



# BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

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**

**1:00 pm. Rodents of Unusual Size!** - Join the Seasonal Naturalist to learn about the largest rodents found in the State of West Virginia and which large rodents live at Blackwater Falls State Park. **YPP**

**2:00 pm. Movie Time! - Groundhog Day** - Get warm by the fire and watch this classic movie about a tv weatherman who finds himself stuck in a small town and is forced to relive the same day over and over. Rated PG. Runtime is 101 minutes.

Monday, February 2, 2026

**Happy Groundhog Day!**

**1:00 pm. Nature Documentary - A Squirrel's Guide to Success** - Did you know that a fox squirrel can remember the location of 9,000 nuts? Join us for this look into the amazing abilities of squirrels. Not rated. About 55 minutes. **YPP**

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 - Thursday, February 5, 2026

**Nature Center Open 10:00 am to 4:30 pm.**  
No Activities Scheduled

Friday, February 6, 2026

**11:00 am. Nature Documentary - Season of the Osprey** - This film follows a pair of Ospreys for an entire summer as they fend off enemies, catch hundreds of fish, and raise their chicks. Not rated. About 55 minutes. **YPP**

**1:00 pm. 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**

**2:00 pm. Frog Craft** - Learn a little bit about frogs and toads while making a clothespin frog craft. **YPP**

Saturday, February 7, 2026

**9:00 am. First Saturday Bird Walk** - Join park volunteer Laura for easy walking along park roads and trails while keeping your eyes and ears open for wildlife. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them. **YPP**

**10:30 am. Bird Trivia** - Join the Nature Center staff for some bird-related fun and games. Test your knowledge of our feathered wildlife. Maybe even play some bird feeder bingo. **YPP**

**1:00 pm. Sssnakes!!!** - Join the Naturalists to learn about the different snakes that can be found in West Virginia. How many species of snakes do you think live here? How many are venomous? Maybe you'll get to meet one of our Nature Center reptile ambassadors at the end of the program! **YPP**

**2:00 pm. "Mosaic" Reptile Craft** - Have fun and get creative making a mosaic-style reptile with dried beans, peas, and lentils. Fun for all ages. **YPP**

Sunday, February 8, 2026

**11:00 am. Paracord Craft** - Join the Seasonal Naturalist to make your own paracord "survival" bracelet. You know, just in case. Craft fee is \$1.00.

**1:00 pm. Critter of the Day - The Beaver** - Join the Seasonal Naturalist to learn about this master engineer of the animal world, including how they survive the winter when their pond is frozen. **YPP**

**2:00 pm. Nature Documentary - Beavers** - Set in the pristine forests and lakes in the heart of the Canadian Rockies, this film follows the lives of a family of beavers as they grow, play, and transform the world around them. Not rated. About and hour. **YPP**

*almost heaven.*

Monday, February 9, 2026 -  
Wednesday, February 11, 2026

**Nature Center Open 10:00 am to 4:30 pm.**  
No Activities Scheduled

Thursday, February 12, 2026

**1:00 pm. A Little Local History** - Stop in to learn what the Blackwater Falls area was like 100 years ago and how it has changed over the years. **YPP**

Friday, February 13, 2026

**1:00 pm. Bat Craft** - Learn a little about bats while making this educational paper bat craft. Ask the Naturalist about the bats that can be found in the area. **YPP**

**2:00pm. Critter of the Day : The Eastern Coyote** - Join the Summer Naturalist to learn about this highly adaptable predator and how it has greatly expanded its historic range from west to east. **YPP**

Saturday, February 14, 2026

**10:00 am. Sweethearts Nature Stroll** - Meet at the Nature Center for this walk to Pendleton Point and back. Less than 1 mile, about an hour. A great chance to get a selfie with your sweetie overlooking Blackwater Canyon. All participants will receive a West Virginia State Parks hiking stick medallion. **YPP**

**11:00 am. Make a Mason Bee House** - Help out our native pollinators by making a home for bees. Craft fee is \$3.00. **YPP**

**1:00 pm. Critter of the Day: The Virginia Opossum** - Join the Summer Naturalist to learn all about this amazing odd-ball of a creature, the only one of its kind in North America. **YPP**

**2:00 pm. What's in a Wetland?** - Learn about some of the plants and animals that depend on wetlands as you make a moveable marsh scene craft. Maybe try some wetland trivia. **YPP**

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Saturday, February 28, 2026

**13th Annual Cardboard and Duct Tape Sled Race**

**This Year's Theme is 1980s Rock Bands!**

Registration and Sled Inspections will begin at 9 am. Safety briefing and instructions will be at 10 am, with race to follow.

#### 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

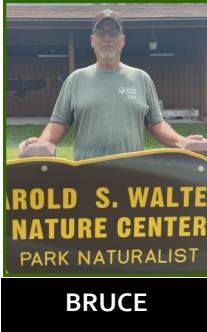
## Meet our Staff



**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)*