

Nature of Things

Program & Activity Guide

January - April 2018



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chesco.org/parks ♦ 610-344-6220



Chester County Parks & Recreation

Education Programs

January

NEW YEAR'S DAY HIKE

Ring in 2018 with fresh air and exercise on this annual ranger-led hike. Celebrate the new year learning about Warwick County Park's natural and cultural history.

- Monday, January 1; 2 - 3 PM
- Warwick County Park Office

Two Sessions & Locations!

BASIC BOATING COURSE

Boating Safety Education Certificates are required for all operators of personal watercraft, regardless of age, and for boat operators born after January 1, 1982 who operate motorboats of more than 25 horsepower.

This free PA Fish & Boat Commission course provides course materials and information via a classroom setting to help you reduce the risk of injury and conflict on the water. Those who successfully complete the course may obtain this certificate, which is good for a lifetime (*fees apply*).

A minimum of eight (8) hours of class time is required. Participants should bring a lunch/ snacks. Two sessions are available in January at Hibernia County Park:

- Saturday, January 13
- 8 AM - 5 PM
- Tues & Wed, January 16 & 17
- 3 PM - 7 PM each day
- To Register: adesko@pa.gov
215-968-3631

Two Sessions & Locations!

WEIRD WILDLIFE

Venomous mammals? Snakes playing dead? Dogs that climb trees? Who knew?! You don't need to travel half way around the world to find some of the most bizarre animals on the planet. Many live in your backyard. Get out of the cold and come learn about Pennsylvania's craziest critters.

- Saturday, January 13; 11 AM - 1 PM
- Warwick County Park Office
- Saturday, January 20; 11 AM - 1 PM
- Hibernia County Park, Hibernia Mansion

February

BASIC BOATING COURSE

See January description. Two sessions are available in February at Springton Manor Farm:

- Wed & Thurs, February 7 & 8
- 3 PM - 7 PM each day
- Saturday, February 17
- 8 AM - 5 PM
- To Register: adesko@pa.gov
215-968-3631

BUILD A BLUEBIRD BOX

Park rangers and volunteers monitor approximately 100 bluebird boxes within our park system. Join staff in building a home for Pennsylvania's most popular song birds. From construction to mounting and seasonal maintenance, learn everything you need to know about a bluebird box. Participants can construct bluebird boxes for use in the park or their own backyard.

- Sunday, February 11; 2 - 3:30 PM
- Springton Manor Farm Carriage House
- \$12 per bluebird box kit (*optional*)

March

THE HORSE-SHOE TRAIL & LONG DISTANCE HIKING

The Horse-Shoe Trail, a 140-mile long distance trail, passes through Warwick County Park on its way from Valley Forge to the Appalachian Trail (AT). Pennsylvania also hosts several other long distance trails within a day's drive. Join an AT thru-hiker to learn more about long distance trails and how to prepare to hike them.

- Saturday, March 10; 2 - 4 PM
- Warwick County Park Office

BIRDING ON SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAIL

Schuylkill River Trail has some of the best birding opportunities in Chester County. Hike a section of the trail and visit our favorite birding spots along the way. Expect to see waterfowl, songbirds and raptors while helping us add new species to our database. Hike is open to birders of all skill levels. Binoculars are encouraged.

- Sunday, March 11; 8 - 11 AM
- Meet at Warwick County Park office and follow the rangers to their favorite birding spot

Two Sessions & Locations!

MAPLE SUGARING

Spring must be around the corner. As the weather begins to warm, the maple tree sap begins to flow. Learn how a maple tree is tapped and how the sap is boiled to make real maple syrup. Program also offered March 24 at Wolf's Hollow County Park.

- Sunday, March 11; 2 - 4 PM
- Warwick County Park Office



Register for programs online at chesco.org/parks
An adult must accompany children under age 12



2018 Pennsylvania Trout Season

Fishing Opportunities

Hibernia County Park

Chambers Lake

Brandywine Creek & Kids Pond

Nottingham County Park

McPherson Lake

Warwick County Park

French Creek



Two Sessions & Locations!

BEAUTIFUL BIRDS & EGG-DYING EGGS!

For Ages 3+. Spring is coming - time to get ready for the birds! Learn about bird eggs and try your hand at natural egg dying. Centuries before chemical dyes were invented, our ancestors depended on nature to supply them with beautiful colors. Dye an egg orange using onion skins or pink with cherries. All supplies provided. Please wear clothes you don't mind getting messy. Sessions are limited to 15 participants.

- Thursday, March 22
- 10 AM - 12 Noon
- Springton Manor Farm, Carriage House

- Saturday, March 24
- 10 AM - 12 Noon
- Warwick County Park Office

MAPLE SUGARING

Spring must be around the corner. As the weather begins to warm, the maple tree sap begins to flow. Learn how a maple tree is tapped and how the sap is boiled to make real maple syrup.

- Saturday, March 24 ; 2 - 4 PM
- Wolf's Hollow County Park

PUT THE ANIMALS TO BED

For Ages 3+. When late afternoon spreads over Springton Manor Farm, it's time to get the animals ready for bed. Help with the evening routine of feeding and caring for our residents as they settle in for the night.

- Thursday, March 29; 3:30 - 4:30 PM
- Springton Manor Farm Great Barn
- Limit: 25

FIRST PEEP OF SPRING

Listen for frogs and toads to produce a variety of distinctive sounds like whistles and "spring serenades". Learn to identify different frogs by their calls. How and why do they call so much this time of year? Please wear tromping boots or old shoes as we follow the calls to their wet hiding places.

- Saturday, March 31; 5 - 6:30 PM
- Warwick County Park Office
- Limit: 50



Springton Manor Farm Tours

Tuesday - Thursday
March 27 - May 31
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Guided tours of the Great Barn complex are available for groups of 10 - 25 and must be scheduled at least six weeks in advance.

Tours are \$3 per person (\$30 minimum) and generally last 45-60 minutes.

For availability, visit chesco.org/parks or call 610-942-2450



RAILROADS OF THE UPPER BRANDYWINE

Our popular Struble and Chester Valley Trails were once railways. The history of these train lines provides a glimpse into Northern Chester County's industrial and commercial development. Join Friends of Springton Manor and Jim Sundman, author of "Pennsylvania Main Line Rail Stations: Philadelphia" as he traces the rise and decline of our local railways. The public is invited to stay afterwards for a brief Friends of Springton Manor Farm monthly meeting.

- Monday, April 2; 6:30 - 7:30 PM
- Springton Manor Farm Carriage House

NATURE DETECTIVES: CSI WOLF'S HOLLOW

Catch, Search, Identify: Who chews leaves and who eats bugs? Who swims in the stream, crawls in the mud and lives under the rocks? Bring your curiosity about nature to Wolf's Hollow County Park. Dress for the weather and wear shoes that can get muddy.

- Saturday, April 7; 10 - 11:30 AM
- Wolf's Hollow County Park, Parking Lot

AMPHIBIAN MIGRATION

Each day spring is a little closer. At this time of the year, we anticipate the annual amphibian migration to local vernal pools and wetlands. Predictable, and yet unpredictable, this migration will occur every year without fail. Come learn about the annual migration and see what critters we can find.

- Saturday, April 7; 5 - 6:30 PM
- Warwick County Park Office

ORIENTEERING THROUGH WARWICK

Delaware Valley Orienteering Association (DVOA) leads this outdoor navigation sport that uses a map and compass to look for checkpoints along a mapped course. Beginners should allow 20 minutes for instructions and 45-60 minutes to walk the course. Courses for different levels are available. Groups can enjoy a course with one map. For information, visit www.dvoa.org. No registration required.

- Sunday, April 8
- Arrive anytime 10 AM - 1 PM
- Warwick County Park, Pavilion #2
- Fees: \$12 for map, compass rental & time tracker
- Scout/youth groups receive \$5 discount
- Fees payable at the program

What We Feature

Activity	Hibernia County Park	Nottingham County Park	Warwick County Park	Springton Manor Farm	Black Rock Sanctuary	Wolf's Hollow County Park
Biking	X	X	X	X		
Birding	X	X	X	X	X	X
Boating	X					
Camping	X	X	X			
Cross Country Skiing	X	X	X	X		X
Education Programs	X	X	X	X	X	X
Equestrian Trails	X	X	X	X		
Farm Animals				X		
Fishing	X	X	X	X	X	
Fitness Trail		X				
Gardens	X	X	X	X	X	
Geocaching	X	X	X	X	X	X
Guided Tours	X		X	X		
Hiking Trails	X	X	X	X	X	X
Historic Buildings	X			X		
Horse Shoe Pits	X	X	X			
Interpretive Trails	X	X	X	X	X	
Outdoor Classroom		X				
Pavilions	X	X	X			
Picnicking	X	X	X	X		X
Playground(s)	X	X	X			
Volleyball	X	X	X			

PAWS ON THE PATH

Take a ranger-led hike with your dog for a little exercise and socialization. Dogs must keep their humans on a leash. Please bring a clean up bag (or two), and water for dog and human – no water is available at the park.

- Saturday, April 14; Meet at 9:00 AM
- Hike departs at 9:10 AM
- Wolf's Hollow County Park, Parking Lot
- No registration required

SNAKES, FROGS & POLLIWOGS

A nose by any other name... is a tongue? It is if you're a snake. Frogs can swallow their prey...by blinking? Biologist Gary Stolz reveals many wonders of reptiles and amphibians, and what makes them unique in the animal kingdom. Explore skins, skulls, and skeletons; get identification tips, and learn what you can do to help conserve these vital members of our native ecosystems.

- Saturday, April 14 ; 10 - 11:30 AM
- Springton Manor Farm Carriage House

THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

The spotted lanternfly was first found in North America on September 22, 2014. This invasive plant hopper now threatens agriculture throughout Pennsylvania and the nation. Learn about this "badbug" and what you can do to help control it.

- Sunday, April 15; 2 - 3:30 PM
- Warwick County Park Office

PUT THE ANIMALS TO BED

For Ages 3+. When late afternoon spreads over Springton Manor Farm, it's time to get the animals ready for bed. Help with the evening routine of feeding and caring for our residents as they settle in for the night.

- Wednesday, April 18; 3:30 - 4:30 PM
- Springton Manor Farm Great Barn
- Limit: 25

SPRING PLANT SWAP

Bring a "green-thumbbed" friend and trowel to this free community event and join other gardeners in exchanging plants, seeds, tools, stories and tips. A great way to try new plants. Plenty of books, photos and experience will be on hand. Even if you have nothing to share, come get ideas. Selling is not permitted, but private nurseries are otherwise welcome.

- Saturday, April 21; 9 - 11 AM
- Hibernia County Park, Pavilion #4

Check our website for program updates and additional activities!
chesco.org/parks

COMING SOON



A new online program registration system that will require users to create an account, making it easier to submit your selections.

Program Registration

Online registration is required to secure participation for most programs. Please register at least 3 days prior to the program date.

You may be the difference in whether a program will run.

Description indicates if there is an alternate registration process.

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Register Online

chesco.org/parks

If you will not be able to make the program, please contact the park

Contact information is located on the back cover

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

ParkQuest 2018

Discover something new!

A quest is all about seeking
something important.
It often involves a journey.

On this quest, you don't have
to roam far to learn more about
your local Chester County parks -
and have fun while doing it.

To learn more, visit
chesco.org/parks
as we plan our
2018 ParkQuest programs!

No registration will be required.

WHO'S HOME IN THE BLACK RUN?

Join park rangers as they collect and identify the various aquatic animals in the Black Run using electrofishing techniques. You may be surprised just how many there are!

- Saturday, April 21; 1- 3 PM
- Nottingham County Park Office

BACKPACKING & WILDERNESS SURVIVAL HIKE

Test your wilderness skills on a hike at Warwick County Park. We'll be hiking a section of the Horse-Shoe Trail. You will be challenged with some survival scenarios to overcome along the way. Come prepared with a backpack filled with items you feel will help you survive in the wilderness. This will be a fun and easy-going hike.

- Saturday, April 21; 2 - 4 PM
- Warwick County Park Office

WILDFLOWER HIKE

Nothing says spring like wildflowers in bloom. On an easy hike, see Warwick's wide variety of spring flowers - one of the benefits of spring hiking - along the Horse-Shoe Trail. Help identify some of our beautiful native wildflowers.

- Sunday, April 29; 10 - 11 AM
- Warwick County Park Office

BEAUTY OF THE BARRENS

Listen to the tale of geologic drama that gave birth to globally-rare serpentine soils, including those in Nottingham County Park. Learn why this soil exists and how its shallow, mineral-laden composition in turn formed into delicate - yet hardy and rugged - native grasses and wildflowers. As the sun dips to the west and spreads its golden hues, take a walk into the back country to witness firsthand the beauty of the barrens.

- Sunday, April 29; 1 - 3 PM
- Nottingham County Park, Pavilion #8

May

LEAVE NO TRACE OUTDOOR ETHICS

Learn how to minimize your impact while recreating outdoors. Join a park ranger for a walk in Warwick County Park to explore the seven principles of Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics. Boy Scouts can complete the participation requirement for the Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award by attending.

- Saturday, May 5; 2 - 4 PM
- Warwick County Park Office

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!**

January

- 1 - New Year's Day Hike
- 13 - Basic Boating
- 13 & 20 - Weird Wildlife
- 16 & 17 - Basic Boating

February

- 7 & 8 - Basic Boating
- 11 - Bluebird Boxes
- 17 - Basic Boating

March

- 10 - Long Distance Hiking
- 11 - Birding on Schuylkill
- 11 & 24 - Maple Sugaring
- 22 & 24 - Birds & Eggs
- 29 - Put the Animals to Bed
- 31 - First Peep of Spring

April

- 2 - Railroads of Upper Brandywine
- 7 - Nature Detectives
- 7 - Amphibian Migration
- 8 - Orienteering
- 14 - Paws on the Path
- 14 - Snakes, Frogs & Polliwogs
- 15 - Spotted Lantern Fly
- 18 - Put the Animals to Bed
- 21 - Plant Swap
- 21 - Who's Home in Black Run?
- 21 - Backpacking & Survival
- 28 - Sheep & Wool Day
- 29 - Wildflower Hike

2018 SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday, April 28

Sheep & Wool Day

11 AM - 3 PM Springton Manor Farm

Wednesday, May 9

Special Needs Fishing Rodeo

9 AM - 1 PM Hibernia County Park

Saturday, May 12

Youth Trout Rodeo & Outdoor Day

8 AM - 1 PM Warwick County Park

Saturday, July 7

Freedom Fest

6 PM - 11 PM Nottingham County Park

Rain Date - July 8

Watch our website for additional events like

Community Celebration

at Exton Park Site

www.chesco.org/parks

Saturday, August 11

Chester County Old Fiddlers' Picnic

10 AM - 4 PM Hibernia County Park

Rain Date - August 12

Saturday, September 15

Community Day

10 AM - 2 PM Warwick County Park

Every season offers something new! Visit often!

Reserve Your Pavilion Online!

Hibernia, Nottingham and Warwick County Parks offer pavilion rentals year-round. See all pavilions available or go directly to the one you want to reserve. Reservations must be made at least three days prior to the preferred date and are accepted up to 12 months in advance. chesco.org/ccparks/pavilions



Be sure to "like" Chester County Parks & Recreation on Facebook!

NATURE of THINGS WINTER-SPRING 2018

CHESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Michelle Kichline
Kathi Cozzone
Terence Farrell

CHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
FACILITIES & PARKS

Steve Fromnick, Director

Black Rock Sanctuary
953 Black Rock Road, Phoenixville, PA
Direct correspondence to Warwick

Hibernia County Park
1 Park Road, Coatesville, PA 19320-4162
(610) 383-3812, FAX (610) 344-5333

Nottingham County Park
150 Park Road, Nottingham, PA 19362-9104
(610) 932-2589, FAX (610) 344-6867

Springton Manor Farm
860 Springton Rd, Glenmoore, PA 19343-1210
(610) 942-2450, FAX (610) 344-5414

Warwick County Park
Schuylkill River, Chester Valley &
Struble Trails
382 County Park Rd, Pottstown, PA 19465-8856
(610) 469-1916, FAX (610) 344-6545

Wolf's Hollow County Park
1399 Schoff Road, Atglen, PA 19310
Direct correspondence to Nottingham

Administrative Office
313 W. Market Street, Suite 5402
West Chester, PA 19380-0991
(610) 344-6220, FAX (610) 344-5984
ccfacparks@chesco.org

Coming Soon!

Online Camping Reservations

Campgrounds at Hibernia County Park are open weekends, May - October. Sites are \$15 per night. A maximum of 6 people, including one individual at least 18 years of age, and two tents are allowed per site.

Our online reservation system is in the final stages. Currently, availability is first-come, first-served and campsite registration is handled at the park office.

A new version of our online education program registration system will also be available soon.



Campgrounds at Hibernia County Park are open weekends May - October

chesco.org/parks