-11am

Check out this exciting event that is free to Bear Branch Nature Center members! Our birds will leave their mews to perch in the trees and give you an amazing opportunity for photography while learning more about them from the Park Naturalist. It’s free, but PRE-registration is needed, so please call or email no later than March 22!