

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

Anita C. Leight Estuary Center

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

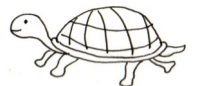
CANCELLATION/REIMBURSEMENT POLICY:

- ◆ 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.

Date: Sat., September 12 **Time:** 6:30—8:00 p.m.
Ages: 4—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$12/family

**Meet at Pontoon Pier*

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.

Date: Sat., September 26 **Time:** 6:30—8:00 p.m.
Ages: 4—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$12/family

**Meet at Pontoon Pier*



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:** 2:00—4:00 p.m.
Ages: 8—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$7/person

Talkin' Turkey

Learn all sorts of interesting facts about wild turkeys while fashioning your very own turkey feather quill pen to write with, much as famous turkey fan, Ben Franklin, did!

Date: Sat., November 14 **Time:** 1:30—3:00 p.m.
Ages: 10—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: 12—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



OPCA FALL PROGRAM SERIES

Registration is required for all programs.

iNaturalist Trek

Tap into your inner naturalist! Use the iNaturalist app while searching Leight Park for interesting plants and animals and help us collect biodiversity data. Learn how you can utilize this program on other outdoor adventures.

Dates: Sat., September 12
Sat., October 10
Sat., November 14

Time: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Ages: All, under 13 w/adult

Fee: Free



Saturday Trail Running Series

Log your miles while enjoying some beautiful scenery and some fellow nature enthusiasts! All skill levels/paces welcome. The course is an out and back, single track, approx. 2 miles long (but you can run it more than once if you choose).

Dates: Sat., Sept. 12, Oct. 31, Nov. 7

Time: 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Fee: Free



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

Time: 2:00—4:00 p.m.

Sun., October 18

1:00—3:00 p.m.

Sun., November 15

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

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

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

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

SEE PAGE 1
FOR COVID-19
PROGRAM
GUIDELINES

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

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 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.



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.

Date: Sat., September 5 **Time:** 9:00—10:45 a.m.
Ages: 6—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$10.00/person

**Meet at the Estuary Center*

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.

Date: Sun., October 18 **Time:** 9:00—10:45 a.m.
Ages: 6—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$10.00/person

**Meet at the Estuary Center*

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



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.

Date: Sat., November 21 **Time:** 5:00—6:30 p.m.
Ages: 8—adult, under 16 w/adult **Fee:** \$5/person

**Meet at Bosely Conservancy*



Otter Point Creek Alliance Membership Application

Members receive 10% off OPCA 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: _____

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. Leight Estuary Center
700 Otter Point Road
Abingdon, MD 21009

I would like to receive the Calendar via email:
 Yes No

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

_____Comp _____News&Cal/PC _____/_____Exp

Calendar of Events of the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, Otter Point Creek Component of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Maryland
Anita C. Leight Estuary Center
700 Otter Point Road
Abingdon, MD 21009
www.otterpointcreek.org
Phone: 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000 x1688
Fax: 410-612-0819
Email: aclec@harfordcountymd.gov
Special Assistance: The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages participation by people with disabilities. To request disability-related accommodations, call the Therapeutic Recreation Specialist at 410-638-4899 / voice (TTY users call MD Relay) two weeks prior to event.
Bary Glassman, Harford County Executive
Harford County Department
of Parks and Recreation

