

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

2021 Spring Calendar



THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES APPLY TO **ALL** SPRING PROGRAMS:

- ◆ Registration is required for **ALL** programs—NO DROP-INS
- ◆ Programs will be conducted outside if at all possible
- ◆ Maximum program registration has been reduced
- ◆ 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 and Sunday, 12-5pm
- ◆ 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

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 MD Relay) two weeks prior to event.

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

The Estuary Center will be closed:
Sunday, April 4 and Monday, May 31

OPCA SPRING PROGRAMS

REGISTRATION REQUIRED - NO FEE!

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., April 18 at 3:30 p.m.
Sun., May 23 at 1:00 p.m.



OPCA SPRING PROGRAMS

Registration is required for all programs.

APRIL

Night Froggin' Fun

Traipse through the wetlands in search of some springy species. Strap on your rain boots and see how many frogs can be found!

**Meet at Boscely Conservancy*

Date: Sat., April 3 **Time:** 8:00—9:30 p.m.
Ages: 4—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$6/person

Butterfly Business

Learn all you need to know about butterflies and how to turn your yard into a beautiful winged wonderland while creating your own butterfly attractor!



Date: Sat., April 10 **Time:** 2:30—4:00 p.m.
Ages: 4—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$8/project

Wild Edibles Hike

Spring brings with it much new growth in the forest, some of which is edible! Spice up your kitchen and learn a new skill while taking an evening hike in the park.

Date: Sun., April 11 **Time:** 4:00—5:30 p.m.
Ages: 6—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$5/person

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., April 18 **Time:** 1:00—2:30 p.m.
Ages: 3—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$3/person

Survival Skills

Can you build a shelter or keep yourself warm in the woods? Put your skills to the test and find out what it takes to survive in the wild.

Date: Sat., April 24 **Time:** 10:00—11:30 a.m.
Ages: 6—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$6/person

Name that Tree—Spring Edition

Puzzled by what kinds of trees are growing on your property? Bring in some branches, with leaves, and take part in a hands-on lab to learn how to identify deciduous trees.

Date: Sun., April 25 **Time:** 12:30—1:30 p.m.
Ages: 8—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$3/person

MAY

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 2 **Time:** 3:00—4:30 p.m.
Ages: 3—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$4/person

Rockin' Out

"You Ain't Nothin' but a Rock Hound" following this program! Learn how to describe and classify collected specimens using field and lab tests, and the many ways rocks, minerals and fossils affect daily life.

Date: Sun., May 9 **Time:** 2:00—3:30 p.m.
Ages: 8—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$4/person

Hurricanes!

What causes Atlantic hurricanes? What will this season bring? What have Maryland hurricanes looked like? How are they named? Learn these things and more during this lesson about hurricanes.

Date: Sun., May 16 **Time:** 12:30—1:30 p.m.
Ages: 8—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$3/person

Pollinator Palooza

What's all the buzz about? Pollinators! Learn about the amazing pollinators we have in Maryland, the wild plants they love, and how to provide proper habitat for them.

Date: Sun., May 23 **Time:** 3:00—4:30 p.m.
Ages: 7—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$6/person

Fun with Macro-Litter and Micro-Plastics

Litter never takes a holiday, so take this holiday to learn about the problems of seen and unseen litter. Litter is a serious issue, but have serious fun learning how to reduce it, use it, and lose it! Be prepared to hike and pick up litter at the shoreline to make an eco-theme craft.

Date: Sun., May 30 **Time:** 3:00—4:30 p.m.
Ages: 8—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$4/person



OPCA SPRING CHILDREN'S PROGRAM SERIES

Registration is required for all programs.

Be a Water Scientist

Investigate the physical, chemical, and biological components of the water in Otter Point Creek, so vital for habitat, recreation, and drinking water. Experiment with currents, acidity, clarity, oxygen levels, and microscopy! Combine field and lab work each date.

Dates: Fridays, April 16, 30, May 7, 21
Time: 3:00—4:30 p.m.
Ages: 10 to 14 years old
Fee: \$30/child for 4-week session



OPCA SPRING 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.



Eggstravaganza Kayaking

Experience an egg hunt of a different kind! Search for nesting birds by kayak and explore some of the different strategies that birds employ to protect their offspring.

Date: Sat., April 3 **Time:** 1:30—4:00 p.m.

Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Fee: \$12/person

Spring Sunset Spectacular

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., May 8 **Time:** 6:00—8:30 p.m.

Ages: 10 - adult, under 16 w/adult

Fee: \$15/person

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.



Osprey Adventure Hike and Canoe

The adventure begins with a quick hike to spy on Leight Park's resident osprey couple to see how their nest building is going. Then venture out in canoes to watch these feisty fish hawks fly and feed in their element, on the water.

Date: Sat., April 17 **Time:** 10:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Fee: \$15/person

High Tide Marsh Exploration

This unusually high tide allows access to hidden parts of the marsh. Explore seldom seen reaches of the creek to see what hidden treasures they hold.

Date: Sat., May 29 **Time:** 9:00—11:30 a.m.

Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Fee: \$12/person

Members Only Program

Signs of Spring Kayak

Spring is in full force and the Reserve is its palette. From migrating birds to newly blooming plants, see all that spring has brought to the marsh.

Date: Sat., May 15

Time: 9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Ages: 8 - adult, under 13 w/adult

Fee: Free for OPCA members



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., April 18

Time: 12:00—2:00 p.m.

Sun., May 16

12:00—2:00 p.m.

Ages: 14 - adult



OPCA SUMMER NATURE EXPLORATION PROGRAMS

Up Close with the Critters of the Chesapeake Bay

Mon.—Thurs., June 28—July 1

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ages: 11 - 14

Fee: \$225.00

Use all your senses to explore the fish, crabs, oysters and marshes of the Chesapeake Bay and Otter Point Creek. Examine the organisms externally and internally, explore their natural habitats, and discover how each fits into the ecosystem of the Bay. Be prepared to get wet, do cool crafting, play simulation games, try out kayaking skills, and do laboratory experiments. Each day includes indoor and outdoor activities.



Estuary Detectives

Tues. - Fri., July 20-23

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ages: 5 - 7

Fee: \$140.00

Have you ever wondered why birds fly and fish swim? How trees grow tall and strong? We will investigate to find answers on how we are similar to, yet different from, the inhabitants of the natural world through exploration, experiments, hikes and crafts.



Outdoor Adventures with Dr. Seuss

Mon.—Fri., August 9-13

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ages: 5 - 7

Fee: \$175.00

Learn about the natural world through the lens of Dr. Seuss! Go to Yertle's Pond, visit Whoville, check in with the Lorax, and more! Visit with the Discovery Room critters and use the trails as a classroom.



24th 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 33 years ago with his "sneaker index".

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

When: Saturday, June 5, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. (No rain date.)

Who: Everyone is invited! Great fun for all ages! RESERVATION REQUIRED—CALL 410-612-1688.

Fee: \$5/car

- ➔ Free Canoeing
- ➔ Live music
- ➔ Fish Seining
- ➔ Live Animals
- ➔ 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.

HARFORD COUNTY SPRING 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

Spring Wild Tots

Did you know nature play, no matter the season, can provide your tot with fun and learning? This spring, grab the right gear and meet a naturalist for an adventure through Leight Park, no matter the weather! Hike trails, explore the shoreline, and discover the excitement of the outdoors.

Date: Saturdays, April 3, 17, May 1, 15, 29

Time: 10:00—11:00 a.m.

Ages: 2—5 w/adult

Fee: \$25/child

Cicada Madness Hike

How much do you know about the eruption of the Brood X cicadas? It has been 17 long years since these noisy insects were last heard from! Venture into the woods of Leight Park, observing and learning what makes Magicicada so magical!

Date: Sat., May 22

Time: 10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Ages: 6—adult, under 13 w/adult

Fee: \$10/family

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: Sun., April 18

Time: 3:00—4:30 p.m.

Ages: 5—adult, under 13 w/adult

Fee: Free

Good Morning Marsh—Kayak

In the natural world the day begins early. Get up with the sun to see who's "shaking a leg" in the wee hours of the morning, on the water and in the wetlands.

Date: Sat., April 10

Time: 7:30—10:00 a.m.

Ages: 8—adult, under 13 w/adult

Fee: \$12.00/person

To Earth with Love—Sunset Canoe

Celebrate Earth month by setting off on a sunset canoe adventure on Otter Point Creek. Keep your eyes open to the beauty that awaits, while keeping your mind focused on all this planet gifts us.

Date: Sat., April 24

Time: 6:30—9:00 p.m.

Ages: 8—adult, under 16 w/adult

Fee: \$15.00/person

City Nature Challenge—Canoe

Gather at water's edge for an afternoon canoe in search of flora and fauna to record for the Baltimore City Nature Challenge!

Date: Sat., May 1

Time: 2:00—4:30 p.m.

Ages: 8—adult, under 13 w/adult

Fee: \$12.00/person

Bay Bingo Canoe

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

Date: Sat., May 22

Time: 2:30—5:00 p.m.

Ages: 8—adult, under 13 w/adult

Fee: \$15.00/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 spring season of northward migration and bud burst.

Dates: Fri., April 30, May 14, 28

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Ages: Adults

Fee: \$12.00/person



Water Strider Pontoon Boat Rides

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

Critter Cruise

With a high tide and high hopes, board the Pontoon Boat to see what's up and at 'em on a fine spring day. Bring your cell phone to record sightings and report them to the City Nature Challenge using the iNaturalist app. Boost Harford County's biodiversity data!

Date: Fri., April 30

Time: 11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Ages: 2—adult, under 13 w/adult

Fee: \$10.00/person

Mom and Me Pontoon

Spend quality time with mom while soaking up the sun, floating along the Bush River. Search for animal moms and their babies in and along the water.

Date: Sat., May 8

Time: 9:00—10:30 a.m.

Ages: 2—adult, under 13 w/adult

Fee: \$10.00/person

Super Tide Friday Float

Ride the rising tide to view areas of the reserve rarely accessible to the Water Strider.

Date: Fri., May 28

Time: 9:30—11:00 a.m.

Ages: 2—adult, under 13 w/adult **Fee:** \$10/person

HARFORD COUNTY PROGRAMS cont.

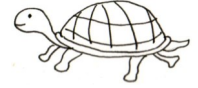
REGISTRATION REQUIRED - NO FEE!

CRITTER DINNER TIME - ALL AGES!

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

Sat., April 3 at 2:00 p.m.

Sat., May 8 at 2:00 p.m.



MEET A CRITTER - ALL AGES!

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

Sat., April 24 at 2:00 p.m.

Sat., May 15 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Dates: Tues.—Fri., June 22-25

Ages: 12 - 16

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$140.00

Explore the watery world of Leight Park and beyond. Dare to adventure with canoeing, kayaking, wading, and other fun outdoor activities. Parents must drop off and pick up camper at activity site each day.



Imagi-Nature

Dates: Tues.—Fri., July 6-9

Ages: 8 - 11

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$120.00

Let your imagination run wild with Mother Nature! Search the trails, the creek, and the gardens for inspiration to create, play, and explore. Canoe trip on the last day of camp.

Estuary Exploration

Dates: Tues.—Fri., July 27-30

Ages: 8 - 11

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$120.00

The Chesapeake Bay estuary is home to fascinating plants and animals. Dive into this beautiful brackish world through adventures, activities, crafts, and more. Finish with a canoe trip on the last day.



Aquatic Adventures II

Dates: Tues.—Fri., August 3-6

Ages: 12 - 16

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$140.00

Explore the watery world of Leight Park and beyond. Dare to adventure with canoeing, kayaking, wading and other fun outdoor activities. Parents must drop off and pick up camper at activity site each day.

Senses of Survival

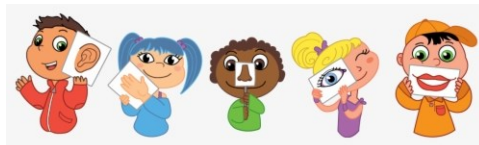
Dates: Tues.—Fri., August 17-20

Ages: 8 - 11

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$120.00

Delve into the wildly diverse natural world utilizing touch, hearing, sight, smell and taste! How do the five senses of humans compare to those of wild animals, and who is best sensory-equipped for survival?



Otter Point Creek Alliance Membership Application

Members receive 10% off OPC.A 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

- \$25 Family (1 Household)
- \$15 Individual or Senior Couple
- \$10 Student (Full time) or Senior Citizen (62+)
- \$50 Contributing
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$500 Lifetime

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
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