



BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Saturday, July 4, 2026 **Independence Day!**

7:30 am. Early Bird Walk - Come find your first bird for our 250th year on the "first Saturday" bird walk at BWFSP. An easy 1-2 mile stroll on pavement and packed trails. Meet at the Nature Center at Pendleton Lake. ☀

10:00 am. Pase Point Hike- Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center for this hike along the rim of the Blackwater Canyon to Pase Point. Trail is uneven with rocks and roots and may be muddy. Wear sturdy shoes. This is an out-and-back hike totaling 3 miles. Leashed, well behaved pets are welcome. ☀

11:00 am. Nature Film - Eagles- Join the Nature Center staff for this film about the continent's most recognizable bird of prey and how they have returned from the brink of extinction. Film is not rated and runs about 60 minutes. ☀

1:00 pm. Strike the Fire!

Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center Fire Ring to practice some primitive fire lighting methods. ☀

1:30 pm. Campfire Hot Dogs!

Enjoy a hot dog, courtesy of the Nature Center. The only catch is that you have to roast it yourself.

2:30 pm. "Stained Glass" Butterfly Wings

Create a set of wearable, child-sized butterfly wings with colors that catch the sun!

This craft requires adult supervision and assistance. Materials fee is \$3.00.

Sunday, July 5, 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. ☀

1:00 pm. A Bee-Friendly Garden- Join the Nature Center staff to plant some seeds in your own mini greenhouse. Take your garden home to attract pollinator to your yard. \$4 materials fee. ☀

2:00 pm. Miniature Bird House- Assemble and paint your own decorative mini bird house craft. \$2 materials fee.

2:30 pm. Nature Documentary - Animal Homes: The Nest - This hour-long film highlights the engineering, materials, and locations of the homes of animals from across the world.
Rated PG.☀

Monday, July 6, 2026

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

12:00 pm. Nature Documentary - Amphibians - Investigate the double lives of these creatures that live both on land and in water. About 35 minutes long. Not rated. ☀

1:00 pm. "Stained Glass" Amphibians Craft- Learn a little bit about salamanders while you make an imitation stained glass critter out of construction paper and cellophane. ☀

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

No Naturalist on Duty

12:00 pm. Noontime Nature Movie- A Murder of Crows - Join us for this documentary that provides new evidence that crows are amongst the most intelligent animals in the world.
About 60 minutes. Not Rated. ☀

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

10:00 am. Beaver Walk- Join the naturalist for a short walk to investigate how beavers alter the landscape to better suit their needs. Wear sturdy shoes, trail may be uneven, wet, or muddy.
About 45 minutes, under 1/2 mile. ☀

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

☀ in description indicates a qualifying activity.



almost heaven

Thursday, July 9, 2026

11:00 am. Pollinator Crafts - Make a hummingbird finger puppet or make a mask and become a bee, a butterfly, or a lightning bug.

12:00 pm. Noontime Nature Movie - Butterfly and Moth - Take a closer look at these amazing insects and their miraculous transformations. About 35 minutes long. Not rated. ☼

Friday, July 10 - Sunday July 12, 2026

West Virginia Astrophotography Association Conference



Workshops, guest speakers, and other program all weekend in the Harr Conference Center at Blackwater Falls Lodge.

All events are free, but registration is requested.

www.wvaa.us

Friday, July 10, 2026

11:00 am. What's Bloomin'? - Take a walk with a naturalist and have a look at the plants that are flowering this week. Easy walking. About an hour. ☼

1:00 pm. "Stained Glass" Amphibians Craft- Learn a little bit about salamanders while you make an imitation stained glass critter out of construction paper and cellophane. ☼

7:00 pm. Star Party set up begins at Nature Center

Dusk -Star Party! - Join the West Virginia Astrophotography Association for an evening of stargazing at the Nature Center. WVAA members will be setting up their equipment around the lawn and parking lot. This is not a formal presentation, but the public is invited to engage and ask questions.

Please avoid using bright lights and be respectful of others and their equipment. ☼

Saturday, July 11, 2026

11:00 am. Parts of a Tree Craft- Something for the little guys. Learn about what makes a tree a tree using construction paper, scissors, and glue. ☼

2:00 pm. What is a "State Natural Area"?- Join the naturalist to learn about why some of the trailheads on the park have new signage, what is a Natural Area, and where they are at Blackwater Falls State Park. ☼

3:00 pm. The Water Cycle Game!- Meet at the Nature Center fire circle to become a droplet of water and collect beads to chronicle your journey from ocean, to cloud, to rivers, and more! ☼



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



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)



WEST VIRGINIA

state
parks

BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Sunday, July 12, 2026

11:00 am. Weather Window Craft and Film- Get to know the different types of clouds as you make a weather window and watch a film all about the weather. Film is about 35 minutes long and is 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. ☼

Monday, July 13, 2026

12:00 pm. Noontime Nature Movie- Beavers- Take an intimate swim with beavers and experience the rich aquatic habitat of one of nature's greatest engineers. Run time is about 70 minutes. Not Rated. ☼

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

11:00 am. What EXACTLY is a Pine Tree? - Join the naturalist to hike a section of Balsam Fir Trail and explore the evergreen, needle-leaved trees found on the park. About an hour. Less than a mile. ☼

1:00 pm. 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 15, 2026

11:00 am. There's More Than Grass? - Join the naturalist to explore the meadow environment behind the Nature Center. About an hour. Less than 1/2 mile. ☼

1:00 pm. Citizen Science Using Smart Phone Apps - Get an introduction to some popular nature apps and learn how to best use your observations to help gather data. ☼

Thursday, July 16, 2026

1:00 pm. Fossils and Geology - Join the naturalist to learn about the rocks and fossils that can be found on the park and get a closer look at our fossil collection. ☼

Coming Soon...

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.

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Wednesday, July 29, 2026

9:00 pm. Full Buck Moon Hike - Meets at the Nature Center.

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Coming Next Month...

Friday, August 28, 2026

7:00 pm. Wings of Wonder- Live Birds of Prey Program at Blackwater Falls Lodge. Free and open to the public.

9:00 pm. Full Moon Hike - Meets in the Blackwater Lodge lobby.

almost heaven

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