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

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 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
- 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

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 Monday - 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 Sunday, April 12, and Monday, May 25

DROP IN PROGRAMS - NO REGISTRATION - NO FEE!

CRITTER DINNER TIME - ALL AGES!
Watch our turtles, amphibians and snakes eat while learning about these fascinating creatures.
Sat., March 21 at 1:30 p.m.  Sat., April 11 at 10:30 a.m.  Sat., May 16 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., March 1 at 1:00 p.m.  Sun., April 5 at 1:00 p.m.  Sun., May 3 at 1:00 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., March 15 at 1:00 p.m.  Sun., April 26 at 2:00 p.m.  Sun., May 24 at 1:00 p.m.
**HUMMER HATS**

As spring heats up, hummingbirds return from their wintering grounds. Get VERY familiar with these flying gems by crafting a hummingbird feeder hat to draw them in so closely you’ll feel like they’re right on top of you.

**Date:** Sun., March 1

**Time:** 3:00 — 4:30 p.m.

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

**CONOWINGO EAGLES**

At the base of the Conowingo Dam, scan sky and water for feathered fishers. Hike alongside the mighty Susquehanna River in search of eagles and stop at the Conowingo Visitor Center. Transportation provided to and from the Estuary Center. Don’t forget your camera!

**Date:** Sat., March 7

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

**Ages:** 10 - adult, under 13 w/adult  **Fee:** $8/person

**PHRAGMITES PEN AND WATERCOLOR WONDERS ART**

Try your hand at drawing with a plant pen and painting with watercolors. We’ll start our practice by following some simple line designs, and then move on to a more advanced composition.

*Artists of all skill levels are welcome.

**Date:** Sun., March 8

**Time:** 2:00 — 3:30 p.m.

**Ages:** 12 - adult, under 13 w/adult  **Fee:** $6/person

**OWL PROWL**

Venture into the woods of Bosely Conservancy on a cool spring evening to hear the call of these elusive creatures and possibly catch a glimpse of them. *Meet at Bosely Conservancy

**Date:** Sat., March 14

**Time:** 7:00 — 8:30 p.m.

**Ages:** 8 - adult, under 16 w/adult  **Fee:** $5/person

**TO CATCH A LEPRECHAUN**

Have you ever tried to catch a leprechaun? In observance of St. Patrick’s Day, create a “lucky” garden to lure one in! All materials provided.

**Date:** Sun., March 15

**Time:** 3:00 — 4:30 p.m.

**Ages:** 6 - adult, under 13 w/adult  **Fee:** $8/project

**SPRING EQUINOX CAMPFIRE**

Celebrate spring’s arrival around a campfire with stories of the plants and critters that signify a new season of growth! End the evening with ever-popular chocolatey s’mores. Bring blankets and camp chairs for extra comfort. *Meet at Pontoon Pier

**Date:** Sat., March 21

**Time:** 6:30 — 8:00 p.m.

**Ages:** All, under 13 w/adult  **Fee:** $4/person

**PROMOTING POLLINATORS**

Learn what all the “buzz” around pollinators is about, and the many things you can do to encourage pollinators. Create a bee house and stay for some sweet snacks!

**Date:** Sun., March 22

**Time:** 2:30 — 4:00 p.m.

**Ages:** 5—adult, under 13 w/adult  **Fee:** $7/project

**OSPREY ADVENTURE**

Find out everything you ever wanted to know about the feisty fish hawks! Hike to spy on Leight Park’s osprey couple and see if they have begun adding to their nest.

**Date:** Sun., March 29

**Time:** 1:00—2:30 p.m.

**Ages:** 8—adult, under 13 w/adult  **Fee:** $4/person

**FRIDAY NIGHT FROGGIN’**

Traipse through the wetlands in search of some springy species. Strap on your rain boots and let’s see how many frogs can be found! *Meet at Bosely Conservancy

**Date:** Fri., April 3

**Time:** 7:30—9:00 p.m.

**Ages:** All, under 13 w/adult  **Fee:** $4/person

**THE BEST NEST**

Birds use string, grass, feathers, mud and sticks to weave, plaster, stitch, stack or glue a proper home for their babies to be. Experiment with different materials, tools, and methods to appreciate the science and art of nest building!

**Date:** Sun., April 5

**Time:** 2:30—4:00 p.m.

**Ages:** 5—adult, under 13 w/adult  **Fee:** $3/person

**EGG-STRAVAGANZA**

Learn about the beautiful and different types of eggs found in nature while dying colorful creations. Afterwards participate in a small egg hunt with victory snacks. Bring a half-dozen hard boiled eggs for dying.

**Date:** Sat., April 11

**Time:** 1:30—3:30 p.m.

**Ages:** All, under 13 w/adult  **Fee:** $4/person

**EARTHDAY FAMILY CHALLENGE**

Celebrate Earth Day by completing some fun environmental activities with the whole family. Each family that completes all the activities wins a prize! Some of the activities include hiking the trails, nature scavenger hunts, making seed bombs and biodegradable bird feeders to take home, and more!

*Pre-registration is encouraged, but walk-ins are also welcome until 3pm.

**Date:** Sun., April 19

**Time:** 1:00—4:00 p.m.

**Ages:** All, under 13 w/adult  **Fee:** $5/family

**THE SNAIL LIFE**

For such a small creature, snails are truly fascinating! Explore what they eat, where they live, and how they travel. Take home a snail habitat to attract them to your yard for future snail studies!

**Date:** Sat., April 25

**Time:** 2:00—3:00 p.m.

**Ages:** 3—6 w/adult  **Fee:** $5/child

**WANDERING FOR WILDFLOWERS**

The first wildflowers of spring are elusive and ephemeral but well worth the hunt. Hike on and off trail in search of ladyslippers, wild azaleas, and trout lilies, discovering the survival secrets of each!

**Date:** Sat., April 25

**Time:** 3:00—4:30 p.m.

**Ages:** All, under 13 w/adult  **Fee:** $2/person
Registration is required for all programs.

**MAY**

**Skull and Bone Adventure Hike**
What does a fish skull look like? How different is it from a deer skull? Learn the basics of identifying animal bones before hiking to a little-known predator feeding area to figure out the identity of the prey species being eaten.

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

**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:** Sun., May 17
**Time:** 2:00—3:30 p.m.
**Ages:** 3—Adult, under 13 w/adult
**Fee:** $3/person

**Toad-ally Terrific**
Toad-ally awesome creatures are toads! Discover why every yard needs some, and how to create habitat in which they will thrive. Build a toad house to meet shelter requirements.

**Date:** Sat., May 23
**Time:** 2:00—3:30 p.m.
**Ages:** 5—adult, under 13 w/adult
**Fee:** $5/project

**Ponds and Polliwogs**
Hop on over to dip net in the ponds and puddles surrounding the Center to see what is swimming around!

**Date:** Sun., May 24
**Time:** 3:00—4:30 p.m.
**Ages:** 3—adult, under 13 w/adult
**Fee:** $3/person

**Tie Dye with Nature**
Walk the trails and find art inspiration! Collect natural items to use for a tie dye activity. Bring your own white t-shirt for dying.

**Date:** Sun., May 31
**Time:** 2:00—3:30 p.m.
**Ages:** 5—adult, under 13 w/adult
**Fee:** $5/project

**SPRING CHILDREN'S PROGRAM SERIES**

Registration is required for all programs.

**Wildlife Explorers**
With a naturalist as your guide, discover the changes that take place in Leight Park throughout the spring. Observe the weather, the growing plants, and the animals that live here. *Program developed by the National Recreation and Park Association*

**Dates:** Saturdays, March 7, 21, April 4, 18, May 2, 16
**Time:** 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
**Ages:** 5—10
**Fee:** $12 per child for 6-week session

**Nature Playgroup and 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:** Turtles, flowers, clouds, frogs, ducks, butterflies

**Dates:** Mondays, April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11
**Time:** Playgroup: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.; Tots: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
**Ages:** Playgroup: 0 to 5 (w/adult); Tots: 2 & 3 (w/adult)
**Fee:** $42 per child
HARFORD COUNTY SPRING PROGRAMS
Registration is required for all 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.

Bush River Photography
Intrepid photographers and explorers, boldly go where few trips have gone before! Venture north on the Bush River to capture on film the wildlife of Grays Run and Church Creek. *Meet at Estuary Center
Date: Sat., April 25  Time: 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Mother's Day Morning Tea
Treat mom to a morning tea tasting and light breakfast on the Water Strider, while enjoying the natural beauty of the creek in spring.
Date: Sun., May 10  Time: 9:30—11:00 a.m.
Ages: 2 - adult, under 13 w/adult  Fee: $12/person

Critter Cruise Pontoon
The tide is high! Venture as far into the marsh as the tide allows and see what’s up and at ’em on a fine spring morning, with a special focus on migratory birds to commemorate World Migratory Bird Day.
Date: Sat., May 9  Time: 8:30—10:00 a.m.
Ages: 2 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Birding By Boat
Join birder, Phil Powers, on a search for the beautiful marsh birds of Otter Point Creek.
Date: Sat., May 23  Time: 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Date Night Dinner Pontoon
Relax with your sweetie while floating down the Bush River. Savor a delicious dinner as the sun slips toward the horizon and the creek settles into evening. *Meet at Estuary Center
Date: Sat., May 30  Time: 6:00—7:30 p.m.
Ages: Adults  Fee: $15/person

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

Wood Duck Canoe
Explore our wooded marsh on the first canoe trip of the season to welcome back the wood ducks. *Meet at Bosely Conservancy
Date: Sat., April 4  Time: 3:00—6:00 p.m.
Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Birds of the Creek Canoe
Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day by touring the marsh looking for avian visitors searching for appropriate nesting sites.
Date: Sat., May 9  Time: 12:00—2:30 p.m.
Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Bay Bingo Canoe
Stay alert while exploring the estuary for plants and animals. The first few participants to reach bingo win a prize!
Date: Sat., May 2  Time: 2:30—5:00 p.m.
Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Critter Hunt Canoe
Many types of animals call Otter Point Creek home. With animal scavenger hunts in hand, search high and low while paddling around the marsh. Do you think you can find them all?
Date: Sat., May 16  Time: 2:30—5:00 p.m.
Ages: 8 - 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

Spectacular Sunset Kayak
As spring settles in and day flows into night, catch the spectacle of shift change smack dab in the middle of the marsh. Don’t forget your camera!
Date: Sat., April 18  Time: 5:30—8:00 p.m.
Ages: 8 - adult, under 15 w/adult

Kids ‘n Kayaks
Learn beginner paddling strokes and techniques and take a short tour of the creek while using your new skills.
Date: Sat., May 30  Time: 1:00—3:00 p.m.
Ages: 5 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Full Flower Moon Foray
How many flowers will we find bathing under the (almost) full moon light? Explore the marsh by kayak at night for a whole new perspective on the spring flowering season.
Date: Fri., May 8  Time: 8:00—10:30 p.m.
Ages: 10 - adult, under 16 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 three to track the changes on the water through the spring season of northward migration and bud burst.
Dates: Fri., 4/24, 5/8, 5/22  Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Ages: Adults
HARFORD COUNTY SUMMER EXPLORATION NATURE CAMPS

Campers bring a lunch and refillable water bottle each day (no glass)
All camps require registration. Space is limited so early registration is recommended.

Aquatic Adventures I & III
Dates: AA-I—Tues.—Fri. June 23—26
      AA-III—Tues.—Fri. August 11—14
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Ages: 11 - 15                      Fee: $120.00
Explore the watery world of Leight Park and beyond. Dare to adventure with canoeing, fishing, kayaking, wading, tubing and other fun outdoor activities.

Science in Nature Explorers
Dates  Mon.—Thurs. June 29—July 2    Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Ages:    8 - 11                      Fee: $110.00
Experience the excitement of discovery using scientific techniques to explore the natural world! Through wading, hiking, fishing, and more, campers will acquire new skills and memories that will last a lifetime. Canoe trip on last day of camp.

Imagi-Nature
Dates  Tues.—Fri., July 14—17        Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Ages:    8 - 11                      Fee: $110.00
Let your imagination run wild with Mother Nature! Spend time on the trails, in the water, around the gardens, and more while looking for inspiration to create, play, and explore. Canoe trip on last day of camp.

Aquatic Adventures II
Dates  Tues.—Fri., July 21—24       Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Ages:    13 - 17                      Fee: $120.00
Explore the watery world of Leight Park and beyond. Dare to adventure with canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding, fishing and other fun outdoor activities.

Nature Niches
Dates  Tues.—Fri., August 4—7       Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Ages:    8 - 11                      Fee: $110.00
Delve into the many different “jobs” found in nature through games, crafts, hikes, and more. Get up close and personal with the hard working plants and animals that keep the intricate natural world running. Canoe trip on last day of camp.

OPCA SUMMER NATURE EXPLORATION PROGRAMS

Around the World and Home Again
Dates  Mon.—Fri., July 6-10         Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Ages:    5 - 7                      Fee: $150.00
Catch the “travel bug”! Take a trip around the world to explore the animals and plants of another country, and then “fly” home the same day to compare them to animals and plants found right here in the park and your backyard. Each day will feature indoor and outdoor exploration.

Earth Day Every Day
Dates  Mon.—Fri., July 27—31     Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Ages:    5 - 7                      Fee: $150.00
Explore the water, soil, plants and animals of Leight Park and learn what even very young people can do to help keep them all happy! Reuse, reduce, recycle, plant, play, wade, create, and investigate your way through the week!
OPCA SPRING PROGRAMS

Registration is required for all programs.

Name that Tree
If you love trees and would like to learn how to identify them at any time of the year, then Brad Lear is your man! He is presenting two spring programs:

NAME THAT TREE WITH LEAVES…

WITHOUT THE LEAVES
Bring in some branches from a deciduous tree that hasn’t yet leafed out, and take part in a hands-on lab to learn the ways to identify a tree using clues other than leaves.
Date: Sat., March 14
Time: 1:00—2:00 p.m.

NAME THAT TREE WITH LEAVES…
Bring in some branches with leaves, and take part in a hands-on lab to learn how to tell deciduous trees apart.
Date: Sun., May 3
Time: 2:00—3:00 p.m.

Ages: 8—adult, under 13 w/adult
Fee: $3/person

Spring Bird Count
Phil Powers will be your guide as you count and record all the birds of the Estuary Center and Bosely Conservancy on the land, water and in the sky.
Date: Sat., May 9
Time: 8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
Ages: 13—adult
Fee: Free

Volunteer Opportunities

Marsh Bloom Time Monitoring
We seek to train and schedule volunteers to assist with the Marsh Plant Phenology Monitoring Trail. Learn how tracking timing of plant life stages helps us study climate change effects, using worldwide databases. Volunteers must be able to safely and comfortably paddle a canoe—all monitoring by boat.
Dates: Sat., March 21
Time: 2:00—4:00 p.m.
Ages: 14 - adult

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., March 22
Sat., April 25
Sun., May 17
Time: 1:00—3:00 p.m.
12:00—2:00 p.m.
12:00—2:00 p.m.
Ages: 14 - adult

Education Volunteer Training
Help students discover and explore estuary ecology and conservation. We show you how. Come for as much or little of the training as your schedule allows. Wednesday we will train for elementary field trips, and Thursday will include training for middle and high school field trips. Snacks provided each day. Please bring your own lunch.
Dates: Wed., & Thurs., April 1 & 2
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Ages: Adult

Members Only Program

High Tide Kayak
Head out into the marsh as the tide reaches its peak in search of wildlife and emerging spring plants.
Date: Sat., April 11
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult
Fee: Free for members
29th Annual Marsh Clean-Up at the Bosely Conservancy

The Bosely Conservancy is part of the Otter Point Creek Component of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve - Maryland. Join members of the Izaak Walton League and volunteers with Harford County Parks & Recreation and the Chesapeake Bay Reserve to keep our marsh beautiful!

What: Help us clean up the beautiful Otter Point Creek Marsh - part of the Winters Run Watershed

Where: Meet at the end of Perry Ave. in Edgewood at the entrance to the Bosely Conservancy.

When: Saturday, March 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Rain or shine.

Who: Ages 8 to adult, under 13 with adult. Scout troops and other groups are welcome. Volunteer hour for your school or organization are documented. Great for community service credit.

Bring: Wear old shoes/boots and gloves. Registration is required.

Register: Go online to register at www.otterpointcreek.org or call 410-612-1688. Drinks and donuts are provided for the event.

Earth Day 2020 Celebration at Aberdeen Festival Park

Located at 60 N. Parke St., Aberdeen, MD

Enjoy a fun day with live music, native animals, exhibits, "green" games, recycled crafts, local food, and more. Stop by the Estuary Center’s booth for face painting.

Date: Saturday, April 25 (Rain date: Sunday, April 26)

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Ages: All

Fee: Free

23rd Annual Wade-In Festival

Splash into the summer season at this family fun festival. Kick off the day by pulling up your pants legs and wading into Otter Point Creek to measure water quality the way retired Maryland State Senator Bernie Fowler did 32 years ago with his “sneaker index”.

Where: Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, 700 Otter Point Rd., Abingdon, MD

When: Saturday, June 6, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. (No rain date.)

Who: Everyone is invited! Great fun for all ages! No reservations needed.

Fee: $5/car

- Free Pontoon Boat Rides
- Free Canoeing
- Live music
- Fish Seining
- Live Animals
- Face Painting
- Meet DPW’s “Seymour Clearwater”
- Fun with Water Chemistry
- Fish Printing
- Decoy Carving demonstration

Hosted by the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, CBNERR-MD, and Otter Point Creek Alliance.
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: _______________________________

Volunteer opportunities are available. Check out all the Volunteer Job Descriptions on our website: [www.otterpointcreek.org](http://www.otterpointcreek.org)

☐ Comp ☐ News&Cal/PC ☐ Exp

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**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

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**Barry Glassman**, Harford County Executive

**Otter Point Creek Alliance**

Member of the Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 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

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 Therapeutic Recreation Specialist at 410-638-4899/voice (TTY users call 711). To request disability-related information, call 410-612-1688.

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[Website Link](http://www.otterpointcreek.org)