

Assistant Naturalist Program Calendar

- Events include a mixture of volunteer work, natural history training, social gatherings, and outdoor fun!
- Most events are friend and family friendly.
- Many events have registration deadlines. *All events require registration in advance.*
- Pickering Creek Audubon Center public programs are also included in this calendar and require an additional fee (as noted). Attending any public programs will introduce assistant naturalists to the other PCAC staff and interns and provides even more family opportunities.
- Please dress for the outdoors including long pants, layers, close-toed shoes, sunscreen, insect repellent, water bottles, and hats.
- For questions and to register call Kelsey Frey, 410-822-4903 ext 22 or email kfrey@pickeringcreek.org.

EVENT KEY:

(EC) A portion of this event can be used towards EcoCamp volunteer hour requirements.

(SL) This event may be used towards TCPS Service Learning if student provides the appropriate paperwork filled out completely. Student is responsible for finding appropriate links between event and schoolwork.

(PP) Public program not associated with the assistant naturalist program. Additional fee may apply. All other programs are marketed to AN's and family only.

EVENT LOCATIONS:

The office is located at the far end of the property. Come down the driveway and turn right. Continue down the gravel drive past the bus parking.

The garden classroom is located at the front end of the property next to the children's imagination garden. Come down the driveway, turn right, and look for the garden classroom sign.

The ecology classroom is located next to the office at the far end of the property. Come down the driveway, turn right, and continue to follow the gravel drive.

The welcome center is the first building you see straight ahead of the driveway.

EVENTS SUMMARY:

All require pre-registration.

Service Learning Opportunities:

Bird Box Monitoring April 11th
Blackwater Trip April 25th
Bird Box Monitoring May 6th
Oysters and Birds May 25th
EcoCamp Training 1 June 22nd
EcoCamp Training 2 June 23rd
All weeks of EcoCamp

Volunteer Hour Opportunities:

Bird Box Monitoring April 11th
Earth Day Workday April 18th
Bird Box Monitoring May 6th
Oysters and Birds May 25th
Trail Maintenance June 18th
Gourds Planting August 22nd
(EC 2011)

Public Programs:

Spring Nature Walk April 11th
Amphibian Search April 28th
Nighttime Walk May 20th
Spring Family Canoe May 23rd
Summer Fam Canoe June 27th
Forest Bird Walk July 11th
Seining and Wading July 25th
Pollinator Trail Walk Aug 8th

AN Social Events:

First Meeting April 6th
Father's Day Canoe June 20th
Mid Summer Campfire July 31st
End of Camp Celebration
August 19th

AN Purely Natural History Events:

Amphibian Migration Night #1
April 14th
Amphibian Migration Night #2
May 1st
Mother's Day Warblers May 9th
Horseshoe Crab Trip May 15th
Bird Banding Trip May 29th

EVENT DETAILS:

April 2010

Tuesday April 6th 6:00-8:30pm in the Garden Classroom: **First Meeting!** Meet the other Assistant Naturalists!

Sunday April 11th 10am-12pm at the office: **Spring Into Nature Walk** with Education Coordinator Mandy Smith. Walk through the woods of Pickering in search of signs of spring. Afterwards enjoy a cup of tea next to the creek. This is a public program \$5/adult. (PP)

Sunday April 11th 1 pm- 4 pm at the welcome center: **Introduction to Bird Box Monitoring and Bird Hike.** We'll learn about the bluebird and wood duck conservation efforts at Pickering Creek and start our own monitoring team to look for eggs, owls, feathers, birds, and intruders! We'll meet the Head Wood Duck Volunteer and hear stories of his experiences. (EC)(SL)

Wednesday April 14th 6:30-8:30pm at the garden classroom: **Amphibian Migration Night #1!** Dress warm, bring headlamps, ear plugs or warmers, and cameras. We'll put on waders, walk down the driveway and head towards the sounds of spring peepers and chorus frogs. An experience you won't forget!

Sunday April 18th 10am-3pm at the welcome center: **Earth day**

Workday! Celebrate Earth Day by volunteering at Pickering Creek Audubon Center. You'll get to choose between three different activities when you arrive. Bring the whole family! Dress in long pants and shoes that can get dirty. Bring a bag lunch and water bottle. Please register by Thursday April 8th. (EC)(PP)

Sunday April 25th 11am-TBD at Acme Parking Lot in Easton: **Blackwater Salt Marsh Photography Trip.** Bring your cameras or use one of ours to photograph the salt marshes for a salt marsh exhibit to be created at PCAC. We'll meet with volunteers and biologists for a tour and birding adventure. Volunteer Activities TBD. Register by April 11th. (SL)

Wednesday April 28th 7-8:30pm at the welcome center: **Herping at Pickering Creek** with Seasonal Educator, Andy Adams. Hike around the wetlands and forests looking and listening for springtime frogs. This is a family program open to the public \$5/adult. (PP)

May 2010

Saturday May 1st 6:30-8:30pm at the garden classroom: **Amphibian Migration Night 2!** Dress warm, bring headlamps, ear plugs or warmers, and cameras. We'll put on waders and explore the freshwater wetland at dusk for migrating frogs and toads. We'll learn

new species that weren't out yet during the April trip.

Thursday May 6th 5:30-7pm **Bird Box Monitoring.** We'll hike our monitoring loop and check the boxes for birds and intruders. (SL)(EC)

Sunday May 9th 12- 2pm: **Mother's Day Warbler walk!** The day after international migratory bird day, we'll work on our bird-watching skills in the search for colorful migrating warblers- birds most people don't get to see. Bring your mother for some quality time! Binoculars and field guides will be provided.

Saturday May 15th 8:15am-? at the Acme Parking Lot in Easton: **Horseshoe crab trip!** Kelsey will drive the van to the DuPont Nature Center in Milford, DE to see horseshoe crabs during daytime high tide at 10:15am. Then we'll picnic, meet their horseshoe crab interns, explore their horseshoe crab museum, and check out the shorebirds devouring the horseshoe crab eggs. Should be a magical day of nature appreciation! Registration is limited. Register by April 30th.

Thursday May 20th 7:30-9pm at the welcome center: **Nighttime Nature Walk** with Seasonal Educator, Andy Adams. Learn about the nighttime habits of some animals and take a walk to see and hear nocturnal animals. This is a

family program open to the public
\$5/adult. (PP)

Sunday May 23rd 1-3pm at the office: **Spring Family Canoe** with seasonal educators Andy and Kristina. Paddle down Pickering Creek and look for birds and fox squirrels. This is a public program \$5/child, \$10/adult. (PP)

Tuesday May 25th 5-6:30pm at the office: **Oyster Cleaning and Bird Box monitoring!** We'll count and clean the oyster spat, then hike the trails to check for active bird boxes. (EC)(SL)

Sunday May 29th 7:30am- 3:30pm meet at Acme Parking Lot in Easton: **Bird Banding Trip!** We'll venture to the Nature Conservancy's Nassawango Creek Nature Preserve, a critical stopover for migratory birds along the Atlantic Coast flyway. We'll watch professional bird banders capture, process, and band songbirds. We'll also hike the birding trail to see the mist nets. After a short lunch break we'll visit the Ward Museum in Salisbury. Bring a bag lunch and camera. Registration is limited. Register by May 17th.

June 2010

Friday June 18th 10am-Noon at the garden classroom: **End of school year trail maintenance day!** Dress to get dirty and bring a water bottle. We'll hike the trails and make sure they're in

good condition for summer campers.
(EC)

Sunday June 20th 10am-2pm at Tuckahoe State Park: **Fathers Day Canoe Trip!** Bring the family, bagged lunches, sun protection, and water bottles. Explore the scenic Tuckahoe River. Lifejackets, canoes, and paddles will be provided. Register by June 11th.

****REQUIRED****Tuesday June 22 9am- 4:30pm at the garden classroom: **Summer Camp Training Day 1!** Bring your own lunch, snacks, and water bottles. Dress to be outdoors. (SL)

****REQUIRED****Wednesday June 23rd 8:15am- 4:30pm at Acme Parking Lot in Easton, pick-up at welcome center: **Poplar Island Trip and Summer Camp Training!** We'll drive to Tilghman Island and board a boat to Poplar Island where we'll learn how dredged material is helping restore an eroded island into a wildlife habitat. We'll meet wetland biologists and interns studying diamond-back terrapins and do some bird-watching. Bring a bag lunch and dress to be outdoors. We'll be at Poplar until noon, then head back to Pickering Creek to finish the day. (SL)

Sunday June 27th 1-3pm at the office: **Summer Family Canoe.** This is a public program \$10/adult, \$5/child. (PP)

Monday June 28- Friday July 2
9am-4pm: **Camp Week 1: Larks (2-4th graders).** (SL)

July 2010

Tuesday July 6- Friday July 9
9am- Noon and 1pm-4pm: **Camp Week 2: Fledglings (K-1st graders).** (SL)

Sunday July 11th at the office: **Forest Bird Walk.** This is a public program \$5/adult. (PP)

Monday July 12- Friday July 16
9am-4pm: **Camp week 3: Larks.** (SL)

Tuesday July 20- Friday July 23
9am-4pm: **Camp week 4: Shrikes (5-7th graders).** (SL)

Sunday July 25 1-3pm at the office: **Seining and Wading for Families.** This is a public program \$5/adult. (PP)

Monday July 26- Friday July 30
9am- 4pm: **Camp week 5: Larks.** (SL)

Saturday July 31 7pm- 9pm at the office: **Mid summer campfire party and owl prow!** We'll tell stories about camp and summer vacations around the campfire. We'll learn how to call owls and try our luck!

August

Tuesday August 3- Friday August 6th 9am-4pm: **Camp week 6: Shrikes and Fledglings.** (SL)

Sunday August 8 at the garden classroom: **Pollinator Trail Walk**. This is a public program \$5/adult. (PP)

Monday August 9- Friday August 13th 9am-4pm: **Camp week 7: Larks**. (SL)

Monday August 16- Thursday August 19th 9am-4pm: **Camp Week 8: Larks**. (SL)

Thursday August 19th 4pm- 7pm at the office: **End of camp celebration!** Join us for our last summer campfire. After all the campers depart, take the opportunity to reminisce and say farewell to our counselors over s'mores.

Sunday August 22nd 12- 2pm at the garden classroom: **Gourd and pumpkin planting!** Lets get our fall garden planted. Help prepare the beds and plant the seeds. (EC)



Time to renew for Sept 2010-Aug 2011! Sneak Peak:

Canoe trip, build educational displays for Harvest Hoedown, Birds and Butterflies, Oyster Research, Volunteer at Harvest Hoedown, Learn to handle the education animals, Teach reptile programs at the library, Blackwater Trip, Winter Birds and tracks, Woodcock search... Send us your suggestions!