The Anita C. Leight Estuary Center is part of the Otter Point Creek Component of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Maryland.

**2020 Fall Calendar**

**THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES APPLY TO ALL FALL PROGRAMS:**
- Registration is required for **ALL** programs—NO DROP-INS
- Programs will be conducted outside if at all possible
- Program numbers have been reduced to a max of 10
- Masks are required to be worn if in the building, and encouraged at all other times
- Social distancing required at all times, inside or out
- Participants will be required to answer health screening questions
- Participants must be willing to give contact information for contact tracing purposes

**ALL PROGRAMS**
- All programs meet at the Center unless otherwise noted
- Children under 13 must be with an adult unless otherwise noted

**ESTUARY CENTER INFORMATION**
- Phone/Address: 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000 x1688, 700 Otter Point Road, Abingdon, MD 21009
- Web page: www.otterpointcreek.org
- Hours of Operation: The Estuary Center is open Monday - Saturday, 10am-5pm by appointment only
- Park grounds are open dawn to dusk
- All trails are not handicapped or stroller accessible

**HOW TO REGISTER FOR OPCA PROGRAMS**
- Call 410-612-1688

**CANCELLATION/REIMBURSEMENT POLICY:**
- If the Estuary Center cancels a program, we will initiate a full reimbursement
- If you need to cancel registration for a program, you must call the Estuary Center
- If you cancel more than one week before the program, we will initiate a reimbursement
- No reimbursements for cancellations received less than one week before a program

The Estuary Center will be closed: Mon., September 7, Wed. November 11, and Thurs. & Fri., November 26 & 27

**OPCA FALL PROGRAMS**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED - NO FEE!**

**CRITTER DINNER TIME - ALL AGES!**
Watch our turtles, amphibians and snakes eat while learning about these fascinating creatures.
Sat., September 19 at 1:30 p.m.  Sat., October 24 at 10:30 a.m.  Sat., November 28 at 1:30 p.m.

**MEET A CRITTER - ALL AGES!**
Check out one of our live critters up close while discovering what makes that animal special.
Sun., September 13 at 1:00 p.m.  Sun., October 25 at 12:00 p.m.  Sun., November 8 at 12:30 p.m.

**TAILS AND TOTS - 0 - 6 w/ADULT**
Story time with a natural twist! Listen to stories, learn new songs, and move like the animals!
Sun., September 27 at 1:00 p.m.  Sun., October 18 at 2:00 p.m.  Sun., November 22 at 3:30 p.m.
**OPCA FALL PROGRAMS**

Registration is required for all programs.

### SEPTEMBER

**Fishy Fun**  
Check out Otter Point Creek’s scaly friends! Find out which fish are common in our waters while getting up close and personal through activities and hands-on "fish" time.  
**Date:** Sat., September 5  
**Time:** 2:30—4:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** 3—adult, under 13 w/adult  
**Fee:** $10/family

**Wild Sunset Campfire**  
Spread out at the Pontoon Pier while searching for critters in the water, grass, and sky. Relax around the campfire and savor s'mores while the sun sets over the creek.  
*Meet at Pontoon Pier*  
**Date:** Sat., September 12  
**Time:** 6:30—8:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** 4—adult, under 13 w/adult  
**Fee:** $12/family

**Fall Equinox Campfire**  
Usher in autumn with a classic campfire! Learn fall nature lore and search for seasonal constellations. End the evening with delicious s'mores.  
*Meet at Pontoon Pier*  
**Date:** Sat., September 26  
**Time:** 6:30—8:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** 4—adult, under 13 w/adult  
**Fee:** $12/family

### OCTOBER

**Spooky Batty Fun**  
Are bats spooky or cool? Decide for yourself. Discover fun facts, play a bat communication game, and make a batty craft for Halloween.  
**Date:** Sat., October 3  
**Time:** 2:30—4:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** 6—adult, under 13 w/adult  
**Fee:** $3/person

**Survival Skills**  
Do you think you have what it takes to survive in the wild? Test your skills by building fires, looking for wild edibles, and constructing shelter.  
**Date:** Sat., October 10  
**Time:** 2:00—3:30 p.m.  
**Ages:** 8—adult, under 13 w/adult  
**Fee:** $5/person

**Creepy Crawlies**  
With Halloween quickly approaching, discover all that is creepy and crawly! Spend time in the woods and by the water searching for strange creatures.  
**Date:** Sat., October 24  
**Time:** 10:00—11:00 a.m.  
**Ages:** 8—adult, under 13 w/adult  
**Fee:** $3/person

**Fall Fairy Garden**  
Hike the trails in search of inspiration and create a whimsical fairy garden incorporating fall elements.  
**Date:** Sun., October 25  
**Time:** 1:30—3:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** 7—adult, under 13 w/adult  
**Fee:** $10/project

### NOVEMBER

**To Catch a Dream**  
Listen to the legend of the Native American dreamcatcher while crafting one of your own.  
**Date:** Sun., November 1  
**Time:** 1:00—2:30 p.m.  
**Ages:** 9—adult, under 13 w/adult  
**Fee:** $6/project

**Backyard Birding**  
Familiarize yourself with a favorite winter pastime, backyard bird watching. Learn about common wintering birds and how to attract them. “Make and take” a few easy-to-do bird feeders!  
**Date:** Sat., November 7  
**Time:** 10:00—11:30 a.m.  
**Ages:** 7—adult, under 13 w/adult  
**Fee:** $5/person

**Fabulous Fall Furnishings**  
Create festive fall décor for your home using natural or repurposed materials!  
**Date:** Sun., November 8  
**Time:** 3:00—4:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** 8—adult, under 13 w/adult  
**Fee:** $7/person

**Watersheds and Wastewater**  
Watersheds are all around us! How do we impact them? Where does all our wastewater go? How can we reduce our impact? Learn about these topics and simple things that you can do at home to reduce runoff.  
**Date:** Sat., November 21  
**Time:** 2:00—3:30 p.m.  
**Ages:** 10—adult, under 13 w/adult  
**Fee:** $4/person

**Preparing for Winter**  
When animals are getting ready for winter, who sleeps, who freezes, and who moves away? Discover the unique ways that animals prepare for the cold weather.  
**Date:** Sun., November 22  
**Time:** 1:00—2:30 p.m.  
**Ages:** 4—adult, under 13 w/adult  
**Fee:** $4/person

**Jerusalem Mill Trail Trek**  
Explore the trails near historic Jerusalem Mill Village on a brisk fall morning.  
*Meet at Jerusalem Mill Village*  
**Date:** Sat., November 28  
**Time:** 10:00—11:30 a.m.  
**Ages:** 6—adult, under 13 w/adult  
**Fee:** $3/person

**Tracking Nature**  
Wildlife is sneaky but they leave behind a lot of clues. Learn the basics of spotting those signs while creating your own track models and testing your “reading” skills on the trail!  
**Date:** Sat., November 28  
**Time:** 3:00—4:30 p.m.  
**Ages:** 5—adult, under 13 w/adult  
**Fee:** $4/person
FALL CHILDREN'S PROGRAM SERIES

Registration is required for all programs.

Nature Playgroup
Little ones and their parents play and learn in the natural world. Stories, songs, simple crafts and discovery outings will highlight each day’s theme. **Topics:** Foxes, Leaves, Squirrels, and Spiders
**Dates:** Mondays, September 21, 28, October 5, 12
**Time:** Playgroup 1: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.; Playgroup 2: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
**Ages:** 0 to 5 (w/adult)
**Fee:** $30 per child

Volunteer Opportunities

Registration is required for all programs.

Invasinators
Become part of a volunteer team of invasive plant removers and native plant restorers. Learn why non-native invasive plants are a threat to our ecosystem, how to identify problem plants, and removal and restoration strategies. Wear sturdy shoes, long sleeves, and work gloves for field work in the Reserve each meeting date, weather permitting.
**Dates:** Sun., September 13
Sun., October 18
Sun., November 15
**Time:** 2:00—4:00 p.m.
1:00—3:00 p.m.
2:00—4:00 p.m.
**Ages:** 14 - adult

Marsh Bloom Time Monitoring is an ongoing community science program. If you would like to learn about this volunteer opportunity, please call 410-612-1688.
OPCA FALL BOAT PROGRAMS

Registration is required for all programs.

Kayak Trips

Children under 13 must be with an adult. All trips meet at the Estuary Center unless otherwise noted.

Wear shoes that can get wet. All equipment supplied. Fee: $12.00, unless otherwise noted

Chesapeake Storytellers – Capt. John Smith Historic Kayak
Paddle back in time to view the site where Capt. John Smith once stood while mapping the Chesapeake Bay.
*Meet at Flying Point Park

Date: Sat., September 19  Time: 2:00—4:30 p.m.
Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Day’s Cove—Kayak Exploration
Explore the waters of the Gunpowder Falls while searching for eagles above, beavers below, and the changing foliage all around! This is an approximately 4 mile round trip paddle; recommended for experienced kayakers.  *Meet at Mariner Point Park

Date: Sat., October 3  Time: 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Ages: 12 - adult, under 16 w/adult  Fee: $13.00

Kids ‘n Kayaks
Bring your wee little water lovers out for their first time paddle. Paddling safety and basic stroke instruction is covered before venturing out further to explore the watery world of Otter Point Creek.

Date: Sun., September 27  Time: 9:00—11:00 a.m.
Ages: 5 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Canoe Trips

Children under 13 must be with an adult. All trips meet at the Estuary Center unless otherwise noted.

Wear shoes that can get wet. All equipment supplied. Fee: $12.00, unless otherwise noted

Estuary Bingo
Increase your knowledge of estuaries while playing a fun game of bingo. Mark off sightings on your board and see who will be the first to get a bingo. Participation and bingo prizes awarded!

Date: Sat., September 5  Time: 10:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Monarch Canoe
Imagine weighing half a gram and flying thousands of miles to reach warm wintering grounds. Sounds impossible, but now is the time to view this phenomenon as monarch butterflies take to the air. Search the sky and the marsh for monarchs, and dragonflies, too!

Date: Sat., September 12  Time: 1:30—4:00 p.m.
Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Migration Madness
Just as the leaves begin to change colors, many of our feathered friends begin their long journey south in search of winter accommodations. Grab binoculars and cameras and see who we can spot traveling through the marsh.

Date: Sat., October 17  Time: 9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Ages: 8—adult, under 13 w/adult

Full Moon Halloween Canoe
Spend this Halloween having a hauntingly good time paddling a canoe under the full moon’s light. Costumes are welcome but please make sure they are paddle safe!

Date: Sat., October 31  Time: 6:30—9:00 p.m.
Ages: 12 - adult, under 15 w/adult

Members Only Program

Shoreline Show Kayak
As we edge toward fall, traces of color begin to lace the shoreline for your viewing pleasure. Layer up and don’t miss the show!

Date: Sun., October 11
Time: 1:30—4:00 p.m.
Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult
Fee: Free for OPCA members
HARFORD COUNTY FALL PROGRAMS

HOW TO REGISTER FOR HARFORD COUNTY PROGRAMS
♦ Go to www.harfordcountymd.gov/225/Parks-Recreation and click the "Register" button OR
♦ Go to www.otterpointcreek.org, click on Calendar of Events, click on link within program description OR
♦ Call 410-612-1688
♦ Payment is due at time of registration

CANCELLATION/REIMBURSEMENT POLICY:
♦ If the Estuary Center cancels a program, we will initiate a full credit, reimbursement upon request
♦ If you need to cancel registration for a program, you must call the Estuary Center
♦ If you cancel more than 2 weeks before the program, we'll initiate a reimbursement minus a $5 administrative fee
♦ No reimbursements for cancellations received less than 2 weeks before a program

FALL BOAT PROGRAMS
Registration required

Good Morning Marsh—Kayak
Rise with the sun to an early morning kayak around the marsh, watching for awakening animals.
Date: Sat., September 26  
Time: 7:30—10:00 a.m.
Ages: 8—adult, under 13 w/adult  
Fee: $12.00/person

Final Fall Float—Canoe
Be part of the season’s final paddle while canoeing through the marsh, taking a last glimpse of the flora and fauna before the cold sets in.
Date: Sat., November 7  
Time: 12:00—2:30 p.m.
Ages: 8—adult, under 13 w/adult  
Fee: $12.00/person

Water Strider Pontoon Boat Rides
Children under 13 must be with an adult.
Meet at the Estuary Center's Pontoon Pier parking lot on Rt. 40 just west of Otter Point Rd. unless otherwise noted.

Kayak Cruising on the Creek
Nudge around the endless nooks and crannies of Otter Point Creek and the upper Bush River with an adults only group. Choose one trip or all three to track the changes on the water through the fall season of migration and leaf color.
Dates: Fri., 9/18, 10/2, 10/30  
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Ages: Adults  
Fee: $12.00/person

Water’s Edge Marsh
Cruise “just around the river bend” to take in the serene beauty of this seldom-visited Bush River marsh, a bit off the beaten path of the Water Strider’s usual destinations. *Meet at the Estuary Center
Date: Sat., September 5  
Time: 9:00—10:45 a.m.
Ages: 6—adult, under 13 w/adult  
Fee: $10.00/person

Migration Watch on the Water
Fall is a great time of year to view bird migration. Scan sky and water from the deck of the pontoon boat to catch a glimpse of some of the fascinating birds passing through on their journey south.
Date: Sat., September 19  
Time: 10:00—11:30 a.m.
Ages: 6—adult, under 13 w/adult  
Fee: $10.00/person

Upper Bush River Rambling
Rise and shine! As the sun climbs in the sky over the upper Bush River, take a slow and steady ride while searching the shoreline for just appearing fall color. *Meet at the Estuary Center
Date: Sun., October 18  
Time: 9:00—10:45 a.m.
Ages: 6—adult, under 13 w/adult  
Fee: $10.00/person

HARFORD COUNTY FALL PROGRAMS
Registration required

Halloween Scavenger Hunt
Don costumes and step into the forest in search of clues hidden at creature stations. Complete a word puzzle to earn a Halloween prize! Two families per one-hour time slot.
Date: Sat., October 31  
Time: Register for one hour time slots from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Ages: 2—adult, under 13 w/adult  
Fee: $12/family

Owl Prowl
Venture into the woods of Bosely Conservancy on a cool fall evening to hear the call of these elusive creatures and possibly catch a glimpse of them. *Meet at Bosely Conservancy
Date: Sat., November 21  
Time: 5:00—6:30 p.m.
Ages: 8—adult, under 16 w/adult  
Fee: $5/person

See page 1 for COVID-19 program guidelines
Otter Point Creek Alliance
Membership Application

Members receive 10% off OPCMA public nature programs and gift shop items!

☐ I would like to become a new member of the Otter Point Creek Alliance.
☐ I am renewing my membership to the Otter Point Creek Alliance

1 yr. ____
2 yrs. ____
3 yrs. ____

Name ________________________________

Address ________________________________

City ________________________________

State ________________________________

Zip ________________________________

Phone (home) ________________________________

(work) ________________________________

Email: ________________________________

Volunteer opportunities are available. Check out all the Volunteer Job Descriptions on our website: www.otterpointcreek.org

☐ Comp ☐ News&Cal/PC ☐/☐ Exp

Type of Yearly Membership
☐ $20 Family (1 Household)
☐ $12 Individual

or Senior Couple

☐ $8 Student (Full time)

or Senior Citizen (62+)

☐ $50 Contributing

☐ $100 Sustaining

Please make checks payable to Otter Point Creek Alliance (OPCA) and mail to:

Anita C. Light Estuary Center
700 Otter Point Road
Abingdon, MD 21009

I would like to receive the Calendar via email:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Barry Glassman, Harford County Executive
Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation

Email: aclec@harfordcountymd.gov

Special Assistance: The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages participation by people with disabilities. To request disability-related accommodations, contact the department at least two weeks prior to event.