



BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Friday, September 12, 2025

1:00 pm. Keeping Dark Skies Dark - There is a solution to light pollution... and it's you! Learn why dark skies matter, what you can do to help, and how Blackwater Falls State Park is making changes as part of our dark skies initiative. **YPP**

2:00 pm. Leaf-A-Long Walk - Join the Summer Naturalist to creep into Fall along Balsam Fir Trail. Learn a little bit about tree identification while enjoying the first hints of Fall colors. Trail is rocky and root-strewn in places with a few short, but steep elevation gains. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. This is a 1.5 mile loop that begins and ends at the Nature Center. A little over an hour long. **YPP**

Saturday, September 13, 2025

11:00 am. Bats! - Are bats really as blind as we think they are? Join the Seasonal Naturalist to learn all about these flying mammals, including what kinds of bats can be found in West Virginia. Includes a free craft. **YPP**

1:00 pm. Watercolors and Leaves - Join the Nature Center staff to get creative with watercolor paints and crayons to make some leaf-themed artwork. Free craft. **YPP**

1:30 pm. Nature Documentary - Trees - How do trees talk to each other? Where can you find a tree older than the pyramids? Join us to learn some amazing facts about trees. 35 minutes long. Not rated. **YPP**

Sunday, September 14, 2025

10:00 am. Bird Walk - Join a naturalist at the Sled Run parking area to spend the morning looking and listening for birds. Enter the forest on Shay Trace Trail and return via the slope of the sledding hill. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Some loaner binoculars may be available. Walking of about a mile. Around an hour. **YPP**

11:00 am. Suncatchers - Join the Nature Center staff to make a colorful suncatcher to take home. Paint either a leaf or a googly-eyed critter. Craft fee is \$2.00.

1:00 pm. Who Hibernates? - Join the Nature Center staff to explore our animal display and see if you can name all the West Virginia animals that hibernate. Which ones migrate? Which animals are active all winter long? **YPP**

Monday, September 15, 2025

No Naturalist On Duty

11:00 am. Amphibian Craft and Movie - Join the Nature Center staff to make a "stained glass" salamander craft. After that, stick around for a 35 minute documentary all about frogs, toads, and salamanders. Film is not rated. **YPP**

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

No Naturalist On Duty

11:00 am. Nature Documentary - Animal Homes - Join us for this three-part series looks at how animals around the globe build their homes. From bird nest and bear dens to beaver lodges and spider webs. The first of 3 one hour-long episodes will begin at 11 am, with the other episodes to follow. Rated G. **YPP**

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

11:30 am. Mini Birdhouse Craft - Join the Nature Center attendant for this easy-to-assemble craft. The kits all slot together, although a little glue helps. Paint it up and take it home. Several designs to choose from. Craft fee is \$2.00.

September 18 - 20, 2025

Astronomy Weekend at Blackwater Falls State Park

Workshops and guest speakers will take place in the Harr Conference Center at Blackwater Falls Lodge and nightly star parties will take place at the Harold Walters Nature Center.

This event is hosted by the Kanawha Valley Astronomical Society. Check their website for more information or find the schedule in the Conference Center.

Thursday, September 18, 2025

2:00 pm. Owls of West Virginia - Join the Seasonal Naturalist for a presentation all about these flying nocturnal predators. Participants may dissect an owl pellet during the program for the cost of \$2.00. Supplies are limited. **YPP**

Dark - Star Party - Join members of the Kanawha Valley Astronomical Society in the Nature Center parking area for an evening of star gazing. There is no formal program to be presented, but feel free to ask the participants any astronomy-related questions you might have. Open to the public. After dark, out of courtesy to our astronomers, please enter and exit the parking lot with only the parking lights of your vehicle.

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Friday, September 19, 2025

10:00 am. Elakala Trail Walk - Meet a park naturalist in the lobby of the Blackwater Falls Lodge. This loop hike of just over a mile will include Elakala Trail and parts of Balanced Rock and Shay Trace Trails. Trail is uneven, very rocky, and root-strewn in places. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. This hike will take a little over an hour, with short interpretive stops along the way. **YPP**

12:30 pm. Astronomy Weekend Welcome Reception - Takes place in the Harr Conference Center. Guest speakers to follow.

2:00 pm. Shaving Cream Art! - Join the Nature Center staff for an exciting and interesting craft that uses watercolors and shaving cream to print colorful designs on paper. Great for turning into a card. Craft fee is \$1.00. Come make a masterpiece! **YPP**

7:00 pm. Evening Along the Lake - Join the Seasonal Naturalist to walk along Pendleton Lake looking and listening for birds, beavers, and more. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. About 1/2 mile. Around an hour. **YPP**

Dark - Star Party - Join members of the Kanawha Valley Astronomical Society in the Nature Center parking area for an evening of star gazing. There is no formal program to be presented, but feel free to ask the participants any astronomy-related questions you might have. Open to the public. After dark, out of courtesy to our astronomers, please enter and exit the parking lot with only the parking lights of your vehicle.

Saturday, September 20, 2025

9:00 am. Astronomy Events Begin in the Harr Conference Center

10:00 am. Easy Bird Walk - Join the Summer Naturalist at the Nature Center to locate some of our feathered friends. Some loaner binoculars may be available if you don't have your own. Look and listen for birds around the Nature Center, at Pendleton Lake, and along park roads. Mostly level surfaces, easy walking up to a mile. About an hour. **YPP**

1:00 pm. Weather Window Craft and Movie - Join the Nature Center attendant to learn about clouds while making a weather window then watch a 35 minute long film all about the weather. Film is not rated. **YPP**

2:00 pm. Meet Our Turtles! - Join the Nature Center staff to learn all about turtles. During the program you will meet our educational animal ambassadors and learn their stories. Program will begin with a free, fun turtle craft. **YPP**

Young People For Parks
is a junior naturalist program for youth aged 6 to 16.
Ask for more information at the
Harold Walters Nature Center

YPP in description indicates a qualifying activity.



- 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 may effect your participation in activity. A no show within seven minutes of start time may cancel activity.
- Pets should be physically leashed while enjoying the park. Activities that are pet Friendly are 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. Not all trails found online or in books are official trails. Use the park trail map

Meet our Staff



BLAINE



KENNY, NAI/CIG



PAULITA, NAI/CIG

- All Activities meet at Harold Walters Nature Center unless otherwise noted in description.



BRUCE



VICTOR

**Harold Walters Nature Center
Open Daily**

10:00 am to 4:30 pm

Nature Store is 10 am to 4:00 pm.

(subject to change at discretion of park naturalist)

CHECK OUT OUR KIDS EXPLORATION BACKPACK

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

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



BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Continued

6:00 pm. Flora of the Picnic Area Walk - Meet the Seasonal Naturalist at the Picnic Area central parking lot to explore the trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants of Blackwater Falls State Park. Easy walking of less than 1/2 mile along the park roads. About an hour. The picnic is on the north side of the park and runs between The Blackwater Trading Company and the campground entrance. **YPP**

Dark - Star Party - Join members of the Kanawha Valley Astronomical Society in the Nature Center parking area for an evening of star gazing. There is no formal program to be presented, but feel free to ask the participants any astronomy-related questions you might have. Open to the public. After dark, out of courtesy to our astronomers, please enter and exit the parking lot with only the parking lights of your vehicle.

Sunday, September 21, 2025

11:00 am. - Digging Up the Past:

Pre-historic Amber - Join the Nature Center attendant to learn all about amber. What is it? How old is it? Where is it found? Can you really get dinosaur DNA from amber? Polish a piece to take home with you for \$3.00. Getting your piece of amber to look good will take some perseverance and elbow grease. **YPP**

1:00 pm. Amazing Insects Craft - Join the Summer Naturalist to learn what makes an insect an insect while we make a fantastic glowing firefly craft. Craft fee is \$3.00. **YPP**

Monday, September 22, 2025

No Naturalist On Duty

11:00 am. Documentary Film - Day the Dinosaurs Died - Join the Nature Center staff for this film that pieces together a chillingly precise unfolding of the Earth's biggest cataclysm, moment by moment. About 1 hour long. Not rated. **YPP**

1:00 pm. Documentary Film - Rise of the Mammals - Join us for this film that look into how the mass extinction that ended the Age of the Dinosaurs made way for new lifeforms to inhabit a forever changed world. About 1 hour long. Not rated. **YPP**

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

No Naturalist On Duty

1:00 pm. Documentary Film - Bears - Look into the lives of bears across the globe and find out what it really takes to be a bear. About an hour long. Not rated. **YPP**

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

No Activities Scheduled

Nature Center is Open 10:00 am to 4:30 pm.

September 26 - 28, 2025

Leaf Peepers Festival

Events throughout Tucker County. For more information go to WVALPINEFESTIVAL.COM

Blackwater Falls State Park and the Harold Walters Nature Center will have activities scheduled throughout the weekend. See next week's schedule for an updated list of programs.

Saturday, September 27, 2025

10:00 am. National Public Lands Day Hike - Join a naturalist or two for this 1.5 mile long walk along Shay Trace and Cherry Lane Trails. Wear sturdy shoes, dress for the weather, and bring water and a snack if you'd like. Expect the hike to last about 90 minutes as we explore this mixed Northern Hardwood forest, making short interpretive stops along the way. Hike meets at the Sled Run parking area. **YPP**

7:00 pm. Murder Mystery Dinner - Join us at Blackwater Falls Lodge for an evening of interactive entertainment presented by Murder Mystery Will Travel of Winchester, Virginia. Doors will open at 6 pm and the show will begin at 7pm. Ticket price includes buffet dinner, all taxes, and gratuity. Menu includes pot roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, herb roasted chicken, and vegetable medley. Advance ticket purchase is required. For more information call the Nature Center at 304-259-5511.

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Harold Walters Nature Center | 164 Pendleton Lake Road | Davis, WV 26260-0490 | ph. (304) 259-5511
| fax (304) 259-5881 BlackwaterFallsSP@wv.gov