

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

2018 Fall Calendar



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 reimbursement
- ◆ If **you need to cancel** registration for a program, you must call the Estuary Center
- ◆ If you cancel more than **two weeks** before the program, we will initiate a reimbursement minus a \$5 administrative fee
- ◆ No reimbursements for cancellations received less than **two weeks** before a program

HOW TO REGISTER FOR OPCA PROGRAMS

- ◆ Go to www.otterpointcreek.org. On Home Page or Calendar of Events, choose "Click here for online registration" and follow instructions 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 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 minus an administrative fee
- ◆ No reimbursements for cancellations received less than **one week** before a program

ALL PROGRAMS

- ◆ Space is limited, so registration is required for all programs except Drop-In Programs
- ◆ All programs meet at the Center unless otherwise noted
- ◆ Children under 13 must be with an adult unless otherwise noted
- ◆ Programs listed in the calendar are for individuals and families. If you have a group such as scouts that would like a program, contact the Estuary Center or complete and return our Program Request Form.

ESTUARY CENTER INFORMATION

- ◆ Phone/Address: 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000 x1688, Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, 700 Otter Point Road, Abingdon, MD 21009
- ◆ Web page: www.otterpointcreek.org
- ◆ Hours of Operation: The Estuary Center is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- ◆ Park grounds are open dawn to dusk
- ◆ All trails are not handicapped or stroller accessible

The Estuary Center will be closed on Thurs. & Fri., November 22 & 23

DROP IN PROGRAMS - NO REGISTRATION - NO FEE!

CRITTER DINNER TIMES - ALL AGES!

Watch our turtles, amphibians and snakes eat while learning about these fascinating creatures.

Sat., September 15 at 10:30 a.m. Sat., October 13 at 10:30 a.m. Sat., November 10 at 10:30 a.m.

MEET A CRITTER - ALL AGES!

Check out one of our live critters up close while discovering what makes that animal special.

Sun., September 2 at 2:00 p.m. Sun., October 14 at 2:00 p.m. Sun., November 4 at 1:00 p.m.

TAILS AND TOTS - 0 - 6 w/ADULT

Story time with a natural twist! Come listen to some stories, learn new songs, and move like the animals.

Sun., September 16 at 2:00 p.m. Sun., October 21 at 2:00 p.m. Sun., November 18 at 2:00 p.m.



HARFORD COUNTY FALL PROGRAMS

Registration is required for all programs.



SEPTEMBER

Seine Netting Secrets

Practice catching fish using a seine net; be prepared to get wet and have plenty of fun! Learn key ways to identify fish species, and discover the adaptations that help them survive.

Date: Sat., September 1 **Time:** 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Ages: 5 - adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** Free

Survival Skills

Construct temporary shelters, build fires, and familiarize yourself with wild edibles. Test your wilderness survival skills - could you win "Survivor"?

Date: Sat., September 8 **Time:** 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Ages: 8 - 10 w/adult **Fee:** \$3/person

Reading Bones

Carnivores, herbivores, omnivores, oh my! Explore the bones and skulls of different animals of the food chain, discovering the tell-tale clues to who eats who.

Date: Sat., September 15 **Time:** 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Ages: 6 - adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** Free

Champion Tree Hike

Wander through Susquehanna State Park to see some of Maryland's award-winning Champion Trees.

**Meet at Rock Grist Mill of Susquehanna State Park*

Date: Sat., September 22 **Time:** 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Ages: 6 - adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$3/person



Mushroom March

Identify the mushrooms popping up in the forest, and design and craft your own mushroom inspired by nature. Bring your camera or smartphone to photograph wild mushrooms for reference.

Date: Sat., September 29 **Time:** 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Ages: 5 - adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$3/project



Crabby Crafts

Crack into the blue crab and its importance to the Chesapeake Bay, while giving a crab shell a custom paint job. Prizes for participating in the crab walk relay.

Date: Sun., September 30 **Time:** 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Ages: 4 - 12 w/adult **Fee:** \$5/person

OCTOBER

Ghosts of Maryland Campfire

Listen to spirited stories of home-grown ghosts while roasting marshmallows around the fire. Prepare to be spooked.

**Meet at Pontoon Pier*

Date: Sat., October 6 **Time:** 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Ages: 10 - adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$5/person



Spooky Batty Fun

Are bats spooky or cool? Decide for yourself. Discover fun facts, play a game about bat communication, and make a "batty" Halloween craft.

Date: Sun., October 7 **Time:** 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Ages: All, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$3/person

Amazing Arachnids

What has eight legs and is an important asset to our environment? You guessed it, it's spiders! Create a spider of your own and learn about spiders native to Maryland. Take a short hike to find them in their wild habitats.

Date: Sat., October 13 **Time:** 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Ages: 4 - adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$3/person

Pumpkin Chunkin' Hike

Head out on the Discovery Trail to examine the jack-o-lanterns left from the Halloween Hike. Look closely to see what critters have taken up residence. Then, let the biodegradable pumpkin chunkin' begin!

Date: Sun., October 21 **Time:** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Ages: All, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** Free

Pumpkin Party

Who doesn't love pumpkins around Halloween? "Get your pumpkin on" while carving pumpkins, making a seed craft, and enjoying a pumpkin treat

Date: Sat., October 27 **Time:** 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Ages: All, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$8/person



Skeleton Leaf Project

Following a short hike to collect natural supplies, use chemistry to transform leaves into skeletons! Arrange the leaf skeletons to create beautiful artwork.

Date: Sun., October 28 **Time:** 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$4/project

NOVEMBER

Shoreline Treasures

After low tide arrives and the shoreline has emerged, discover the treasures normally hidden beneath the water. Let creativity be your guide as you collect items to design a treasure of your own.

Date: Sat., November 3 **Time:** 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Ages: 4 - adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$3/person

Seedy Feeders

Construct a natural bird feeder to help our feathered friends prepare for the coming cold. Bring your creative mind and we will supply the materials.

Date: Sun., November 4 **Time:** 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Ages: All, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$3/person

HARFORD COUNTY FALL PROGRAMS cont.

Registration is required for all programs.

Gobble Gobble

The wild turkey served as the main course for the first Thanksgiving meal. Connect with this emblematic bird, learning where it lives and what it eats. Create a turkey-themed craft.

Date: Sat., November 10 **Time:** 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Ages: 4 - adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$3/person

Fall Discovery Hike

Fall is one of the best times of year to enjoy the great outdoors; the colors of the leaves are beautiful, the air is cool, and the insects are reduced. Hike the trails to observe seasonal changes as the natural world slows down and prepares for winter.

Date: Sun., November 11 **Time:** 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Ages: All, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** Free

Gratitude Hike

Science has shown that practicing gratitude increases happiness. In this season of Thanksgiving, take a moment out of your busy life to stroll through the woods of Leight Park with a naturalist as your guide, drawing on the calming beauty of nature to allow you to focus on all things for which you are grateful.

Date: Sat., November 17 **Time:** 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Ages: Adults **Fee:** Free

Herp Hibernation

Discover where reptiles and amphibians go for the winter. Get an up-close encounter with a snake and turtle and check our wetland areas for wild herps!

Date: Sat, November 17 **Time:** 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Ages: 5 - adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** Free

Fort Building Fun

Collect natural material and build a temporary fort in the woods of Leight Park. Learn how to make twine to lash your materials together.

**Meet at Pontoon Pier*

Date: Sat., November 24 **Time:** 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$3/person

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 24 **Time:** 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$5/person



Sunday 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: Sun., September 23, October 14, November 25

Time: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Ages: 13 - adult, under 16 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: bears, spiders, bird migration, leaves, bats, turkeys

Dates: Mondays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, November 5

Time: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Ages: 0 to 5 (w/adult)

Fee: \$40 per child



Nature Tots

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: bears, spiders, bird migration, leaves, bats, turkeys

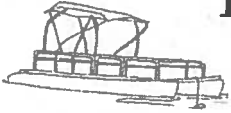
Dates: Mondays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, November 5

Time: 11:00 to 12:00 p.m.

Ages: 2 & 3 (w/adult)

Fee: \$40 per child





HARFORD COUNTY FALL PROGRAMS



Water Strider Pontoon Boat Rides

Children under 13 must be with an adult. Contribution: \$10, excluding specials.

Meet at the Estuary Center's Pontoon Pier parking lot on Rt. 40 just west of Otter Point Rd. unless otherwise noted.

Birding By Boat

Join birder, Phil Powers, on a search for the early migratory birds stopping to rest on Otter Point Creek.

Date: Sun., September 9 Time: 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Date Night Dinner Cruise

Relax with your sweetie while floating down the Bush River. Savor a delicious dinner as the sun slips below the horizon. *Meet at Estuary Center

Date: Sat., September 29 Time: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Ages: Adults Fee: \$15/person

Autumn Sunset Afloat

Enjoy a stress-free boat ride while watching the beautiful autumn sunset on the creek. Bring your camera for some great seasonal photo ops!

*Meet at Estuary Center

Date: Sat., October 6 Time: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Ages: 2 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Haunted Pontoon Cruise

Venture upon the dark waters of the upper Bush while stewing in ghostly tales and ghastly folklore. *Meet at Estuary Center

Date: Sat., October 27 Time: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Ages: 8 - adult, under 16 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

The True Story of Pocahontas

Navigate the riverbends of Otter Point Creek by canoe while listening to tales of Pocahontas. Investigate the legends surrounding her, her legacy to the Chesapeake Bay, and learn to "paint with all the colors of the wind".

Date: Sat., September 8 Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Paddle Palooza

One of the best ways to experience the beauty of the upper Chesapeake region is through paddling. Join ACLEC and the Izaak Walton League of America for a naturalist-led introduction to canoeing and a guided paddle through the marsh on one of Maryland's best canoe trails.

Date: Sat., September 15 Time: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

National Estuaries Day - Paddles and Pumpkinseeds

National Estuaries Day is a nationwide celebration of our bays and estuaries and the many benefits they provide to local communities. Visit Harford County's Estuary Center for this combination canoe and fish seining program to experience first-hand the recreational and environmental benefits to be found in the upper reaches of the Chesapeake Bay waters.

Date: Sat., September 22 Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Colors of the Creek

See the trees of Otter Point Creek set ablaze with the colors of fall. A photographer's dream!

Date: Sat., October 27 Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Canoe by the Stars

Glide through the late evening hours using the original navigational system, the stars. Explore the sky above and let the stars be your guide. Leave the GPS at home!

Date: Sat., November 3 Time: 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Ages: 12 - adult, under 13 w/adult



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

Scavenger Hunt Kayak

Avid nature watchers, heads up! Search the estuary and look for plants and animals on your water tour. The first boat to find all the animals on the list wins a prize!

Date: Sat., September 1 Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Spectacular Sunset Paddle

What could be a better end to a beautiful fall day than viewing an awesome sunset display while floating on the tranquil waters of Otter Point Creek? Don't forget your camera!

Date: Sat., September 22 Time: 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult



Fishing Battery Island Exploration

Explore this abandoned island in the Susquehanna Flats and see what remains of the old lighthouse. Learn the history of the island and what its future holds. Bring a lunch to eat while beached. Approximately 4 mile round trip paddle. *Meet at Eleanor and Millard Tydings Park

Date: Sun., September 9 Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Ages: Adults Fee: \$16.00

Days Cove Kayak

Discover the waters of the Gunpowder River while searching for eagles above, beavers below, and the changing foliage all around.

*Meet at Mariner Point Park

Date: Sun., October 14 Time: 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Ages: 12 - adult, under 13 w/adult

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 five to track the changes on the water through the fall season of migration and color change.

Dates: Thurs., 9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/8 Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Ages: Adults

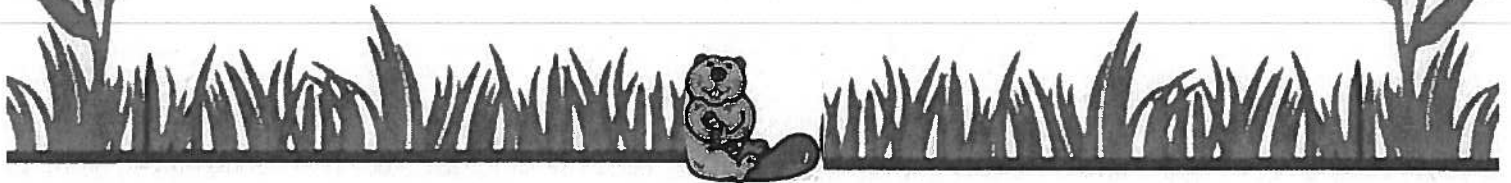


National Estuaries Day and National Public Lands Day! Sat., September 22

Registration required for the scheduled activities. See program listings for descriptions.

Learn about Estuaries and steward the public lands you love!

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Paddles and Pumpkinseeds
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Champion Tree Hike
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Invasinators
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Spectacular Sunset Paddle



Adult and Seniors Only Programs!

Registration required for the scheduled activities. See program listings for descriptions.

Sun., September 9	Fishing Battery Island Exploration - Kayak
Sat., September 29	Date Night Dinner Cruise - Pontoon Boat
Sat., November 17	Gratitude Hike
Weds., Sept, Oct. & Nov	Plankton Monitoring Studies
Thurs., 9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/8	Kayak Cruising on the Creek

Volunteer Opportunities

Registration is required for all programs - You must register at www.otterpointcreek.org or call 410-612-1688

Invasinators

Become a 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: Sat., September 22, October 13, November 17

Time: 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Ages: 14 - adult



Plankton Monitoring Studies

Our plankton citizen science project is a great opportunity for science-minded individuals to contribute to monitoring and research at the Center. Help is needed with collection, identification, and analysis of plankton samples. Interested individuals should contact the Center for introductory training.

Dates: Every Wednesday in September, October and November (except 11/28)

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Ages: Adults



OPCA FALL PROGRAMS

Registration is required for all programs.

OCTOBER

Fall Fairy Houses

Imagine and construct the perfect home to attract the mythical woodland creatures known as fairies. Gather materials in our woods to make a fairy house for your own backyard.

Date: Sat., October 27 **Time:** 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Ages: All, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$5/project



Spooky Science

Explore spooky science! Learn about real world monsters and make creepy concoctions. Be ready to get messy!

Date: Sun., October 28 **Time:** 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Ages: 5 - 10 w/adult **Fee:** \$5/child

Kitchen Chemistry

Delve into the awesome world of chemistry using materials found in your very own kitchen. Conduct fun experiments using everyday items and explore the science of food and cooking!

Date: Sat., November 17 **Time:** 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Ages: 5 - adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$5/person



Where do the Wild Things Go?

As fall ends and winter approaches, where do some animals go to escape the cold? Come with us on a fantastic voyage into amazing migrations.

Date: Sun., November 18 **Time:** 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Ages: All, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** Free

NOVEMBER

Autumn Color Chemistry

Why do leaves change color in the fall? Why are some autumns prettier than others? And no, Jack Frost has NOTHING to do with it. Bring in leaves from your trees and take part in a hands-on lab to learn about the chemistry of autumn color.

Date: Sat., November 3 **Time:** 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** Free



Black Friday Opt-Outside Hike

With inspiration from the REI campaign, ACLEC and the Izaak Walton League are joining forces to encourage you to skip the stores and get outside this Black Friday! Meet us at the main parking lot at Jerusalem Mill to hike the trails along the Little Gunpowder River. Two options of hikes will be offered, a simpler one and a more challenging one.

**Meet at Jerusalem Mill*

Date: Fri., November 23 **Time:** 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** Free

Members Only Program

Registration required in advance!



Hawk Mountain - Raptor Migration

Hike the famous Hawk Mountain trails and pick your own viewing spot to enjoy the incredible raptor migration. We will provide transportation from the Estuary Center to Hawk Mt. (approx. 2.5 hour drive), and we will also provide the entry fee for all registered participants! A raptor expert will guide the group through some of the trails and let you pick your favorite observation spot. We will then meet back at the visitor center at an allotted time to hop in the van and head back to the Estuary Center. We recommend bringing a lunch, a camping chair, and your longest lens!

Date: Sat., November 10 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Ages: 13 - adult **Fee:** Free for members

Nature Friendly Birthday Parties - Where Learning Comes Alive!

A nature friendly birthday party is a great way to observe your child's birthday and explore all that nature has to offer. Celebrate your birthday while learning about the animals and plants native to your own backyard. We look forward to sharing our estuary world with your family and friends at an event planned specifically for your child. Choose a theme:

- ◆ Woodland Wonders
- ◆ Birthday Bird Bonanza
- ◆ Rockin' Reptiles
- ◆ Funky Fish
- ◆ Campfire Party
- ◆ Marsh Fairy Party
- ◆ Paddle Glide and Wander
- ◆ Custom Party



OPCA FALL PROGRAMS



HALLOWEEN HIKE & CAMPFIRE

Spend a slightly spooky evening at the park hiking through the woods to discover the creatures of Halloween. Meet these real critters up close and listen to their tales spun by Halloween characters.

After the hike, enjoy music and roasted marshmallows down by our cozy campfire.

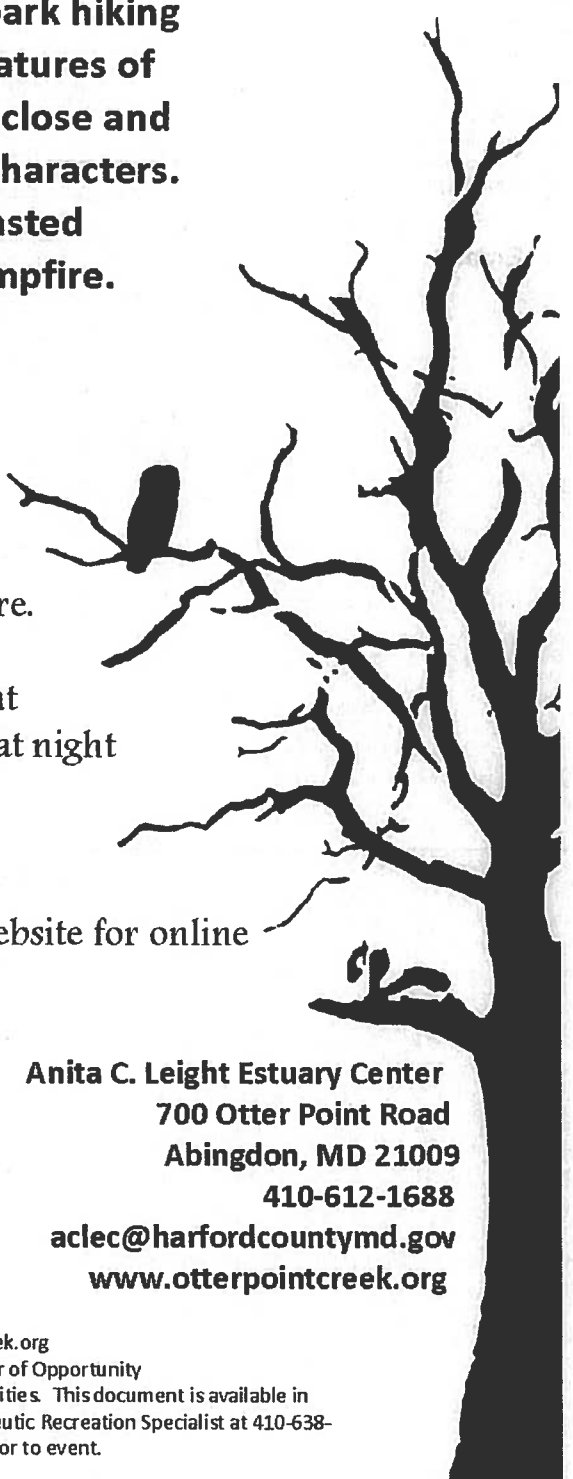
Date: Saturday, October 20

Time: 6:00 – 9:30 PM
Pre-register for ½ hour time slots to begin hike.
Allow 1 hour for hike and campfire.

Ages: Any age able to handle a somewhat spooky ¾ mile hike in the woods at night

Fee: \$7.00 per person

Registration: Required in advance. Go to our website for online registration. Payment at the door.



Anita C. Leight Estuary Center
700 Otter Point Road
Abingdon, MD 21009
410-612-1688
aclec@harfordcountymd.gov
www.otterpointcreek.org

Harford County Parks & Recreation * www.otterpointcreek.org

Barry Glassman, Harford County Executive – Maryland's New Center of Opportunity

The Department of Parks & Recreation encourages participation by people with disabilities. This document is available in alternative format upon request. For disability related accommodations, contact Therapeutic Recreation Specialist at 410-638-4899/voice, (TTY users call Maryland Relay) at least 2 weeks prior to event.

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



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

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.

Phone: 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000 x1688
 Fax: 410-612-0819
 Email: aclec@harfordcountymd.gov

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 700 Otter Point Road
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Calendar of Events of the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, Otter Point Creek Component of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Maryland

