



DEPARTMENT OF
RECREATION AND PARKS



13555 Beaver Dam Road
Cockeysville, MD 21030
410-887-1815



info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org
www.OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Spring 2018 Program Calendar

Clubs (Multiple Sessions)

Shoots and Letters

Every Thursday; 10 - 11 a.m.

Come plant the seeds of knowledge while learning basic skills and playing in the dirt with your little tots. We'll have a different nature theme every week. Stories, crafts and adventures are all a part of the fun!

Ages 3+

\$2 per child

Upcoming Themes

March 1 – Beavers!

March 8 – Animals that eat plants

March 15 – Animals that eat meat

March 22 – Signs of Spring

March 29 – Frogs!

April 5 – Salamanders

April 12 – Birds

April 19 – Earth Day

April 26 – Trees

May 3 – Pollinators

May 10 – Snakes

May 17 – Turtles

May 24 – What lives under logs?

May 31 – What lives in the trees?

Drop-in Program. No registration required

Bookworm Story Time

First Friday of every month

March 2, April 6, May 4 and June 1; 11 - 11:45 a.m.

Enjoy a nature story with the storyteller's choice of an activity such as an animal encounter, puppets or a craft, in partnership with the Reisterstown Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library. Dress for a brief outdoor experience.

Toddler to age 6

FREE No registration required.

Morning Bird Walk

Friday, March 9, April 13, May 11 and June 8; 8:30 - 10 a.m.

The early bird gets the most sightings. Join a Naturalist for this early morning bird walk on the second Friday of the month. Learn to identify birds by sight and sound. Bring binoculars and wear comfortable shoes for hiking.

Adults

FREE

Advance Registration Appreciated. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Amphibian Walk

Wednesdays, March 21, April 18 and May 16; 2 - 3 p.m.

Join a naturalist and visit our wetlands to listen for calling frogs and toads. You'll learn who's calling, why and where, and about our FrogWatch USA monitoring effort.

Adults and children 10+

FREE

Advance Registration Required. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

KinderGarden Club

Tuesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1 and 8; 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Young sprouts will explore the garden while growing their lil' hearts and minds. Various nature/garden activities each session including stories, crafts, music and garden delights.

Ages 4 and 5

\$25 per child (\$20 for ORNCC members) Price includes all 6 sessions!

Advance Registration Required. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Dulcimer Workshop

Thursdays, April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31; 7 - 9 p.m.

Join enthusiast Dave Erhardt at this dulcimer gathering. You only need an interest in this instrument to participate. Beginners welcome, no music experience necessary. Loaner dulcimers available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Adults and children 12+

\$25 (Price includes all 6 sessions!)

Advance Registration Required. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Events

Music in the Woods

Saturday, June 2; 2 – 8 p.m.

Celebrate the season with music in the beautiful setting of Oregon Ridge Park. Enjoy this family-friendly festival with diverse local bands and solo musicians. Performances include bluegrass, folk, rock and more, all on an outdoor stage. Craft vendors and children's activities available throughout the day. Bring your instrument and meet up with other musicians at jam sessions. Blankets and lawn chairs are encouraged. Hot dogs and light refreshments will be available for sale. Campfire and s'mores to end the evening (8 - 8:30 p.m.).

All ages

FREE (minimal charge for some activities)

Public Programs

Central Maryland Beekeepers Association - Speakers Series

A Year in the Life of a Commercial Beekeeper

Aaron Fisher, Fisher Bee Farm

Tuesday, March 6; 8 - 9 p.m.

Join the CMBA following their 7 - 8 p.m. monthly meeting to hear Aaron Fisher of the Fisher Bee Farm in Lewistown, PA speak about their operation. The Fisher family has been in the Honey Bee Industry for over 3 generations and have over 60 years of experience with bee keeping and providing commercial pollination service to growers of fruits, nuts and vegetables for over 50 years.

Adults

FREE

No registration required.

When will it be Spring?

Saturday or Sunday, March 10 or 11; 2 - 3 p.m.

Join us as we read a story and hike in search of signs of spring. Dress to be outside for about 30 minutes.

Children 6 and under

\$2 per child (**FREE** for ORNCC members)

Advance Registration Required. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Luck o' the Ridge

Saturday or Sunday, March 17 or 18; 1 - 3 p.m.

Are you feeling lucky? It's St. Patty's weekend! Join our naturalist on a "green" scavenger hunt and find your pot of gold!

Children 12 and under

\$5 per child (\$3 for ORNCC Members)

Advance Registration Required: 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council Speaker Series – The Chesapeake Bay: Progress, Challenges and Actions

Monday, March 19; 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Alice Christman, Senior Manager of Community Engagement, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

How is the Chesapeake Bay doing? Can we go swimming in the Bay? What about the crabs?

We'll attempt to answer these questions and more in an overview about the Chesapeake Bay and policies affecting it's progress, while inspiring attendees to take more significant actions at home and in their communities.

Adults

FREE – Donations appreciated. No registration required.

Eggcellent Adventures

Saturday or Sunday, March 24 or 25; 1 - 3 p.m.

Explore a variety of wild animal eggs, then decorate and dye eggs the natural way. Don't forget to bring your own dozen of white, hard boiled eggs.

Adults and children 5+

\$6 per dozen eggs (or 3 people) (\$4 for ORNCC members)

Advance Registration Required. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Nature Book Club – American Canopy: Trees, Forests and the Making of a Nation by Eric Rutkow

Monday, March 26; 7 - 8 p.m.

This book is a 400 year history of America's relationship with its trees – both the good and the bad. A review describes the book as "authoritative in detail and elegant in its execution, "American Canopy" is perfect for history buffs and nature lovers alike. Light refreshments provided but feel free to bring a snack to share.

Adults

FREE

Advance Registration Appreciated. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

The Big Gunpowder River from Start to Finish

Friday, March 30; 7 - 8 p.m.

Enjoy a pictorial journey of aquatic life in the Gunpowder, from the upper reaches of fresh water to the estuarine life at the mouth, presented by diver and underwater photographer Michael Eversmier.

Adults and children 12+

FREE

Advance Registration Required. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Full Blue Moon Night Hike and Campfire

Saturday, March 31; 7 - 9 p.m.

Join us for a night hike and campfire to celebrate the Blue Moon and the first full moon of Spring. Dress for a short, easy hike exploring the park at dusk as the full moon rises. Then enjoy s'mores at the campfire.

Adults and children 5+

\$4 per person (\$3 for ORNCC members)

Advance Registration Required. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Hike the Ridge

Saturday or Sunday, April 7 or 8; 1 - 1:45 and again 2:30 - 3:15 p.m.

We're celebrating the start of the Spring trail season. Join a naturalist for a 45 minute, moderate-easy hike over varied terrain.

Adults and children 8+

FREE

Advance Registration Required. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Nature Journaling

Saturday, April 14; 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Discover the joy of nature journaling. As you hike with a Naturalist, you will discover how nature journaling can help you to slow down and connect with nature, improve your observation and meditation skills, while working your muscles, breathing fresh air and having fun. This is a skill you can turn into a hobby and enjoy any time of the year! Dress for a long unhurried hike with sturdy shoes. Journal provided; bring several pencils.

Adults and children 12+

\$6 per person (\$4 for ORNCC members)

Advance Registration Required. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council Speaker Series – Orchids in Maryland: Ecology, Status and Conservation

Monday, April 16; 7:30 – 9 p.m.

Dennis Whigham, Orchid Ecologist, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Maryland has about 51 native orchids and they occur in a wide range of habitats across the state. The focus of this presentation will be the diversity of orchids that occur in Maryland, their ecology and an ongoing effort to assure their survival through a continental scale effort: North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC). NAOCC topics included in the presentation will be seed banks, fungal banks, propagation and education. Orchid-fungal interactions will be described to demonstrate the level of knowledge that is needed to assure the survival of native orchids.

Adults

FREE – Donations appreciated. No registration required.

Earth Day Scavenger Hunt

Saturday or Sunday, April 21 or 22; Self-guided

Follow the clues and the map on this self-guided hike around the park to learn about how to care for the Earth. You'll love this self-guided, moderately-difficulty hike that may take 60-90 minutes to complete. Return to the Nature Center to check your answers and receive a prize.

Adults and children 8+

\$2 per person (FREE for ORNCC members)

No registration required.

Frog Songs Night Hike

Saturday, April 28; 7 - 9 p.m.

Enjoy our amphibian chorus and a nearly-full moon on this Spring night hike and learn about why and where our frogs and toads are singing.

Adults and children 5+

\$3 per person (\$2 for ORNCC members)

Advance Registration Required. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Ephemeral Wildflower Walk

Friday, May 4; 1 - 3 p.m.

Join a naturalist-led hike to discover our Spring ephemerals and learn their lore. Dress for the weather and an easy-moderate hike.

Adults

\$2 per person (**FREE** for ORNCC members)

Advance Registration Required. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Rock On! Painted Rocks

Saturday, May 5; 1 - 3 p.m.

Painting and hiding rocks as a play it forward game is the hottest new social media movement. Join us and our friends at Painted Rocks of Maryland for an introduction to the game and create a few rock masterpieces to leave in the park or take with you to enjoy until you find the perfect spot to leave it.

Adults and children 10+

\$5 per person (2 rocks and all supplies included)

Advance Registration Required. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Mother's Day Story, Walk and Tea

Saturday or Sunday, May 12 or 13; 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Does your mother talk to trees? If she does (or if she doesn't), bring her, or the mother in your life, to hear the delightful story, *My Mother Talks to Trees*. We'll follow up with an easy tree walk followed by an outdoor tea party in the Kidd's Nature Pavilion, with tea made from one of our native trees.

All ages

\$5 per person (\$3 for ORNCC members)

Advance Registration Required. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Nature Book Club – The Tide: The Science and Stories Behind the Greatest Force on Earth by Hugh Aldersey-Williams

Monday, May 14; 7 - 8 p.m.

Understand the science of the tides and their effects from the Bay of Fundy to Venice and their growing importance as the planet warms over the coming decades. Light refreshments provided but feel free to bring a snack to share.

Adults

FREE

Advance Registration Appreciated. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Native Plant Swap

Saturday, May 19; 1 – 3 p.m.

It's time to split your native perennials. Bring your extras to the park and trade with others. We'll have identification resources available and would love to talk native plants with you as you trade with others.

All ages, no pets

FREE

No registration required

Spring Campout

Saturday, May 19; 6 p.m. thru Sunday, May 20; 9 a.m.

Pack your bags for a relaxing campout in the comfort of Oregon Ridge Park. Bring your own tent, camping gear and bag dinner; we'll provide the night hike, campfire, s'mores and a light breakfast. We have a limited number of tents available for rent at \$10.

All ages, no pets

\$8 per person (\$4 for ORNCC members)

Advance Registration Required. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council Speaker Series – The View Below: Amazing Sights in Our Everyday Streams

Keith Williams, Executive Director, NorthBay; Author; Underwater Naturalist

Monday, May 21; 7:30 - 9 p.m.

We often perceive that there isn't much to see beneath the surface of our nation's freshwater rivers and streams, but once we look underwater, an amazing world appears. Fish of incredibly diverse colors, shapes and behaviors live in freshwater ecosystems. The underwater world of our rivers and streams is unexpected, largely unnoticed, and amazing! Underwater naturalist Keith Williams shares his adventures of exploring and discovering the underwater world of our mid Atlantic region rivers and streams in this engaging presentation.

Adults

FREE – Donations appreciated. No registration required.

Full Strawberry Moon Night Hike

Saturday, May 26; 7 – 9 p.m.

Join us for a night hike and campfire at the time of the Full Strawberry Moon. Dress for a short, easy hike exploring the park at dusk as the full moon rises. We'll end our hike at the campfire where we'll make strawberry pies over the campfire with our pie irons.

Adults and children 5+

\$4 per person (\$3 for ORNCC members)

Advance Registration Required. 410-887-1815 or info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org

**Oregon Ridge Nature Center is free and open to the public
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday**

Program Registration Information

Unless otherwise noted, advance registration is required for all programs. Payment must be made within 5 business days of your registration, or your spot will be yielded to the waiting list. All payments are donations and non-refundable unless Oregon Ridge Nature Center cancels the program. All programs and events are rain or shine unless a rain date is specified. These programs are designed for individuals and families, not groups. If you would like to arrange a program for a group or an organization, please contact the Park Office Tuesday thru Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Children under 13 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Should you require special accommodations (i.e. language interpreter, large print, etc.) please give as much notice as possible by calling Oregon Ridge Nature Center at 410-887-1815, or the Therapeutic Office at 410-887-5370 (voice) 410-887-5319 (TTD/Deaf).