



BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Friday, July 17, 2026

11:00 am. Paper Plate Habitat Craft - You decide where the animals might live as you construct an interactive habitat. ☀

12:00 pm. Nature Film - On the Wings of a Monarch - An in-depth look into the lives of Monarch Butterflies. From its life cycle to its yearly migration to overwintering spots in the mountains of central Mexico. About 45 minutes long. Not rated. ☀

1:00 pm. Pollinator Walk - Join the naturalist for some easy walking to explore the pollinator habitats around the Nature Center and get to know some high-value pollinator plants. About 45 minutes. ☀

2:00 pm. Pollinator Crafts - Make a hummingbird finger puppet or make a mask and become a bee, a butterfly, or a lightning bug. What other animals are pollinators? ☀

Saturday, July 18 - Sunday, July 26, 2026

National Moth Week!

Communities around the globe come together during National Moth Week to celebrate the beauty, diversity, and ecological importance of moths. Join participants of all ages to contribute valuable data that helps scientists better understand these fascinating insects.

Saturday, July 18, 2026

☀ **Hikes at Cathedral State Park at 10 am and 2 pm.** ☀

Meet the naturalist at Cathedral State Park to explore one of the few remaining Old Growth Eastern Hemlock Forests. A great birding opportunity.

Cathedral State Park is located on U.S. Route 50 in Aurora, WV. About half an hour's drive from Blackwater Falls. Facilities are available at the park.

10:00 am. Bird Feeder Bingo! - Join the naturalist for some easy birding from the Nature Center's front windows. Enjoy a cup of coffee or hot chocolate on us. ☀

11:00 am. Who Has A Backbone? - Get creative during this fun activity as you learn about the different kinds of animals that have backbones. ☀

1:00 pm. What do you know about Black Bears? - Well, what DO you know about Black Bears. Learn a little about West Virginia's State Mammal and how to be Bear Aware. ☀

2:30 pm. Saving the Night Sky - Excess light at night is harmful in more ways than you might expect. Learn why you should turn off unnecessary lights at night and how Blackwater Falls State Park is working to preserve this often overlooked natural resource. ☀

Sunday, July 19, 2026

11:00 am. Mosaic Reptiles! - Learn a little about reptiles as you design a mosaic with dried beans. ☀

1:00 pm. Bats! - Join the naturalist for an introduction to these fascinating animals. Find out what kinds of bats live in West Virginia, issues facing bats, and how you can help out the bats in your area. ☀

2:30 pm. Origami Moths - Make a few paper moths in honor of National Moth Week.

Monday, July 20, 2026

10:30 am. Bird Walk in the Picnic Area - Meet the naturalist in the central parking lot of the park picnic area for some easy walking along paved surfaces. Bring binoculars if you have them. About an hour. ☀

The picnic area parking lot can be accessed near the Trading Post or from near the Campground Entrance.

1:00 pm. Mini Green House Project - Plant some seeds in your own miniature greenhouse with the Nature Center staff. Chose from a kitchen herb garden or plant a bee-friendly seed mix. Materials fee is \$4.00. ☀

2:00 pm. Reading the Rings - What information can we learn about a tree by looking at its rings? We'll learn to read the rings at our Old-growth Hemlock stump, then make some crafts using "tree cookies." ☀

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

11:00 am. What is a Wetland? - Meet the naturalist at the Falls Overflow Parking Lot. Easy walking along paved surfaces. Discover some of the features that define a wetland. About 45 to 60 minutes. ☀

1:30 pm. What Makes an Understory? - Join the naturalist for this walk from the Nature Center to Pendleton Point and back. Along the way you'll examine the layers of the forest and the organisms they contain. About an hour. Less than a mile. ☀

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

1:00 pm. Owls of Blackwater Falls - Join the naturalist to learn all about the owls that can be found at Blackwater Falls State Park. NO live birds will be present. ☀

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Thursday, July 23, 2026

1:00 pm. Meet Our Turtles - Learn all about turtles and meet some of our animal ambassadors. How many different kinds of turtles do you think live in West Virginia?
Includes a free craft. ☀

Friday, July 24, 2026

11:00 am. Pollinator Walk - Join the naturalist for some easy walking to explore the pollinator habitats around the Nature Center and get to know some high-value pollinator plants.
About 45 minutes. ☀

2:00 pm. Edible Plant Walk - Take a walk around the Nature Center lawn and a few short trails to discover plants that have traditionally been used for food and medicine. Around an hour.
Less than 1/2 mile walking. ☀

Saturday, July 25, 2026

12:00 pm. Nature Film - Trees - How do trees talk to each other? Where can you find a tree older than the pyramids? Find out during this 35 minute-long film all about trees. Not rated. ☀

1:00 pm. Parts of a Tree Craft - Something for the little guys. Learn about what makes a tree a tree using construction paper, scissors, and glue. ☀

7:30 pm. West Virginia Storyteller Bil Lepp at Blackwater Lodge - An evening of humorous, family friendly tall-tales and stories. Bil Lepp is a 5-time winner of the WV Liars Contest and the recipient of the Vandalia Award, West Virginia's highest folk honor. Free and open to the public! ☀

9:00 pm. Moth Night! at Blackwater Lodge - Park Naturalist will have a moth-attracting station set up outside the Blackwater Falls Lodge after dark. Stop by to see how many kinds of nocturnal insects we can find. There is no formal program, so feel free to stay as long or short as you like. This event will be cancelled if it is raining. ☀

Sunday, July 26, 2026

11:00 am. Sand Art - Make your own colorful sand creation to take home. Just for fun. \$5 materials fee.

1:00 pm. Butterfly Life Cycle - Join the naturalist to learn about the stages in the life of a butterfly while making this craft. ☀

2:00 pm. Bug Ball! - Join the naturalist on the Nature Center lawn to toss the Bug Ball and learn some trivia facts about bugs.
☀

Monday, July 27, 2026

12:00 pm. Noontime Nature Film - Woodpeckers: The Hole Story - Get a closer look at this unique and specially-adapted family of birds. About 1 hour long. Not rated. ☀

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

11:00 am. Ecosystem in a Globe - Discover the tiny life forms that live in bodies of water. Join the naturalist to collect water samples and investigate the ecosystems they contain. ☀

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

8:00 pm. Saving the Night Sky - Excess light at night is harmful in more ways than you might expect. Learn why you should turn off unnecessary lights at night and how Blackwater Falls State Park is working to preserve this often overlooked natural resource. ☀

9:00 pm. Full Buck Moon Hike - Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center for lightning bugs, night sounds, stargazing, and more. Easy walking along park roads, less than 1 mile. Please dress for the weather. About an hour. ☀

Thursday, July 30, 2026

1:00 pm. Critter of the Day: The Beaver - Join the naturalist to learn about nature's greatest ecosystem engineers. Afterwards, take a short walk to the lake to explore some beaver habitat. ☀

Friday, July 31, 2026

11:00 am. Weather Window Craft and Film - Learn about the different kinds of clouds as you make a weather window. Afterward, watch a film all about weather. Film is not rated and is about 35 minutes long. ☀

1:00 pm. Summer Stargazing and Constellation Crafts - Learn about some of the stars and constellations that are visible this time of year and how to locate them. Make a star finder to take home with you. ☀

2:00 pm. Movie Time! - Join the Nature Center staff for this animated feature film based on a classic Dr. Seuss character who speaks for the trees. About an hour and a half long.
Rated PG.

Meet our Staff



KENNY, NAI/CIG



BLAINE



BRUCE



VICTOR

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)



BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Saturday, August 1, 2026

7:30 am. Early Bird Walk - Meet our volunteer bird walk leader at the Nature Center for a morning of easy walking along pavement and packed trails. A great way to start your day. ☀

10:00 am. Flowers, Ferns, and More Walk - Join the naturalist to get a closer look at a variety of plants found within the park. About an hour of easy walking. ☀

Check back next week for an updated schedule of Nature Center programs.

Coming up soon...

August 7 - 9, 2026

West Virginia Mushroom Club Annual Foray

For more information go to www.wvmushroomclub.net

Coming Later in the Month...

Friday, August 28, 2026

7:00 pm. Wings of Wonder- Live Birds of Prey Program at Blackwater Falls Lodge.

Presented by Three Rivers Avian Center.
Free and open to the public.



9:00 pm. Full Moon Hike - Prowl around with the creatures of the night! Meets in the Blackwater Lodge lobby. About an hour.



Ask about the NEW Junior Naturalist activity book and how to earn the NEW Junior Naturalist Patch!

☀ in description indicates a qualifying activity.

Ask about how your pet can earn the West FURginia State Park Ranger dog tag!



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