



WEST VIRGINIA
**state
parks**

BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Sunday, March 30, 2025

9:00 a.m. Phenology Sunday– The study of seasons and how things change. Join a naturalist at the overlook each week as we use our eyes and ears to keep track of birds, mammals, plants and more as they make their appearance. Feel free to bring binoculars and a camera.

11:00 a.m. Friendship Bracelet Craft with recreation attendant. No Fee.

1:30 p.m. Owls of West Virginia– Join the seasonal naturalist for this presentation open to all ages about owls found in the mountain state. Presentation qualifies for the Junior Naturalist patch program. Presentation is about one hour.

Monday, March 31, 2025

10:00 a.m. Fur-real– Join a naturalist as we learn about our native West Virginia mammals and how they survive in the wild. Opportunity to touch real furs during presentation. Presentation qualifies for the Junior Naturalist patch program. All ages are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

10:00 a.m. Fossils- Join the recreation attendant to hear about the creation of fossils and a plaster of Paris craft. Please note: drying time for craft can be lengthily depending on various elements including humidity and temperature. Presentation is about 45 minutes and qualifies for the junior Naturalist patch program. All ages are welcome to attend this presentation. Optional craft has a fee of \$2.00

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

10:00 a.m. Birding Basics– Join a naturalist to learn the basics of birdwatching through activities and watching birdfeeders while enjoying a cup of coffee or hot chocolate. Presentation qualifies for the Junior Naturalist patch program. All ages are welcome to attend.

1:00 p.m. The Resilient Forest– Join the staff for this film that documents the settlement, early history, industrialization, folklife, recreation, conservation and forestry practices that have formed the cultural identity of residents of the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area. Film is NR. Film is about one hour. Film qualifies for the Junior Naturalist patch program. All ages are welcome to attend.

Thursday, April 3, 2025

10:00 a.m. Phenology Stroll- The study of seasons and how things change. Join a naturalist at the overlook as we use our eyes and ears to keep track of birds, mammals, plants and more as they make their appearance throughout the year. Feel free to bring binoculars and a camera. Hike qualifies for the Junior Naturalist program. All ages are welcome to attend this hike. Hike is less than one mile on relatively level ground.

11:30 a.m.– Green Scavenger Hunt– Pick up the list from the staff then do your best to find all the green things and snap a photo on your phone to report back to the nature center before 3 pm to receive a small prize.

1:00 p.m. Rise of Mammals– Join the staff for this film about how the course of Earth changed drastically in a single day that ended the age of dinosaurs and launched our age of Mammals. Film is NR and approximately one hour.

Friday, April 4, 2025

11:30 a.m. Budding Naturalist– Amphibian and Craft Join the recreation attendant for film about amphibians and learn about this group then create a “stained glass” amphibian craft. Film NR. Presentation qualifies for the Junior Naturalist patch program. Presentation designed for children to age six, however, All ages are welcome to attend. Free craft.

1:00 p.m. Reptile Rendezvous– Join a naturalist to meet and greet our nature center snakes while learning about West Virginia snakes. Presentation qualifies for the Junior Naturalist patch program. All ages are welcome to attend. Presentation is about one hour.

2:30 p.m. Ants: Little creatures Who Run the World– Join the staff for this film about must successful life forms on the planet. Film qualifies for the Junior Naturalist patch program. All ages are welcome to attend. Film is about one hour.

Harold Walters Nature Center Open Daily

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Nature Store is 10 am to 3:30 p.m.

(unless otherwise noted)

Hours subject to change at discretion of park naturalist without prior notice due to unforeseen circumstances

almost heaven

Saturday, April 5, 2025

8:00 a.m. Wetland Habitat Birding with Laura– Join volunteer birder and master naturalist, Laura, for this stroll along park trails and/or roadways through a mix of wetlands, upland woodlands, shrubs and coniferous forest. What birds will we see or hear? Dress for the weather. Sturdy shoes and binoculars encouraged but not required. Hike qualifies for the Junior naturalist patch program. All ages are welcome to attend. Packing a bottle of water and perhaps a sealed snack recommended.

10:00 a.m. Bees and Candle Craft– Join the seasonal naturalist for his presentation about the state insect and native bees while creating a tin candle. Craft fee is \$4.00. Presentation qualifies for the Junior Naturalist patch program. All ages are welcome to attend.

1:00 p.m. Ramps– The Nature Center may have a pungent odor as volunteer, Beverly, gives a presentation about this West Virginia popular springtime delicacy and introduces how to cook a popular meal of potatoes and ramps.

Sunday, April 6, 2025

10:00 a.m. Phenology Stroll- The study of seasons and how things change. Join a naturalist at the overlook as we use our eyes and ears to keep track of birds, mammals, plants and more as they make their appearance throughout the year. Feel free to bring binoculars and a camera. Hike qualifies for the Junior Naturalist program. All ages are welcome to attend this hike. Hike is less than one mile on relatively level ground.

1:00 p.m. Habitats and Craft– Join the seasonal naturalist and recreation attendant as they discusses habitats and what habitats may be found at Blackwater Falls while you create your own habitat plate. No Fee for this program. Presentation qualifies for the Junior Naturalist patch program. All ages are welcome to attend the presentation.

2:30 p.m. Ravens– Join the staff for this hour long film about one of the most intelligent birds. Film qualifies for the Junior Naturalist patch program. All ages are welcome to attend.

Monday, April 7, 2025

1:00 p.m. Bone Detective– Join a naturalist to “bone up” on your detective skills while exploring skulls, etc. About 45 minutes. Qualifies for junior Naturalist patch program. All ages are welcome to attend.

2:30 p.m. Coywolf- Join the staff for this hour long film about this mixture of western coyote and eastern wolf. Film qualifies for the Junior Naturalist patch program. All ages are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

11:00 a.m. Sands of Time– Join the recreation attendant to hear about the geology of Blackwater Falls and West Virginia. Presentation is about 45 minutes and qualifies for the junior Naturalist patch program. All ages are welcome to attend this presentation. Optional craft has a fee of \$2.00

1:00 p.m. Crows– Join the staff for a film about one of the most intelligent animals in the world. NR. Film qualifies for the Junior Naturalist patch program. Film open to all ages to watch.

• All Programs meet at the Harold Walters Nature Center unless otherwise specified in description.



Plan to arrive five minutes early for programs. A late arrival or no show may result in cancellation of program.

Keep Pets physically leashed while enjoying the park. Activities that are pet Friendly indicated in description. See Park Rules and Regulations about length of leash.

Protect the environment and yourself by staying on designated blazed trails. Building or constructing unauthorized trails or simply walking off trail harms the landscape and wildlife that call the area home. Avoid short cuts and social trails that are not on the park map or blazed.

It is suggested to walk with a partner, carry water and perhaps an individually wrapped snack. Carry the 5 c's. Don't know what the 5 c's are then ask at the Nature Center.

Be observant of adjacent private property or Monongahela Forest Property lines while hiking.

Children ages 12 and under need to be accompanied by an adult on programs.

While walking on park roads a person should be facing oncoming traffic. While biking on park roads a person should ride with the flow of traffic and use hand signals. Bikers yield to hikers on trails. All yield to equestrians where they are permitted in some parks.

Nature Center 304-259-5511

YOUR FOOTSTEPS MATTER!

SOCIAL TRAILS ARE HARMFUL! Stay on Existing Blazed Trails. If there is no blaze then it's not a park trail and you should stay off this path to save the environment and it's inhabitants. Use the park trail map

Meet our Staff



• All Activities meet at Harold Walters Nature Center unless



PAULITA, NAI/CIG

Young People for Parks Program (YPP)

Program listed as YPP is *open to all ages* but qualifies to meet the youth requirements to earn the YPP patch: To Earn the patch

(1) you must be age 6-16 years (2) Attend Three of the Blackwater Falls State Park activities listed as YPP qualified (3) Complete the brochure and Meet with us at the Nature Center to retrieve your patch. *Exclusive at Blackwater Falls State Park*–

The Rattlesnake Pin ask at Harold Walters Nature Center how your child can earn this unique Pin.

Since 1978, the Harold Walters Nature Center has been educating & facilitating environmental education through the park's vast natural resources by offering a variety of free to low cost programs designed to assist visitors to learn more about the natural world.

Naturalist staff may also be available to conduct programs for school groups and organized groups at the park or nearby community Call 304-259-5511 for more information

CHECK OUT OUR KIDS EXPLORATION BACKPACK

The individual borrowing the Exploration Tool kit will be responsible for picking up and dropping off this resource at Harold Walters Nature Center during regular business hours of nature center.