



BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Saturday, January 17, 2026

10:00 am. Evergreen Plants Walk - Join a Naturalist for a walk around the nature center and Pendleton Lake to discover some of our native evergreen plants. About an hour, 1 mile walking. **YPP**

11:00 am. Silly Suncatcher Craft - Join the Nature Center staff to make a googly-eyed animal suncatcher. Craft fee is \$2.00.

1:00 pm. Meet the Woodland Box Turtle - Join the Nature Center staff to learn all about one of West Virginia's most common turtles. Make your own turtle craft and meet Leonardo, one of our educational animal ambassadors. **YPP**

2:00 pm. Backbone Bonanza! - Learn all about the different groups of animals that have backbones while making this fun, hands-on craft with the naturalist. **YPP**

3:00 pm. Sloths of West Virginia? - Join the naturalist to learn how a group of mysterious bones found in a cave lead to new scientific discoveries and became West Virginia's State Fossil. **YPP**

Sunday, January 18, 2026

11:00 am. All About Snowflakes - Join the Seasonal Naturalist to look into the fascinating formation of ice crystals that fall to the earth. Try your hand at making a scientifically accurate snowflake. **YPP**

1:00 pm. Fur- Real! - Join the naturalist to look at all the different purposes an animal's fur might serve. Get a chance to touch some real animal pelts during the program. **YPP**

2:00 pm. Nature Documentary - Bears - Join the Nature Center staff for this film that looks into the lives of all eight bears species, their habits, habitats, and survival strategies. About an hour. Not rated. **YPP**

Monday, January 19, 2026

11:00 am. Spruce, Hemlock, Fir, or Pine? - Learn some basic tree identification with the Seasonal Naturalist. Get the inside information on the evergreen trees of Blackwater Falls. **YPP**

1:00 pm. Winter Constellations and Stargazing - Join the Seasonal Naturalist for an introduction to looking at the night skies this winter. Get familiar with some of the easier to find constellations and the stars that make them up. **YPP**

2:00 pm. Owls of West Virginia - Join the naturalist to learn all about the owls that make their homes in West Virginia and find out which ones can be found at Blackwater Falls State Park. **YPP**

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

1:00 pm - Using Nature Apps - Join the Summer Naturalist to learn how to be the best citizen scientist you can be using just your phone. **YPP**

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 - Thursday, January 22, 2026

Nature Center open 10:00 am to 4:30 pm.

No Activities Scheduled

Friday, January 23, 2026

10:00 am. Bird Sit - Enjoy some birdwatching with the nature center staff. Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate may be available! **YPP**

1:30 pm. Parts of a Tree Craft - Geared toward younger children, but fun for all ages. Make a tree outline by tracing your hand, then give it everything a tree needs to be a tree using construction paper, glue, and scissors. **YPP**

2:00 pm. Nature Documentary - Trees - This film roots out the most amazing facts about these silent sentinels of our hectic planet. About 35 minutes. Not rated. **YPP**

Saturday, January 24, 2026

10:00 am. Bird Sit - Enjoy some birdwatching with the nature center staff. Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate may be available! **YPP**

11:00 am. Morning Along the Lake - Meet a member of the nature center staff for a short walk along the shores of Pendleton Lake to look for signs of wildlife. We'll keep our eyes peeled for Bald Eagles, waterfowl, beavers, and more. About an hour. Less than 1 mile. **YPP**

1:00 pm. Digging up the Past: Prehistoric Amber - Join the nature center attendant for a presentation about geology and what clues it gives us about the Earth's past. During the program, clean and polish a piece of ancient amber. It will take some persistence to get it to a high polish. \$3.00 materials fee. **YPP**

2:00 pm. Miniature Bird House Craft - Build and decorate your own decorative mini bird house. Several styles to chose from. No tools necessary. Craft fee is \$2.00.

Sunday, January 25, 2026

10:30 am. History and Hot Cocoa - Grab a cup of coffee or hot cocoa compliments of the nature center and learn all about the Blackwater Falls area from before recorded history to the present. **YPP**

11:30 - Documentary Film - The Resilient Forest - Join the nature center staff for this film that documents the settlement, early history, industrialization, folklife, recreation, conservation and forestry practices that shaped the cultural identity of the people of Appalachia. About 1 hour. Not rated. **YPP**

1:00 pm. The Fungal Kingdom - Join the Seasonal Naturalist to learn about some commonly collected mushrooms found in West Virginia and the Appalachian region. **YPP**

almost heaven.

Monday, January 26, 2026

11:00 am. Nature Documentary - The Private Life of Deer - We have an abundance of these critters at Blackwater Falls. Learn why they do so well in such close proximity to humans and how they adapt to different environments.

About an hour. Not rated. YPP

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 - Thursday, January 29, 2026

Nature Center open 10:00 am to 4:30 pm.

No Activities Scheduled

Friday, January 30, 2026

10:00 am. Bird Sit - Enjoy some birdwatching with the nature center staff. Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate may be available! YPP

1:00 pm. Nature Documentary - The Snowy Owl - Join us for this film about this iconic owl from the Arctic. About an hour. Not rated. YPP

Saturday, January 31, 2026

10:00 am. Bird Sit - Enjoy some birdwatching with the nature center staff. Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate may be available! YPP

11:00 am. Paper Plate Habitat Craft - Join the naturalist to learn about the different places that animals might live while you make a moveable habitat scene. YPP

1:00 pm. Into the Woods: Balsam Fir Trail - Join a Naturalist for this 1.5 mile loop hike that begins and ends at the nature center. Trail is rocky and root-strewn in places and has a few short, but steep elevation changes. Wear sturdy

shoes and dress for the weather.
About 70- 90 minutes long. YPP

2:00 pm. "Stained Glass" Amphibian Craft and Movie - Create your own imitation stained glass amphibian with the nature center attendant and watch a short documentary all about frogs, toads, and salamanders. Younger children may require adult assistance with this craft. YPP

Sunday, February 1, 2026

In Observation of Groundhog Day...

10:30 am. Who's Hibernating? - Join the Seasonal Naturalist to explore the nature center taxidermy collection and learn how each of these native animals survives the West Virginia winter.

YPP

...plus...

1:00 pm. Rodents of Unusual Size!

...and...

2:00 pm. Movie Time!!!

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.

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 its inhabitants. Not all trails found online or in books are official trails. Use the park trail map

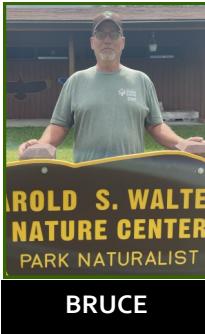
Meet our Staff



BLAINE



KENNY, NAI/CIG



BRUCE



VICTOR

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 all items and picking up and dropping off this resource at Harold Walters Nature Center during operational hours of nature center.

Harold Walters Nature Center Open Daily

10:00 am to 4:30 pm

Nature Store: 10 am to 4:00 pm.

(subject to change at discretion of park naturalist)