



# Oregon Ridge Nature Center Winter Calendar 2019/2020

## Annual Pancake Breakfast

at the Oregon Ridge Lodge

**Saturday and Sunday  
March 7 and 8; 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Celebrate the end of the sugar season with us at the Oregon Ridge Lodge for our Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser. Enjoy a stack of hotcakes drizzled with pure maple syrup and served with grilled sausage, orange juice, milk or coffee. There will be raffles and live music along with flower, honey and maple syrup sales.

*Come out and support  
the Oregon Ridge Nature Center  
at our biggest fundraiser of the year!*

**An event for all ages!**

Adults \$8 Children (ages 2 - 8) \$4  
Free for children under the age of 2.

Tickets will be sold at the door,  
no advance registration needed.

*In the event of inclement weather, call the Nature Center  
or check our website and Facebook page for updates.*



## Maple Sugaring Weekends



**Saturdays and Sundays  
February 22, 23, 29 and March 1;  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Join us at the Sugar Shack to learn the magic behind the fascinating process of making maple syrup! Take an invigorating guided hike to the sugar bush to tap a tree for sap. See how the sap is processed with current and antique technology and taste maple syrup and sugar.



- Hikes to the sugar bush leaving from the Sugar Shack on the hour (1/2 to 3/4 mile round trip, not stroller friendly)
- Maple Sugaring movie on the half-hour in the auditorium
- Sugar on the Snow demos at 12:30 and 3:45 p.m. outside the Sugar Shack
- Pure Maple Candy and Syrup will be sold in the Nature Center

**An event for all ages!**

No registration required for individuals and families.  
*Groups of 10 or more must register in advance  
so we can make sure to have adequate staff on hand.*

***A great opportunity to spend some time outside  
in the winter!***

*In the event of inclement weather, call the Nature Center  
or check our website and Facebook page for updates.*

## Holiday Hours

The Nature Center will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.  
The Park is open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Oregon Ridge Park is open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Nature Center is free and open to the public 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday



# Clubs

## 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 ones. We'll have a different nature related theme every week. Outdoor adventures and activities are all part of the fun!

### Upcoming Themes

December 5 – Bears  
December 12 – Rabbits  
December 19 – Squirrels  
December 26 – Animal Tracks  
January 2 – Opossums  
January 9 – Animals in Winter  
January 16 – Owls  
January 23 – Fox and Coyote  
January 30 – Groundhogs  
February 6 – Rocks and Minerals  
February 13 – Clouds  
February 20 – Maple Sugaring  
February 27 – Woodpeckers

Ages 3+

**\$2 per child** No registration required.

## Bookworm Story Time

The first Friday of every month.

Dec. 6, Jan. 3 and Feb. 7; 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. This program is presented in partnership with the Baltimore County Public Library. Please dress for a brief outdoor experience.

Toddler to age 6

**FREE** (donations appreciated)

No registration required.



## Cub Club for Preschoolers – Animals in Winter

Tuesdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28; 10 - 11:30 a.m.

*New Format for Preschoolers!*

*We are now offering a block of four themed classes.*

Come learn about what animals do in the winter! During this four-week series, we will focus on a different animal each week as we hear a story, learn a lesson, share a snack and do an activity.

*Ages 3 - 5 (non-mobile siblings only, adult partner should be an active participant)*

**\$20 for the series (\$16 for ORNCC Members)**

*Advance Registration Required.*

## Dulcimer Workshop

Thursdays, Jan. 9, 16, 23, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 and March 5; 7 - 8:30 p.m.

An old-fashioned dulcimer meet-up and workshop. 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. Workshop will conclude with a performance at the Pancake Breakfast.

*Adults and children 12+*

**\$25 for the series** *Advance Registration Required.*

## Homeschool Nature Days – For the Birds!

Fridays, Jan. 17, 24, 31 and Feb. 7;

Morning Session, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

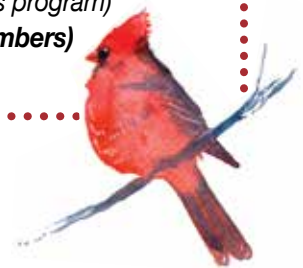
Afternoon Session, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Come join our Homeschool Nature Days series as we take a closer look at our feathered friends. We will explore bird adaptations during the first session and learn about different groups of birds at the three other sessions.

*Children ages 6 - 13 (parents are welcome to stay but we are not able to accommodate siblings for this program)*

**\$20 for the series (\$16 for ORNCC Members)**

*Advance Registration Required.*



## Handmade for the Holidays: Recycled Greeting Cards

Sunday, Dec. 1; 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join us as we kick off the holiday season by listening to holiday songs and sipping hot chocolate as we upcycle last year's holiday cards and turn them into new handmade cards. All supplies provided to make 6 cards. Participants will take home their creations to share with friends and family.

*Adults and children 16+*

**\$5 per person (\$3 for ORNCC Members)**

## Holiday Wreath Making

Saturday, Dec. 7 or Sunday, Dec. 8; 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Welcome the holidays with a fresh evergreen wreath. Cost includes all material required to make a wreath. Bring clippers and gloves if you have them.

*Adults and children 16+*

**\$15 per person (\$10 for ORNCC Members)**

## ORNC Council Holiday Open House

Friday, Dec. 13; 6 - 8 p.m.

Come celebrate the holiday season at our Annual Members' Holiday Open House. Enjoy live music and spread good cheer! You can also make natural ornaments and treats for the birds! Bring your family, friends and a plate of goodies to share.

**FREE** *Advance registration appreciated.*

## Natural Ornaments

Saturday, Dec. 14 and Sunday, Dec. 15; 12 - 3 p.m.

Decorate for the holidays the natural way. We'll have the examples and natural material on hand for participants to choose from to create their own natural ornament to take home! **Register in advance then drop-in anytime between 12 - 3 p.m.**

*Adults and children 5+*

**\$2 per person (2 ornaments)**

## Trim a Tree for Wildlife

Saturday, Dec. 21 or Sunday, Dec. 22; 1 - 3 p.m.

Join us in trimming a tree on the grounds at Oregon Ridge for our furred and feathered friends. Afterwards, we'll enjoy hot apple cider and toast marshmallows around the campfire.

Adults and children 4+

**\$5 per person (\$3 for ORNCC Members)**

## Winter Solstice Night Hike and Campfire

Saturday, Dec. 21; 6 - 8 p.m.

Come share the warmth of the campfire on the darkest day of the year. We'll tell tales, make lanterns (one per family) to light our way on a short hike and enjoy hot chocolate and marshmallows at the campfire as we celebrate the winter season.

Adults and children 4+

**\$5 per person (\$3 for ORNCC Members)**

## Holiday Hike

Saturday, Dec. 28 or Sunday, Dec. 29; 10 - 11 a.m.

Feeling the drag of those extra holiday calories? Join a naturalist for a moderate nature hike over varied terrain to get fresh air, exercise and enjoy the signs of the season. Please dress for the weather and wear footwear appropriate for hiking.

All ages **\$2 per person (FREE for ORNCC Members)**

## Critters Up Close

Every Saturday and Sunday in January; 1 - 2 p.m.

Join us for a naturalist's choice animal encounter and activity. Activities may include a story, craft or related outdoor exploration. Check our Facebook events tab starting in late December for themes and details.

All ages **\$3 per person (FREE for ORNCC Members)**

## Winter Night Hike

Friday, Jan. 10; 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Join us on a nighttime adventure to discover what critters do after dark under a full moon, then warm up with a hot drink in the Nature Center.

Adults and children 6+

**\$5 per person (\$3 for ORNCC Members)**



## Wake Up Groundhog!

Saturday, Feb. 1 or Sunday, Feb. 2; 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Is winter over yet? Has the groundhog woken up! Learn the lore and natural history related to one of the few true hibernators in Maryland. Dress for a short hike to see where they may be hiding out and see what other critters are doing in early February.

Adults and children 5+

**\$3 per person (\$2 for ORNCC Members)**

## Trail Guide Training

Tuesday, Feb. 4 thru Thursday, Feb. 6; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Nature Center is in need of volunteers to help with school field trips. Trail Guide Volunteers lead small groups of students around the park for a hands-on experience. No minimum time commitments. This season's topics include Maple Sugaring, Insects and the Chesapeake Bay.

Adults

**\$20 for first time attendees**

## Nature Book Club

### Mind of the Raven: Investigations Adventures with Wolf-Birds

Monday, Jan. 6; 7 - 8 p.m.

Bernd Heinrich involves us in his quest to get inside the mind of the raven as he adopts ravens, thereby becoming a "raven father," observing them in their natural habitat. At the heart of this book are Heinrich's love and respect for these creatures. Through his keen observation and analysis, we too become their intimates.

### Never Cry Wolf: Amazing True Story of Life Among Arctic Wolves

Monday, Feb. 24; 7 - 8 p.m.

Over a half-century ago the Canadian Wildlife Service assigned Farley Mowat to investigate why wolves were killing caribou. His account of the summer he lived in the tundra – studying and developing an affection for wolves and an Inuit tribe – is a work cherished by generations, an indelible record of the myths and magic of wild wolves.

Adults **FREE** Advance Registration Appreciated



## Let's Make Tracks!

Saturday, Feb. 8 or Sunday, Feb. 9; 1 - 3 p.m.

Animals leave clues in nature that tell a story. Hit the trails with a naturalist as we look for tracks and scat to find out what animals are around in the winter. Then head back to the Nature Center to create a track story to take home.

Adults and children 4+  
**\$3 per person (\$2 for ORNCC Members)**

## Owl You Need is Love! Night Hike and Campfire

Saturday, Feb. 8; 7 - 9 p.m.

Bring your loved ones to a fun-filled evening celebrating winter's romantics, the owls! We'll learn about native owls, meet our resident owls then head out to see if we can call in any owls along the trails. We'll end the night around the campfire with s'mores.

Adults and children 6+

**\$5 per person (\$3 for ORNCC Members)**

## Birds of a Feather...

Saturday, Feb. 15 or Sunday, Feb. 16; 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Flock to Oregon Ridge Nature Center for the Great Backyard Bird Count! Bring your binoculars (or borrow a pair of ours) and join a naturalist to learn about winter birds. Participants will head out into the park to search for our feathered friends.

Adults and children 4+

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

Please call to register!

Unless otherwise noted all programs require advance registration. Some programs will fill, in which case, walk-in guests cannot be accommodated.

Register via phone or email – 410-887-1815 or [info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org](mailto:info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org)







## Maryland Master Naturalist Volunteer Training

Mondays, March 16 - May 18; 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

*Become a Maryland Master Naturalist Volunteer this Spring!*

The University of Maryland Extension created this program and Oregon Ridge Nature Center is a host site for the Piedmont Region. Participants complete 60 hours of hands-on learning in natural history, environmental interpretation and conservation stewardship with expert instructors. Final certification is awarded following 40-hours of volunteer service at Oregon Ridge Nature Center. To apply, stop by the Nature Center for an application or visit the Maryland Master Naturalist website at <https://extension.umd.edu/masternaturalist> (see Piedmont Region link, middle right side of page) Class size is limited, applications will be accepted until the class fills. Application review and interview scheduling will start in January.

Adults **\$250 Application Required**

For more information contact Jessica Jeannetta  
410-887-1815 or [jjeannetta@BaltimoreCountyMD.gov](mailto:jjeannetta@BaltimoreCountyMD.gov)

## ORNCC Speaker Series



### Enjoying the Outdoors Safely in the Age of Lyme Disease

**Dr. John Aucott, Director of the Johns Hopkins Lyme Disease Clinical Research Center and chair of the federal Tick-borne Disease Working Group**

Monday, January 20; 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Dr. Aucott, an international authority in the management of tick-borne disease, will discuss the latest information on preventing and managing Lyme and other tick-borne illnesses in Maryland. The risk of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases will be discussed. Ways to prevent tick bites will be highlighted as well as how to enjoy the outdoors safely. This presentation is a must for those who enjoy gardening and other outdoor activities.

Adults **FREE No registration required.**

## Public Program Registration Procedures

All programs require advance registration unless otherwise noted. To register, email [info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org](mailto:info@OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org) or call **410-887-1815**. We'll need the names of everyone attending, the ages of children, an email address and phone number. **Payment must be made within one week of registration.** Unpaid spots will be yielded to the wait list. Checks should be made payable to: ORNCC and mailed to 13555 Beaver Dam Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030.

All programs and events are rain or shine unless a rain date is specified. All payments are considered donations and are non-refundable unless Oregon Ridge Nature Center cancels the program. Children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Programs are for individuals and their immediate families and are not intended for groups. **Groups may schedule programs by calling 410-887-1815.**

For 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 401-887-5370 (voice) 410-887-5319 (TTD/Deaf).

## Become a member of the Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council

A non-profit, volunteer organization  
dedicated to enhancing the enjoyment of nature.

Join online at [www.OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org](http://www.OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org)



13555 Beaver Dam Road • Cockeysville, MD 21030  
**410-887-1815**  
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Keep in touch!

