

# 2012 Friends of the Parks Program Schedule

<p><b>January 14, Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Center 9:30 AM</b></p>	<p><b>I have a digital camera, how does it work?</b> <i>Larry Turton-</i> This short course is designed to help novice users of digital cameras to increase their knowledge of the logic and electronics of their camera. This content will focus on using the camera to take better pictures rather than becoming a technical expert. The fee for this workshop will be \$5. <b>Pre-Registration is required at 724-357-7913.</b></p>
<p><b>January 28, Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Indiana Fire Station on Ben Franklin Road 6 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Friends Potluck Dinner-African Photo Safari to Namibia and Botswana-</b><i>Jim Reber-</i>Enjoy photos of the oldest and tallest sand dunes in the world in Namibia, and the elephants and waterholes teeming with wildlife of this desert terrain. Then see lions, leopards, and other big game of the Okavango Delta and the impressive animal and bird life found in this wet environment. Pre-registration is required at 724-463-8636.</p>
<p><b>February 11, Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Courthouse Annex Meeting Room: Water Street 10 AM</b></p>	<p><b>How to Grow Great Vegetables-</b><i>Penn State Master Gardeners-</i> From the basics to advanced techniques, Master Gardeners will share great ideas about having a successful garden.</p>
<p><b>February 17, Friday</b></p>	<p><b>Blue Spruce Park Lodge 7 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Japanese Gardens (Photo Tour)-</b><i>Barbara Hauge-</i> Enjoy a photographic stroll in the gardens of Japan through the lens of a landscape architect. Travel along on a 10 day garden study tour of the gardens of Japan and explore the care and design of the gardens through the presentation. This was a trip of a lifetime for horticulturist and landscape architect who has been a lifelong admirer of Japanese gardens.</p>
<p><b>February 24, Friday</b></p>	<p><b>Blue Spruce Park Lodge 7 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Crabbing and Oysters: A Dying Industry-</b><i>Larry Turton-</i> From 1999 to 1922, the Chesapeake Bay provided an abundance of crabs and oysters to the growing nation. However, like many American tradesmen, Bay watermen are slowly losing their roles in the Bay area. This program will discuss the effects of pollution, overfishing, and time upon one town, Crisfield, MD and surrounding islands.</p>

<b>March 16, Friday</b>	<b>Blue Spruce Park Lodge 7 PM</b>	<b>Black Bears</b> - <i>Patrick Snickles</i> -As spring is approaching, black bears will soon become more active, looking for lots to eat. Enjoy an evening learning about the annual life cycle of black bears and black bear management in Pennsylvania. Along with their biology and management, nuisance issues and tips dealing with problem bears will be discussed.
<b>March 18, Sunday</b>	<b>Kinter Farm 2 PM</b>	<b>Maple Sugaring</b> - <i>Allen Kinter</i> -The FOP annual Maple Sugaring Event. Come with us and learn all about maple sugaring. Pre-registration is required at 724-463-8636
<b>March 31, Saturday</b>	<b>Yellow Creek State Park Office 8 AM</b>	<b>Bird Walk</b> - <i>Margaret Higbee</i> -Join the Todd Bird Club as they look for migrating waterfowl on Yellow Creek Lake. Yellow Creek State Park is one of the top five birding destinations in the state, so you can expect to see a variety of water birds. Meet at the Park Office and dress for the weather. We will drive to several locations near the lake for short walks. The Todd Bird Club will spend 3 hours but you may spend a shorter time.
<b>April 14, Saturday</b>	<b>Blue Spruce Park Office 10 AM</b>	<b>How to Prune Your Plants</b> - <i>Penn State Master Gardeners</i> - From basics to advanced techniques, Master Gardeners will help you understand how to properly prune your trees, shrubs, and fruit trees.
<b>April 21, Saturday</b>	<b>Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Center 2 PM</b>	<b>Day Trippin'</b> – <i>Brenda Wolfe</i> –Let's get ready to go hiking!! This PowerPoint presentation will get you ready to safely get on the trails with a 'Leave No Trace' principle. We will also discuss different trails in and around the region and discuss different backpacking and day packing products. <b>Pre-registration is required at 724-357-7913.</b>
<b>May 5, Saturday</b>	<b>Pine Ridge Park Lodge 10 AM</b>	<b>Morel Mushrooms</b> - <i>Bob Sleigh</i> -Morel mushrooms are one of the most sought after and elusive mushrooms in the world. This program will teach participants what a Morel is, where they grow and when the best time is to find them. Poisonous look-a-likes will also be covered along with proper cleaning, storing, and cooking techniques.

<p><b>May 13, Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>Blue Spruce Park Lakeside Center 2 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Mother's Day Wildflower Walk and Tea-Cindy Rogers-</b> Join Cindy for a walk around the park. She will share information about uses of the wildflowers seen during the walk. After the walk Cindy will have various wild edible treats and drinks for you to try. Come prepared for drizzle or sunshine. In the event of heavy rain, Cindy will offer an indoor show and talk about "Wild Weeds" in our area. <b>Pre-registration is required at 724-463-8636.</b></p>
<p><b>May 19, Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Pine Ridge Park Pavilion #3 1 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Medicinal Plant Walk-Butch Laney-</b> What medicinal plants can we find growing in Indiana County Parks, particularly Pine Ridge Park? Join Butch Laney as he leads a walk and identifies these plants and talks about what parts of the plants are used and what ailments they cure or relieve.</p>
<p><b>May 26, Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow Creek State Park Beach Area 7 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Fun Around the Campfire-</b>Enjoy an evening of music and fun. Sing along to some popular folk songs and enjoy roasting hot dogs and marshmallows over an open fire. <b>Pre-registration is required at 724-357-7913.</b></p>
<p><b>May 27, Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>Blue Spruce Park Office 2 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Tree Identification Walk and Tree Care-Dave Henry and Erin Stewart-</b>Join a local certified arborist as he shows you the proper steps to prune our trees so they look their best! Also, he will cover proper steps for planting many different types of trees. We will then walk around Blue Spruce Park and look at many different tree species. You will learn how to identify them by leaves, bark, bud, and fruit by the time you're done with this course! We will also discuss the historical and current significance of various tree species as we enjoy a peaceful walk around the park. Bring your walking shoes. <b>Preregister at 724-463-8636.</b></p>
<p><b>June 2, Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Classroom 2 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Hummingbirds - Mike Shaffer -</b> Hummingbirds are the tiniest and most fascinating birds that will visit your backyard. Learn how to attract hummingbirds into your own backyard with nectar and insect plants that they dearly crave. Then afterward, we will head to the woodshop to build a Hummingbird Trellis of your own. Construction costs are \$15.00 for each fan shaped trellis. Bring a battery-powered drill if you have one. If you would like to build a trellis, <b>pre-register at 724-357-7913.</b></p>

<p><b>June 9, Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Classroom 2 PM</b></p>	<p><b>GPS-Joe Stefko</b>-This hands-on program will build or enhance the participants' knowledge of basic GPS units and their use in the outdoors. It includes both technical classroom instruction and practical application of GPS units and related technologies are utilized with wildlife research and management. GPS units for this program will be provided and instruction on other units will not be provided. <b>**THIS IS A 3 HOUR PROGRAM**</b> <b>Preregister at 724-357-7913.</b></p>
<p><b>June 23, Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow Creek State Park North Shore Pavilion 10 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Orienteering-Jim Wolfe</b> –Orienteering is a sport that exercises the body and the mind; it is like a treasure hunt in the forest. Join Jim Wolfe, President of the Western PA Orienteering Club, and learn how to use a detailed topographic map and a compass to navigate through the forest, on and off trails, to find marked locations in the woods. We will start with an introduction to map and compass, followed by an orienteering exercise in which participants can apply their new skills to an actual orienteering course set in the park. <b>Pre-registration required at 724-357-7913.</b></p>
<p><b>July 7, Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Blue Spruce Park Office 10 AM</b></p>	<p><b>How to Grow Great Herbs-Penn State Master Gardeners</b>-Penn State Master Gardeners will share great tips on having a successful herb garden. A tour of the herb garden is included.</p>
<p><b>July 8, Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Classroom 2 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Hellbender-Eric Chapman</b>- Join Eric Chapman, Director of Aquatic Science for Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, for a fun-filled afternoon learning about Pennsylvania's largest and most reclusive salamander, the Eastern Hellbender. Learn about this animal's interesting habits, including where they live, what they eat, and why they are such an important aquatic organism. Learn about the conservation efforts of WPC and our partners pertaining to this fantastic animal. Weather permitting we will search nearby Little Yellow Creek for this elusive creature. Bring shoes you can get wet!</p>
<p><b>July 15, Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Classroom 2 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Venomous Snakes of PA-Mike Shaffer</b>-Don't let their scales and appearance fool you. Snakes play an important role in the environment. Find out what's real and what's not, from the poisonous to the perfectly harmless and much, much, more. Live snakes will be on hand, so don't miss out on this grand opportunity.</p>

<p><b>July 21, Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow Creek State Park Office 2 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Crayfishing</b>-<i>Mike Shaffer</i>-Come on down and do some crayfishing like you've never done before. You will be amazed at how easy it is to catch crayfish without lifting a single rock. We'll be in "Craw-Dad" heaven. Great fun for the whole family! Wear shoes you can get wet.</p>
<p><b>August 5, Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Classroom 2 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Photographing Dragonflies</b>-<i>James Reber</i>-Learn basic information about dragonflies and how to photograph them and see photos of dragonflies common to this area. Then stroll around Dragonfly Pond to photograph the dragonflies found there. Bring your camera.</p>
<p><b>August 11, Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Classroom 8 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Night Hike</b>-<i>Mike Shaffer</i>-Join the park naturalist to discover some of the amazing creatures of the nighttime world. Topics will include owls, night-vision, and much, much more. At the end of this program you will have sparks flying out of your mouths! Bring a flashlight if you have one.</p>
<p><b>August 26, Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow Creek State Park Boat Rental 2 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Paddling the Lakes</b>-<i>Mike Shaffer</i>-Join park naturalist Mike Shaffer &amp; Regional Outdoor Recreation Coordinator Emily Borcz for some fun kayaking out on Yellow Creek Lake. We will provide a short kayak instruction and then take two hours to explore nature's signs and sounds as we paddle along the lake. Come look for painted turtles and blue herons or try a piece of cattail to see if it really tastes like cucumber! For ages 12 and up, children 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult/guardian. This program is limited to the first 18 people so that we can provide you with a safe experience. If you would like to bring your own boat or need a larger boat, please let us know upon registration. Pre-registration is required at 724-357-7913.</p>
<p><b>September 8, Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow Creek Park Environmental Learning Center 9 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Digital Photography: Workshop I</b>-<i>Larry Turton</i>-This workshop will cover the principles of capturing quality images according to the basic concepts of the visual arts. Equipment will be discussed only insofar as it enhances the chances of taking better pictures. The afternoon session will provide an introduction to basic editing of images according to the principles discussed in the morning session. There will be a fee of \$10.00 for this workshop. Since this is a six hour workshop, please consider bringing a bagged lunch. Pre-registration is required at 724-357-7913.</p>

<p><b>September 9, Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>Evergreen Conservancy's Tanoma Wetlands on Tanoma Road between Clymer and Indiana</b> 2 PM</p>	<p><b>Fall Wildflower Walk – Cindy Rogers</b> – Join Cindy for a walk around the Tanoma Wetlands to talk about local plant life. Dress for the weather and come prepared for drizzle or sunshine. Pre-registration is required 724-463-8636. See <a href="http://www.evergreenconservancy.org">www.evergreenconservancy.org</a> for directions under Projects, Remediation, Tanoma.</p>
<p><b>September 15, Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow Creek Environmental Learning Center</b> 9 AM</p>	<p><b>Digital Photography: Workshop II</b>– <i>Larry Turton</i> –This workshop will cover the components of the digital camera and how it captures images. This information will be coordinated with the principles taught in Workshop I. The afternoon will be spent editing photos taken in the intervening week. There will be a \$10.00 fee for this workshop. Since it is a six hour workshop, please consider bringing a bagged lunch.</p>
<p><b>September 16, Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow Creek State Park Office</b> 2 PM</p>	<p><b>Dog Handler for a Day</b> –<i>Keystone Waterfowlers Hunting &amp; Retrieving Club</i> - KWHRC is a non-profit group dedicated to promoting the ethical breeding and sound training methods of all retriever dog breeds. This program is to give everyone the chance to be a dog handler for the day! The club members will set up several hunting scenarios where dogs will retrieve "birds" on land and water. Learn how these dogs have become some of the greatest retrievers around! Preregister at: 724-463-8636. Visit their website <a href="http://www.keystonewaterfowlers.org">www.keystonewaterfowlers.org</a></p>
<p><b>September 22, Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Blue Spruce Park Lodge</b> 7 PM</p>	<p><b>Owl Prowl</b> –<i>Mike Shaffer</i> - Join the park naturalist to learn about the wonderful owls that prowl the night woods in Pennsylvania. After a short discussion, we will then go in search of these night flying creatures to do a little prowling of our own. Bring a flashlight if you have one. Dress for the weather.</p>
<p><b>October 7, Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow Creek Environmental Learning Center</b> 2 PM</p>	<p><b>Attracting and Feeding Wild Birds</b> –<i>Marcy Cunkleman</i> - Learn what local birds, and other critters, will visit your feeders in the winter. Different types of feeders, seeds, and food attract certain birds to your yard. Learn hints on how to bring them closer to watch and make the winter season fun.</p>
<p><b>October 14, Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow Creek State Park Boat Rental</b> 2 PM</p>	<p><b>Fall Foliage by Boat</b> –<i>Mike Shaffer</i>- Spend the afternoon on a leisurely tour to see the spectacular fall scenery and Yellow Creek Lake. Seating is limited to 30 people. Pre-registration is required at 724-357-7913.</p>