



What's Happening at Blue Marsh Lake?

USACE

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Spring Has Sprung!

A lot has happened at Blue Marsh over the past months. The tree swallows and red-winged blackbirds are back, and the spring wildflowers are blooming. We have a nesting pair of American Kestrels and a pair of Ravens that have been inhabiting the area. Another sign of spring are the school programs. So far, 450 third grade students from Governor Mifflin schools visited Blue Marsh Lake. Their visit included a control tower tour, water safety program and a Sensory Trail Tour. The students enjoyed their day immensely.



Baltimore Oriole

The boating public is happy because the boat docks are back in the lake at all of the boat launches. The bass fishing tournaments are in full swing as well. There is a tournament held every Tuesday evening through October.

Thanks to all of the volunteers that have adopted sections of the multi-use trail. It is in pretty good shape. There has been a lot of windy days and storms throughout the winter, which makes it a challenge keeping the trail clear of large branches and downed trees. The nature trails are also in good condition. Remember to share the trails with others. The Multi-Use Hiking Trail, Skinners and Foxtrot Hiking Loops are open to pedestrian use, mountain biking and horseback riding. The nature trails are only open to pedestrian use. Under most circumstances trails users should yield to horseback riders. Please carry out what you carried in - take only memories, leave only footprints. There is no drinking water along the trails, so carry your own water. Mountain bike riders, wear those helmets!

Get outdoors at Blue Marsh Lake, but do so safely!

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Upcoming Volunteer Work Days:

Visitor Center 9:00

June 25

July 23

August 20

September 25

Programs

May 21, Basic Boating Course, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

May 27, Who Goes There? 8:00 PM

June 11, Get Outdoors Day, 11 AM - 4 PM

June 24, Paddle the Tulpehocken, 4:00 PM

July 1, Paddle/Pedal the Tulpehocken, 4:00 PM

Water Safety

Boaters, before heading out on the water for the first time this season there are some things you need to do. Check your boat to make sure all of your required safety equipment is on board. Lifejackets should be ready to go and not in any type of packaging. You need to have a Coast Guard approved wearable lifejacket available for each person on board your boat, and it has to fit them properly. If your boat is motorized, you should have the registration numbers and decal on the bow of the boat, as well as having the paperwork in your possession on your boat. Do not overload your boat as that is asking for trouble. If you will be in a power boat, check your electrical and fuel systems for and be aware of gas fumes. If you are in need of additional tips I recommend you attend our Basic Boating Course on Saturday, May 21, from 8:30 am—4:00 pm at the Conference Center. Pre-registration is required and can be done so by calling me directly at 267-284-6546. There is no cost for the course.



National Get Outdoors Day at Blue Marsh

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Berks County Parks and Recreation Department are hosting National Get Outdoors Day at the Lakeview Pavilion within the Dry Brooks Day Use Area on Saturday, June 11, 2016 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. National Get Outdoors Day is an annual event held to promote safe and healthy outdoor recreation opportunities and reinforces the Let's Move Outside campaign .

Over 30 clubs and organizations will offer a free fun-filled day of activities including mountain biking, running, hiking, tours of the control tower, geocaching, K-9 demonstrations, games, presentations, and a scavenger hunt for prizes. Fly fishing demonstrations will be given by instructor, Edgar Payne. Cabela's will be demonstrating campsite setup along with outdoor cooking skills. Berks Area Mountain Bike Association will be leading a bike ride to the control tower for a tour and continuing on to State Hill Boat Launch.

Please join us to learn about local recreation opportunities throughout the region. Pre-registration is required for the bike ride. Call 267-284-6551 to register.



Park Manager, John Cave Retired

John Cave, who has been the Blue Marsh Lake Park Manager for six years, retired on April 1, 2016. His career with the federal government spanned 35 years, all of which were at Blue Marsh Lake. He worked his way up through the ranks, starting as a park technician, which was then changed to a Park Ranger. He was a park ranger for a few years before being promoted to the chief ranger position. Chief Ranger Cave served 25 years in that position, until appointed park manager after longtime manager Alfred Schoenebeck retired. Reflecting back on his 35 year career, some of his proudest moments included receiving the Project of the Year and Natural Resource Manager of the Year awards, as well as the Multi-Use Trail being selected as a National Recreation Trail. He also mentioned that he was quite proud of his staff and their accomplishments over the years.

It does not sound like John is going to spend his retirement sitting around watching television and reading. He plans on spending a lot of time with his wife, Kim, as well as their two daughters, Jessica and Nicole. Hunting, fly fishing, kayaking, mountain and road bike riding and snow skiing are just a few of the activities John likes to do in his spare time. He's also active with the Ruffed Grouse Society, and takes pride in training his English setter for bird hunting.

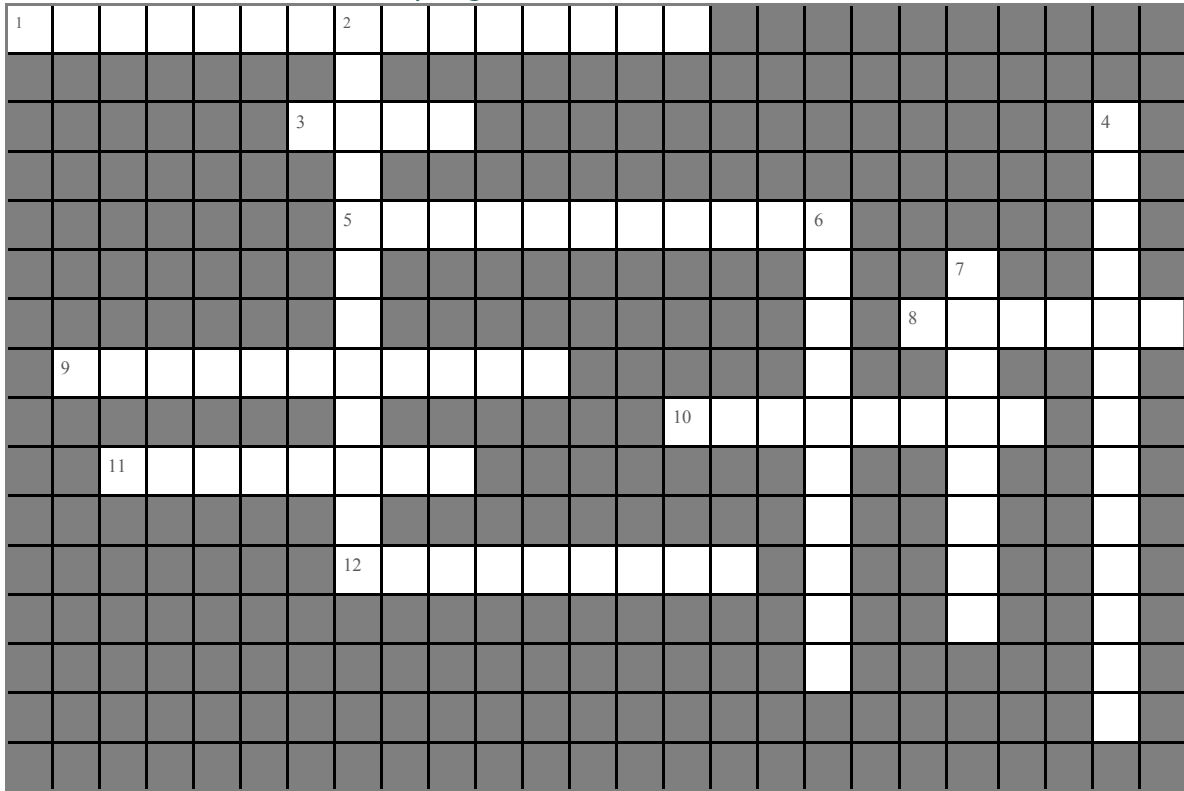


Take Pride in Blue Marsh

Take Pride in Blue Marsh was once again a success. Nearly \$44,000 of volunteer value was recorded because of the 377 volunteers that joined together to collect 86 bags of trash, tires, and two grills. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America planted 5,000 seedlings to help create wildlife habitat. The bridge just below North Heidelberg Road was replaced, picnic tables were constructed and painted, mulch was spread around the park's buildings and Sensory Garden, a guardrail was extended at the Stilling Basin, and erosion rehabilitation work was completed along the multi-use trail. The Family Camper's and RV Club cooked hot dogs and put lunch bags together that were donated from local businesses. Thank you for your participation in the successful day!



Spring Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Spring ahead
3. The name for a baby turkey
5. These birds arrive here in late March and April from Central America and the Gulf states
8. The doe of this species makes a cup-shaped nest that is lined with grass and fur
9. The most widely distributed non-poisonous snake in North America
10. A special day in April that was first celebrated in 1970
11. This spring wildflower was once believed to cure liver problems
12. A mammal that digs large holes

DOWN

2. This year's season starts on April 2nd
4. Life jacket, whistle, fire extinguisher, boater's safety certificate, type 4 cushion, registration
6. A popular bird hunted in the spring
7. You use a double-bladed paddle to do this sport

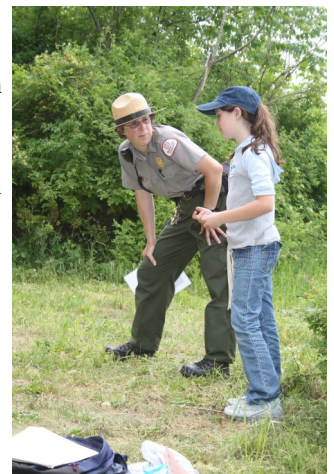
ANSWERS ON PAGE 4

Kathy Grim is Retiring

June 1st marks the end of Kathy Grim's 35 year career as a park ranger. She has great passion for the environment, water safety and outdoor recreation programs. She also enjoyed interacting with park visitors. During her retirement, Kathy is planning on continuing to volunteer at Blue Marsh and for the Berks County Parks and Recreation Department to assist with programs. She is also planning on working at Nolde Forest teaching environmental programs on a part time basis.

Kathy will be traveling around the United States as much as possible. Her goal is to visit all 50 states and many of the National Parks. She only needs to visit 6 more states to complete her mission. Her bucket list includes visiting all of the Pennsylvania state parks. Kathy also enjoys her dog, Bryce, kayaking, rail trail biking, hiking, and outdoor photography.

Kathy says, "I want to thank the staff and volunteers at Blue Marsh for being like an extended family."



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**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Philadelphia District**

ACROSS

1. Daylight savings
3. Polt
5. Tree swallow
8. Rabbit
9. Garter snake
10. Earth Day
11. Hepatica
12. Groundhog

DOWN

2. Trout fishing
4. Boating safety
6. Wild turkey
7. Kayaking

Spring 2016 Programs

Basic Boating Course: Saturday, May 21, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Conference Center. This course is designed for new boaters, and addresses legal requirements, boat operation and water safety and rescue. Upon successful course completion, you are eligible to receive a Boating Safety Education Certificate from the PA Fish and Boat Commission. Pre-registration is required for this 8 hour course. Call 267-284-6546.

Who Goes There: Friday, May 27, 8:00 pm, State Hill Boat Launch: Join us for this nighttime adventure along the Squirrel Run nature Trail as the sun sets and the nocturnal critters come to life as the skies darken. We will both look and listen for all types of animals along the way. Bring along a flashlight for this adventure. (GPS: 599 Brownsville Road, Sinking Spring)

Blue Marsh Lake's Get Outdoors Day: Saturday, June 11, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm, Dry Brooks Day Use Area: Presented by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Berks County Parks. No admission charged. (GPS: 1364 Palisades Drive, Leesport)

Paddle the Tulpehocken: Friday, June 24, 4:00 pm, Stilling Basin: (GPS 1268 Palisades Drive, Leesport). Bring your kayak or canoe and join us as we meander our way along the lower portion of the Tulpehocken Creek from the Blue Marsh Lake Stilling Basin to below the Berks Leisure Area. Water safety, local history, features of the creek, and other water trails around the area will be covered before we launch. Participants must provide their own boat, life jackets, and transportation. Event limited to 20 people (previous paddling experience suggested, and ACA insurance is recommended). Pre-registration is required by June 20; call 610-374-2944.

Paddle Boarding for Beginners: July 15, Friday, 5:00 – 8:00 pm, Church Road Access. Trained professionals from 3D Outdoor Rentals will teach participants the basics of paddle boarding. No experience required. Program is split into four sessions: 5:00, 5:45, 6:30 and 7:15 pm, and space is limited to six participants per time slot. Registration is required by July 11; call 610-374-2944.