

**United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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INFORMATION: Maggie Briggs

410-228-2677

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge to Hold Winter Tree Identification Walk

Want to learn how to identify trees in the winter when most trees have lost their leaves?

Take a walk on the Woods Trail at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge with Volunteer Shirley Bailey on Saturday March 22, 2008 at 1:00 pm. Meet in the Refuge's Visitor Center at 12:45 pm. The slow walk will be approximately one to two hours long.

During the walk you will use various aspects of trees that help identify them without their leaves including: the bark, limbs and tree trunk characteristics, which trees retain some of their leaves in winter, and evergreen tree characteristics. An additional bonus will be to see the purple and green winter leaves of the cranefly orchid and learn some interesting facts about this unusual plant. Bring binoculars, if you have them. It will help to see high in the trees, and you might also sight a few birds as well. If you do not have binoculars, the Refuge has several binoculars to loan.

The rain/bad weather date will be Sunday March 23, 2008. For more information, please call 410-228-2677.

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