

# THE PEEPER

Battle Creek Nature Education Society

www.calvertparks.org

August 2013



## *Pawpaw Has Largest Fruit Native to United States* Tropical Treat from Local Forests

**T**he pawpaw tree brings a little slice of the tropics to Maryland. Found in the shady understory, pawpaws (*Asimina triloba*) prefer humid areas with long hot summers and mild winters, making Maryland a perfect area for them to thrive. The leaves are long and shaped like large almonds, and in the spring, they grow a beautiful purple flower.

Not only do pawpaw trees bloom, they also sprout a delicious secret snack in the fall. The pawpaw tree grows a fruit unlike any other. It is shaped like a pear, but tastes like a banana. It is the largest edible wild fruit native to the United States. People love the custard texture and banana-like taste of the pawpaw fruit, so the few weeks they are available are precious times for people to gather as many pawpaws as they can find.

One of the first historical references of the pawpaw was during Hernando De Soto's expeditions in the 1540s. The Native Americans cultivated the

*(continued on page 9)*



*The pawpaw tree, Asimina triloba, yields 3- to 5-inch-long fruit, the largest fruit native to the United States. Photo by Scott Bauer.*

### *Where We Work*

## Hughes Tree Farm

**B**ennett O. Hughes, whose career in forestry began in 1923, was a careful steward of his 202-acre property in Prince Frederick. He managed the forests for healthy trees, abundant wildlife, and valuable recreational opportunities for hiking and fishing. The property became a certified Tree Farm through the American Tree Farm System,

In 1986, Calvert County received a generous gift from his estate—his beloved tree farm. As a condition of the gift, the county agreed that 202-acre property would be maintained as a tree farm to demonstrate sustainable forest management.

The property is under a Forest Stewardship Plan, which identifies several objectives for forest management: timber production, wildlife management, and recreation. In 2008, the county contracted with a forester and logger to conduct a timber harvest. These areas have returned as loblolly pine forest through natural regeneration and tree planting efforts. The current plan recommends efforts for invasive species removal (specifically kudzu) and for selective harvest of individual trees to encourage the growth of larger, dominant trees. Plans for these activities will be developed in 2014. Numerous

*(continued on page 9)*

## Hazy, Hot and Humid

Don't let the 3 Hs get you down...the cool breezes of autumn are right around the corner. In this issue of *The Peeper*, you'll find plenty of great nature programs to fill the days of late summer and early fall.

There are a few new items that I'd like to highlight. First, the amazing Junior Ranger program has expanded to include treks near (the newly acquired Ward property in Dunkirk) and far (an overnight trip to Assateague National Seashore). The Rangers, ages 10-16, learn skills such as kayaking and fire building and undertake stewardship projects.

Second—speaking of kayaking—BCNES was happy to fund a portion of the staff's American Canoe Association training in June. With these high level skills, we can more effectively run our kayak trips. We look forward to expanding our offerings, including open paddle nights at Kings Landing. In addition, Patuxent River Appreciation Days has also supported hike-paddle outings relating to the War of 1812, which will have its bicentennial in the coming year.

BCNES and the parks are constantly striving to bring you the best in nature education. We thank Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust for supporting our new programs in 2013. We are looking to expand offerings to different age groups, so that the children in Calvert can enjoy park programs at all ages.

Many people come to the parks as families but I wanted to remind you that the nature parks welcome groups of all sizes. Contact the Nature Center office for group rates. Often it provides a savings over individual rates.

Many thanks to everyone who supports the parks through BCNES. I want to invite you to our Annual Meeting on Sunday evening, August 25, 5:00 pm. We will have a short business meeting followed by a buffet, dinner speaker and volunteer appreciation. We hope to see you there.

—Anne Sundermann, Executive Director

## Park Update

In May, I attended a four-day intensive training to become a Maryland Woodland Steward so that I could expand the opportunities within the Hughes Tree Farm in Prince Frederick (see article on page one). This includes providing recreational opportunities and defining the forest management objectives to be accomplished over the next ten years. The forest management objectives will be refined to provide critical habitat for species of concern, such as American woodcock and wild turkey.

As part of my commitment to public access to Calvert County's natural resources, staff and volunteers will be working to establish parking areas, clear and mark trails, and repair the fishing pond dam and culvert at the Tree Farm. Workshops and field trips on forest management are being planned (see the Forest Ecology trip planned for October 26). We will hold regular family fishing days at the pond.

These projects will need volunteers of all types: individuals, families, Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Silver and Gold Award candidates, and community groups. The tree farm can also be a location for research or field studies in forest ecology and wildlife management. Let me know if you would like to help.

In other park news, we are expanding our opportunities for adventurous teens and pre-teens through the Junior Rangers Corps. Starting in September, twice a month meetings will be held at Kings Landing Park, supplemented by hikes and outings at other parks. Check out the schedule of events for details. See you on the trails!

—Karyn Molines, Division Chief

## Love Nature? Volunteer!

Use your experience to help preserve our future in Calvert County by becoming a volunteer.

To volunteer, contact [cypressswamp@co.cal.md.us](mailto:cypressswamp@co.cal.md.us).

The Battle Creek Nature Education Society (BCNES) is dedicated to the development of a responsible environmental ethic by providing opportunities for environmental education and compatible recreation; and the preservation of the natural heritage of Calvert County primarily within the mission of the Calvert County Natural Resources Division. BCNES is a 501(c)3 organization.

### BCNES Staff & Board of Directors:

Anne Sundermann, *Executive Director*  
John H. Jones, *President*  
Lloyd Hepburn, *Vice President*  
Julia Cornellier, *Treasurer*  
Bev Izzi, *Secretary*  
Fred Bumgarner  
Franki Coughlin  
Martha Grahame  
Dudley Lindsley  
Dwight Williams, *Administrative Agent*

### Natural Resources Staff

Karyn Molines, *Division Chief*  
Andy Brown, *Senior Naturalist*  
Tania Gale, *Naturalist*  
Gene Groshon, *Naturalist*  
Shannon Steele, *Naturalist*  
Connie Sutton, *Park Manager, Flag Ponds Nature Park*  
Melinda Whicher, *Park Manager, Kings Landing Park*  
Jerry King, *Building & Grounds Maintenance Worker*

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# FALL 2013 PROGRAMS

Calvert County Natural Resources Division  
Battle Creek Nature Education Society



## Online Registration

You can now register online for programs at [www.calvertparks.org](http://www.calvertparks.org).

Registrations are also accepted over the phone and by mail.

Call 410-535-5327 or email [CypressSwamp@co.cal.md.us](mailto:CypressSwamp@co.cal.md.us) to register for programs.

## NATURE PARK INFORMATION

### Mailing Address

Calvert County Natural Resources  
175 Main Street  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

### Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary

2880 Grays Road  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678  
Office & Reservations: 410-535-5327  
*Hours:* Mon.–Fri., 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
Memorial Day–Labor Day  
Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
Sunday, 1:00–6:00 p.m.  
Labor Day–Memorial Day  
Saturday, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
Sunday, 1:00–4:30 p.m.

### Flag Ponds Nature Park

1525 Flag Ponds Parkway  
Lusby, MD 20657  
Park Office: 410-586-1477  
Reservations: 410-535-5327  
*Hours:* Memorial Day–Labor Day  
Weekdays, 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
Weekends, 9:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.  
Labor Day–Memorial Day  
Weekends, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
Mon. & Fri., 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

### Hughes Tree Farm

Clay Hammond Road  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678  
*Hours:* Call office for details.

### Kings Landing Park

3255 Kings Landing Road  
Huntingtown, MD 20639  
Park Office: 410-535-2661  
Reservations: 410-535-5327  
*Hours:* Memorial Day–Labor Day  
Daily, 9:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.  
Labor Day–Memorial Day,  
Daily, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

### Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

2695 Grays Road  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678  
Information: 410-535-5327  
*Hours:* Call office for details.

## SUPPORT CALVERT'S NATURE PARKS...

### *JOIN BCNES!*

The Battle Creek Nature Education Society is a 501(c) 3 non-profit "friends" organization that supports the quality environmental education programs offered by Calvert County Natural Resources Division.

**Join or renew today online at [www.calvertparks.org](http://www.calvertparks.org).**

### BCNES MEMBER BENEFITS:

Most of the programs listed in this program are free to BCNES members. Members receive discounted rates on summer nature camps and special events. "Members Only" activities are scheduled throughout the year. In addition members receive the quarterly newsletter and program schedule in advance of the general public.

## PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

Families can experience the fascinating natural world found in our area. These programs incorporate activities to entertain learners of all ages. Most programs spend time outdoors: dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Reservations required. Adult participation required. Children must be the age indicated for each program. Fee per program: Free for BCNES members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

### **Celebrate the Beauty of Calvert County**

All ages (under 17 with adult)

Friday, August 2, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Ward Property

Bring a blanket and picnic supper and relax among the tall cedars as you watch your children play. Afterwards, enjoy ice cream dessert before hiking with a naturalist to see the amazing ponds and other natural features that this new county property has to offer.

### **Marsh Exploration**

Ages 6-9 with adult

Sunday, August 4, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Join a naturalist on a hike to the beach and use nets to discover critters that inhabit nearby marshes and ponds. Wear clothes that can get wet and muddy.

### **Terrapins and Sea Turtles**

Ages 18 months to 5 years with adult

Monday, August 5, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Enjoy some fun indoor activities and a puppet show about turtles that live in the Bay. Then we'll take a short hike to enjoy being outdoors.

### **Who's in the Garden?**

Ages 3-5 with adult

Wednesday, August 14, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

It's a great time of year to explore the garden! Come see what's in ours. Caterpillars, beetles, and flowers – oh my!

### **Weather Wonders**

Ages 3-5 with adult

Friday, August 23, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Be prepared to create a rain storm, paint with clouds and possibly make your very own cloud to take home! We'll learn about clouds and rain while doing fun activities.

### **River Walk**

Ages 3-5 with adult

Tuesday, August 27, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Kings Landing Park

What lives in the river? We'll wade in and find out. Dress to get wet from head to toe – adults, too!

### **To the Creek!**

Ages 4-5 with adult

Thursday, September 5, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Hike to Cocktown Creek and to discover the plants and animals that call this place home. Take time to share a picnic lunch creekside. Bring your lunch and wear comfortable shoes, a hat, and sunscreen.

### **Slimy Critters**

Ages 6-9 with adult

Sunday, September 8, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Kids will have fun outdoors searching for frogs, slugs, and other slimy critters. Afterwards we will make some slime to take home.

### **Miles of Reptiles**

Up to 5 years old with adult

Monday, September 9, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Hear what the puppets have to say, meet live animals, explore the world of reptiles with both indoor activities and out.

### **Dog Hike**

Ages 10 and up (10-17 with adult)

Saturday, September 14, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

Bring along your favorite canine friend for a hike. Be sure to bring a leash, water bowl, and day pack.

### **Bug Patrol**

Ages 3-5 with adult

Tuesday September 17, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

Learn about grasshoppers and other bugs as we chase them in the fields. We'll meet at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp.



## PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES (cont'd from page 4)

*Fee per program: Free for BCNES members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.*

### **Little Fishy**

*Ages 18 months to 5 years with adult  
Monday, September 23, 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
Flag Ponds Nature Park*

At the beach children will help the naturalist catch minnows and other animals using a seine net. Bring a snack, drink, and towel, and dress your child in clothes that can get wet.

### **Creepy Crawlies**

*Ages 3 to 5 years with adult  
Tuesday, October 1, 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

It's a great time of year to find out more about our local creepy crawlies! Find out more about our less popular animal neighbors—like bats, owls, and bugs!

### **Owl-o-ween**

*Ages 18 months to 5 years with adult  
Monday, October 7, 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Flag Ponds Nature Park*

With Halloween approaching we'll learn about the owls that live in our area from the puppets. We'll also do a fun owl craft and maybe get a surprise visitor.

### **Going Batty**

*Ages 3 to 5 years with adult  
Wednesday, October 16, 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Kings Landing Park*

Puppets will tell your children about bats, and then the naturalist will lead them on a hike to find some pretend bats hidden in the park.

### **What's Falling in Fall?**

*Ages 4 to 5 years with adult  
Thursday, October 24, 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
Flag Ponds Nature Park*

Leaves are falling to the ground—so are acorns and hickory nuts. We'll explore some of the changes that happen to plants and animals this time of year on a trail walk.

### **Swamp Dragons**

*Ages 6 to 9 years with adult  
Sunday, October 27, 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
Flag Ponds Nature Park*

Hike down to the swamp and use nets to find the tiny “dragons” that live there. Wear clothes that can get muddy.

### **Fall Foliage Frolic**

*Ages 3 to 5 years with adult  
Tuesday, October 29, 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Kings Landing Park*

Celebrate fall by learning about leaves on a forest hike. Children will sort leaves by shape and color, rake leaves into a gigantic leaf pile, and make collages to take home.

**For expanded program descriptions, go to [www.calvertparks.org](http://www.calvertparks.org)**

### **Nutty Squirrels**

*Ages 18 months to 5 years with adult  
Monday, November 4, 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Flag Ponds Nature Park*

### **A Stormy Time of Year**

*Ages 3 to 5 years with adult  
Thursday, November 14, 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
Kings Landing Park*

### **Recycled Bird Feeders**

*Ages 6 to 9 with adult  
Saturday, November 16, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

### **The Great Migration**

*Ages 3 to 5 with adult  
Tuesday, November 19, 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Flag Ponds Nature Park*

### **Owl Moon**

*Ages 18 months to 5 years with adult  
Monday, December 2, 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

### **Bump in the Night**

*Ages 3 to 5 with adult  
Wednesday, December 11, 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
Kings Landing Park*

### **Compass Skills: Candy Cane Hunt**

*Ages 6 to 9 years with adult  
Sunday, December 15, 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
Flag Ponds Nature Park*

### **The Longest Night**

*Ages 3 to 5 with adult  
Thursday, December 19, 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

## THE JUNIOR RANGERS CORPS

*The Junior Rangers Corps are 10-16 year olds with a strong interest in the environment and the great outdoors. Throughout the school year they generally meet every second and fourth Saturday of the month at Kings Landing Park. The open meetings will resume in September. Special trips and outings are scheduled throughout the year.*

### **Down by the River Kayak Trip**

*Ages 12-16*

*Saturday August 31, 2:30-5:00 p.m.*

*Kings Landing Park*

The Patuxent River is full of life! We'll head out in the kayaks, making stops to get wet and use nets to catch and observe some of these river animals. Instruction on kayaking basics and safety is included. Fee: Free.

### **Welcome Fall!**

*Ages 10-16*

*Saturday, September 28, 2:30-5:00 p.m.*

*Ward Property*

Join a naturalist for this off-trail meander as we explore the woods, fields, and streams of one of the lesser known Calvert County Natural Resource Division areas – the Ward property. Fee: Free.

### **Life on the Edge**

*Ages 12-16*

*Thursday, October 3, 7:00 p.m. Mandatory Orientation*

*Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

*Friday, October 18, 7:00 a.m.-Saturday, October 19, 5:00 p.m.*

*Assateague Island National Seashore*

Assateague Island is poised between the land and the sea—re-formed each day by ocean, wind, and waves. Kayak the coastal bay, camp in the sand dunes, cook dinner over a fire, and explore the beach at night. Fee per person: \$40 for BCNES members; \$60 for nonmembers.

### **Tree-mendous Trees!**

*Ages 12-16*

*Saturday, November 2, 2:00-5:00 p.m.*

*Flag Ponds Nature Park*

There are so many beautiful trees here in Calvert County! In many cultures, fall is a time for gathering nature's bounty in preparation for winter. We'll go for a walk and see what the woods have to offer us today. We'll end by making some wearable leaf prints (on T-shirts) to bring home! Bring a plain, light colored T-shirt or pillowcase for your leaf printing! Fee: Free.

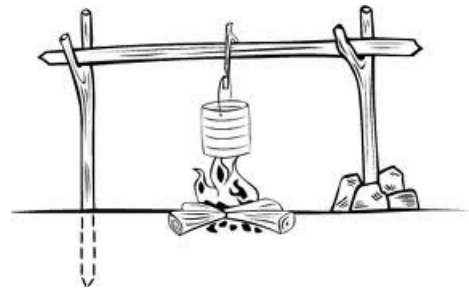
### **Fire Building and Campfire Cooking**

*Ages 12-16*

*Saturday, December 7, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.*

*Location TBD*

Come practice a variety of ways to build fires—from some of the oldest to modern ways, and learn basic fire safety. We'll end by cooking lunch in the fire we make together. Fee: Free.



## CAMPFIRES

*Most events include outdoor activities; please dress accordingly. Registration and adult participation are both required. Fee per program: Free for BCNES members.*

*Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.*

### **Fall Harvest Campfire**

*All ages*

*Saturday, October 19, 5:00-6:30 p.m.*

*Kings Landing Park*

Gather around the campfire while we make campfire apple sauce and enjoy other fall food favorites. Bring a mug and a spoon.

### **Campfire Brunch**

*All ages*

*Wednesday, November 27, 10:00-11:30 a.m.*

*Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

Since there is no school today, bring your family out for breakfast over the campfire. We will have games and crafts to occupy the kids while they wait.

## MINI CAMPS

*Don't spend off from school at home, come play in the park!  
Explore the park and make new friends.*

### **Nature Photography Mini Camps—Ages 10-13**

*Friday, August 16, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,*

*Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

*Friday, September 27, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,*

*Kings Landing Park*

*Saturday, November 23, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,*

*Flag Ponds Nature Park*

Keep your young teen busy when they're out of school.

They can have fun exploring the outdoors with friends, old and new, as they take pictures of amazing landscapes and cool plants and animals. Photography tips, themes and locations will vary every month. Bring a bag lunch and a point-and-shoot camera. Fee: Free for BCNES members. Nonmembers pay \$12 per person.

### **School's Out Camp! — Grades 3-5**

*Wednesday, September 18, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*

*Flag Ponds Nature Park*

Don't spend off from school at home, come explore the park and make new friends. Fee: Free for BCNES members. Nonmembers pay \$12 per person.

### **Trial by Fire Camp for Girls Ages 12 to 16**

*Monday, November 11, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*

*Kings Landing Park*

Girls will test themselves and their ability to work together in Hunger Games-inspired skills like fire and shelter building, basic first aid, and archery. No one needs to be a tribute for these games because everyone is a winner. Fee: Free for BCNES members. Nonmembers pay \$12 per person.

### **Winter Camp 2014**

*Grades 4 to 6*

*Saturday, January 18, 9:00 a.m.-Sunday, January 19, 9:00 a.m.*

*Flag Ponds Nature Park*

Don't hide inside all winter! During the day, we will play detective – searching the beach and the woods for animal clues. After sunset, we will head out into the quiet winter woods for a night walk, followed by a campfire and s'mores. Don't worry about getting too cold—this camp will include indoor, as well as outdoor activities and plenty of hot chocolate. Dinner, breakfast, and snacks included. Fee: BCNES members pay \$5. Nonmembers pay \$15 per person.

## KAYAKING TRIPS

*Saturday, August 31, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.*

*Sunday, September 8, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.*

*Saturday, September 28, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.*

*Saturday, October 5, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.*

*Kings Landing Park pool parking lot*

Enjoy a leisurely tour of the Patuxent River and its nearby creeks. Kayaks, paddles, and life jackets are provided. Participants must be at least 9 years of age to accompany an adult in a double kayak, and at least 12 years old to ride in a single kayak. Those under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations and payment are required in advance. Fee per program: BCNES members pay \$10 per person. Nonmembers pay \$20 per person.

### **Kayak Fishing Trip**

*Ages 9 and up (ages 9-13 with an adult)*

*Saturday, August 17, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.*

*Kings Landing Park, pool parking lot*

Join us for a fun day of kayak fishing on the Patuxent River.

We'll provide the kayaks, you bring the fishing gear. Adults and those over 16 years old will need a tidal fishing license.

Fee per program: BCNES members pay \$10 per person. Nonmembers pay \$20 per person.

See our list of launch sites on page 10.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

*Most events include outdoor activities; please dress accordingly.*

*Registration required.*

### **Adults Only – Cricket Crawl**

*Friday, August 23, 8:30 p.m.*

*Kings Landing Park*

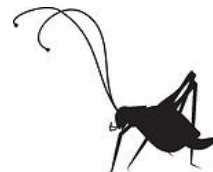
Enjoy the warm summer evening and help collect data on our local night calling insects. We will start at Kings Landing and caravan to several other locations. Fee: Free for BCNES members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per person.

### **Adults Only – Forest Ecology**

*Saturday, October 26, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.*

*Hughes Tree Farm*

As we explore the trails of the Bennett O. Hughes Memorial Tree Farm, we'll learn how to identify the trees and shrubs, how they benefit the forest and wildlife. Learn what steps you can take on your own woodlot to create a sustainable forest. Fee: Free for BCNES members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per person.



## LIST OF EVENTS, BY DATE

All programs are listed at [www.calvertparks.org](http://www.calvertparks.org).

### AUGUST

Friday, August 2, Celebrate the Beauty of Calvert County, All ages, WARD  
Sunday, August 4, Marsh Exploration, Ages 6-9, FPNP  
Monday, August 5, Terrapins and Sea Turtles, Ages 18 months-5 years, FPNP  
Wednesday, August 14, Who's in the Garden? Ages 3-5, BCCS  
Friday, August 16, Nature Photography Mini Camps, Ages 10-13, BCCS  
Saturday, August 17, Kayak Fishing Trip, KLP  
Friday August 23, Weather Wonders, Ages 3-5, FPNP  
Friday, August 23, Cricket Crawl, Adults, KLP  
Tuesday, August 27, River Walk, Ages 3-5, KLP  
Saturday August 31, Kayak Trip, Age 9 and older, KLP  
Saturday August 31, Down by the River Kayak Trip, Ages 12-16, KLP

### SEPTEMBER

Thursday, September 5, To the Creek! Ages 4-5, KLP  
Sunday, September 8, Kayak Trip, Age 9 and up, KLP  
Sunday, September 8, Slimy Critters, Ages 6-9, FPNP  
Monday, September 9, Miles of Reptiles, Ages <5 years, BCCS  
Saturday, September 14, Dog Hike, Age 10 and up, BGHF  
Tuesday September 17, Bug Patrol, Ages 3-5. BGHF  
Wednesday, September 18, School's Out Camp!, Grades 3-5, FPNP  
Monday, September 23, Little Fishy, Ages 18 months-5 years, FPNP  
Friday, September 27, Nature Photography Mini Camps, Ages 10-13, KLP  
Saturday, September 28, Kayak Trip, Age 9 and up, KLP  
Saturday, September 28, Welcome Fall! Ages 10-16, WARD

### OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 1, Creepy Crawlies, Ages 3-5, BCCS  
Sunday, October 5, Kayak Trip, Age 9 and up, KLP  
Monday, October 7, Owl-o-ween, Ages 18 months-5 years, FPNP  
Wednesday, October 16, Going Batty, Ages 3-5, KLP

Friday, October 18-Saturday, October 19, Life on the Edge, Ages 12-16, Assateague  
Saturday, October 19, Fall Harvest Campfire, All ages, KLP  
Thursday, October 24, What's Falling in Fall? Ages 4-5, FPNP  
Saturday, October 26, Forest Ecology, Adults, HTF  
Sunday, October 27, Swamp Dragons, Ages 6-9, FPNP  
Tuesday, October 29, Fall Foliage Frolic, Ages 3-5 years, KLP

### NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 2, Tree-mendous Trees! Ages 12-16, FPNP  
Monday, November 4, Nutty Squirrels, Ages 3-5 years, FPNP  
Monday November 11, Trial by Fire Camp for Girls ages 12-16, KLP  
Thursday, November 14, A Stormy Time of Year, Ages 3-5 years, KLP  
Saturday, November 16, Recycled Bird Feeders, Ages 6-9 years, BCCS  
Tuesday, November 19, The Great Migration, Ages 3-5 years, FPNP  
Saturday, November 23, Nature Photography Mini Camps, Ages 10-13, FPNP  
Wednesday, November 27, Campfire Brunch, All ages, BCCS

### DECEMBER

Monday, December 2, Owl Moon, Ages 18 months-5 years, BCCS  
Saturday, December 7, Fire Building and Campfire Cooking, Ages 12-16, TBD  
Wednesday, December 11, Bump in the Night, Ages 3-5 years, KLP  
Sunday, December 15, Compass Skills: Candy Cane Hunt, Ages 6-9 years, FPNP  
Tuesday, December 19, The Longest Night, Ages 3-5 years, BCCS

### JANUARY

Saturday, January 18-Sunday, January 19, Winter Camp 2014, Grades 4-6, FPNP

### KEY to PARKS

BCCS—Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

BGHF—Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

FPNP—Flag Ponds Nature Park

HP—Hutchins Pond

HTF—Hughes Tree Farm

KLP—Kings Landing Park

WARD—Ward Property

### BCNES MEMBERS RECEIVE DISCOUNTS ON ALL PROGRAMS

Battle Creek Nature Education Society is a non-profit "friends" organization that helps to provide quality education programs through Calvert County Natural Resources Division. Members receive discounted rates on programs, including summer camps, and participate in "Members Only" activities. In addition, members receive the quarterly newsletter and program schedule in advance of the general public.

*Join today by going to [www.calvertparks.org](http://www.calvertparks.org).*



## Pawpaw *(cont'd from page 1)*

pawpaw fruit and introduced it to the Europeans. Thomas Jefferson cultivated pawpaws at Monticello and Lewis and Clark noted in their journal that the pawpaw saved them from sure starvation. Some specimens of the pawpaw were sent back to England, where interest in the fruit spread. During the Great Depression, many people supplemented their meager diets with the plentiful fruits, but after World War II, imported fruit became more obtainable, and the pawpaw became less popular.

Although the pawpaw is not widely available commercially, inroads are being made on cultivars that could eventually be sold in markets. One reason for this is that the fruits have a short shelf life. Researchers at Kentucky State University are working on domesticating the pawpaw and have propagated several cultivars that are candidates for marketable fruit.

Eating pawpaw fruit provides many health benefits. Pawpaws are packed with fiber to aid in digestion, are rich in amino acids, and are a rich source of vitamins. They also contain antioxidants and have many cancer fighting properties. It has been shown to aid in reducing inflammation, and help reduce the pain caused by rheumatoid arthritis and similar diseases.

Pawpaw flowers bloom from March to May, and the fruit ripen from August to October. Pawpaw trees can be found generally anywhere, even in your own backyard. If you would like to get a closer look, there are many at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp. Pawpaw trees are a beautiful and tasty treat, and an important part of our ecosystem. Everyone should experience them.

— *Jessy Cockrell, Intern Naturalist*

## RECIPE

### Pawpaw Pudding

- 2 c. sugar
- 1½ c. bread flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- 3 eggs
- 2 c. pawpaw pulp
- 1½ c. milk
- ½ c. melted butter

Preheat the oven to 350° F, and grease a 13x9x2-inch glass baking dish. In the center of a large mixing bowl, whisk together the dry ingredients: sugar, flour, baking powder, and cinnamon. Into a well in the center of the dry ingredients, add and whisk the eggs. Whisk until fully mixed. Whisk and mix in the other wet ingredients: pulp, milk, and butter. Pour and scrape the batter into the baking dish and bake 50 minutes. To test for doneness, slide a toothpick into the center of the pudding, and it should come out clean. Like custard, if you jiggle the pan, the center should be set.

Serving: Cut the pudding into squares, and serve it with vanilla ice cream, whipped cream, or crème anglaise.

## Tree Farm *(cont'd from page 1)*

trails meander through the forests, taking hikers through the successional stages of forest growth, around meadows, and to a bucolic fishing pond.

In 2002, the Board of County Commissioners entered into an agreement with the Calvert Animal Welfare League, and subsequently with Friends of Felines, to establish a cat sanctuary for feral cats that have been trapped and neutered, yet are not suitable for house adoption. More than 200 cats were brought to the property, with an agreement to maintain this population without relocating any additional cats to the property. In 2012, Friends of Felines were feeding and caring for 32 cats. The Division will be working closely with these volunteers as we make plans for the future of the tree farm.

— *Karyn Molines, Division Chief*



*The pond at Hughes Tree Farm will be used for family fishing events. It is accessible from a short trail and is connected to other trails by a wooden bridge.*

SAVE THE DATE

# Nature's ARTcade

## A Regional Art Exhibit

*inspired by the natural world of Southern Maryland*

JUNE 7 - 29, 2014

OPENING RECEPTION – JUNE 7, 2014 7-9 pm  
Flag Ponds Nature Park, Lusby, Maryland

Battle Creek Nature Education Society, in support of the Calvert County Division of Natural Resources, is pleased to issue a Call to Artists to submit artworks highlighting the natural world of Southern Maryland. Artists are invited to submit up to 3 original artworks inspired by nature (wildlife, flora, fauna or nature scapes). Details and registration information is available at [www.calvertparks.org/ARTcade/](http://www.calvertparks.org/ARTcade/).

## Artist Access Days

The Division of Natural Resources will offer artists special access to the parks before and after hours so that they may be inspired by the beauty of the parks at sunrise and sunset, in different seasons. Program fees will support the *Nature's ARTcade* exhibit. Stay tuned to [www.calvertparks.org](http://www.calvertparks.org) for details.

## Paddle the Patuxent and the Bay

If you can't make one of our scheduled kayak trips, Calvert County Division of Natural Resources manages several launches. Also many of these sites are a part of the Patuxent River Water Trail ([patuxentwatertrail.org](http://patuxentwatertrail.org))

### Check out our kayak & canoe launches

#### NEW– Nan's Cove

8081 Broomes Island Road, Broomes Island

A small but enjoyable water access park. Nans Cove is a sheltered cove of the Patuxent River. Open daily. Parking lot is closed between 9:00 p.m.-4:00 a.m. No fee.

#### Kings Landing Pier

3255 Kings Landing Road, Huntingtown

A 200-foot fishing pier and canoe and kayak launch. Open during park hours. See page 8. No fee.

#### Solomons Fishing Pier and Boat Ramp

14195 S. Solomons Island Road, Solomons

Open daily, 24 hours. Ramp fee is charged.

#### Flag Ponds Nature Park

1525 Flag Ponds Parkway, Lusby

Paddle the Chesapeake from this beachfront launch.

There is a long walk from the parking lot to the water. Open during park hours. See page 3. Fee for park entry.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/BattleCreekNatureEducationSociety](http://www.facebook.com/BattleCreekNatureEducationSociety)

## Park Research: Bird Banding Update

*Flag Ponds is a part of the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) project, which bands at more than 500 sites in North America. In the photo at right, MAPS researcher and senior naturalist Andy Brown and volunteer Danny Bystrak inspect Carolina wrens captured in a mist net at Flag Ponds Nature Park. The study, which documents long-term environmental effects such as climate change, on bird populations, took place over several weeks in June and July.*



## Transitions

Linda Lanzisera is a familiar face to park visitors at the Cypress Swamp. But her work consisted of much more than that. As an Office Assistant with both Parks and Recreation and Natural Resources, she managed the office for the Natural Resources Division, coordinated reservations for Kings Landing Park, maintained program registrations, and assisted tens of thousands of visitors over the years. She oversaw the production of *The Peeper* and managed the BCNES membership, only recently handing those projects over to BCNES Executive Director Anne Sundermann.

Linda retired at the end of June after 25 years assisting park visitors, naturalist staff, and mostly, the Natural Resources Division Chief. “Linda provided the knowledge and experience to keep the office running as I learned my way around during my first year as Division Chief,” said Karyn Molines. “Her uncanny ability to remember faces and names often brought smiles to the young visitors. They felt important and special because Linda remembered who they were.”

People who grew up with her would not be surprised that she ended up with a job at a nature center. As a young child she was famous for having two baby raccoons as pets. She even was called out of school because the raccoons were getting into mischief and she had to take them home!

“How many people can say that they found a job that makes them happy? I am fortunate that I found a job that I enjoyed,” said Linda. “Being around the animals is a pleasure; the staff are wonderful people and we are like a family.”

She plans to spend her retirement doting on her two young grandchildren Elizabeth and Isabella. She won’t sit still for long, she’ll continue volunteering and being active in the community. You might even catch her back at the Cypress Swamp enjoying the trails.



*Office Assistant Linda Lanzisera retires after two decades.*



Not only are we busy with summer camps and family programs, we’re busy training new staff. Stop by and introduce yourself to **Katie Bradley** and **Melinda Whicher**.

Katie, a recent graduate of Southern Oregon University with a Masters in Environmental Education is our new Nature Center Aide at the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary. She will be identifying the plants and animals of the park, holding “Meet & Greets” with the nature center animals, and showing visitors how we feed and care for the captive animals.

Melinda started in late July as the new Park Manager for Kings Landing Park. She has spent the past seven years as a Horticulturalist with the National Zoo in Washington, DC, creating and maintaining a variety of landscapes and habitats to educate the public about natural history. As we enhance the trails and parkland at Kings Landing Park. Melinda’s experiences creating interpretive exhibits, developing education programs, and involving volunteers and community groups will help make the park an exciting place for visitors to explore and learn about nature.

*Camp counselors line up for a great summer at Calvert County nature parks. From front to back, Jessy Coc krell (intern), Chloe Ament, Jessica Hill, Bethany Oldham, and Lauren Alderson.*



PO Box 122  
Port Republic, MD 20676

## Fun-Filled Days at Summer Camp

