



BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Friday, August 14, 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. Walk to Pendleton Point - Meet at the Nature Center to join a naturalist on a walk to the Pendleton Point Overlook. Round-trip, this walk is about 1/2 mile. ☀

Saturday, August 15, 2026

Nature Center will be closed to the public until Noon.
We apologize for the inconvenience.

2:00 pm. "Jefferson's Giant Claw" - Learn how some unusual bones found in a West Virginia cave changed what we know about life on Earth! ☀

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Nature Center me, vic

11:00 am. A Little Local History - Join the Park Naturalist to find out when and how we became a State Park, how we have grown over the years, and a little about the area before the State Park's existence. ☀

1:00 pm. Nature Documentary - Eagles - An intimate portrait of one of the most recognizable aerial predators and their comeback from the brink of extinction. Not Rated. About an hour. ☀

2:00 pm. SLIME! - We'll talk about how some animals make and use slime, but mostly we're just MAKING slime. Supplies are limited, but participants will be able to make a bag of slime to take home. Materials fee is \$1.00. ☀

Monday, August 17, 2026

No Naturalist on Duty

11:00 am. Nature Documentary - Magic of the Snowy Owl - Learn about this incredible bird and the survival skills it needs to live in one of the harshest environments on the planet.
Not rated. About 1 hour. ☀

1:00 pm. Animated Feature Film - Enter Fern Gully, the last rainforest, and try to save a magical world that is threatened by humans. Rated G. About 80 minutes.

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

10:30 am. "What's a Pine?" Walk - Hike along Balsam Fir Trail with the naturalist to learn some needle-leaved tree ID. You'll learn about Pines, Spruces, Hemlocks, and Firs. About 1.5 miles of natural trail. Wear sturdy shoes. About 90 minutes. ☀

1:30 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. ☀

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

11:00 am Beaver Walk - Join a naturalist for a short walk to Pendleton Lake to explore some Beaver habitat. Trail may be wet and/or muddy. Wear sturdy shoes. Total walking is about 1/4 mile. About 30 minutes. ☀

12:00 pm. Nature Documentary - Beavers - Join us for this amazing investigation into the semi-aquatic lives of North America's largest rodent. About 1 hour long. Not rated. ☀

Thursday, August 20, 2026

11:00 pm. Milkweed Walk - Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center to look for milkweed and Monarch Butterflies. We'll check out the pollinator garden, the lakeshore, and make our way to Pendleton Point. About a mile. Around an hour, maybe more. ☀

Friday, August 21, 2026

11:00 am. Nature Documentary - Ravens - Take a look at the adaptability and resilience of one of the most intelligent birds on the planet. Rated PG. About an hour long. ☀

1:00 pm. Pollinator Masks Craft - Get to know some important insects during this fun activity. Become a butterfly, a bee, or a firefly as you color and cut out a wearable mask. ☀

Saturday, August 22, 2026

10:00 am. Morning Along the Lake - Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center 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 a mile. ☀

1:00 pm. Those Marvelous Mustelids - Join the Naturalist to learn about the members of the Weasel family that can be found in West Virginia. ☀

2:30 pm. Bubbles! Gather on the Nature Center lawn to make some giant bubbles!

almost heaven

Sunday, August 23, 2026

11:00 am. Mini Green House Project - Plant some seeds in your own miniature greenhouse with the Nature Center staff. Choose from a kitchen herb garden or plant a bee-friendly seed mix. Materials fee is \$4.00. ☼

1:00 pm. Origami Butterflies! - Join the Naturalist to fold some paper butterflies. Big ones, small ones, plain ones, patterned ones. Fun to make and almost as much fun to give away.

2:00 pm. From Amphibians and Fish to Birds and Mammals - This educational craft activity involves making five different kinds of animals and discovering how they are all similar. ☼

Monday, August 24, 2026

11:00 am. 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. ☼

1:30 pm. Paracord Crafting - Make a paracord "survival" bracelet with the Naturalist. Lots of colors to choose from. It will require some patience and persistence. \$1.00 materials fee.



Tuesday, August 25, 2026

10:30 am. Bog Walk - Meet a Naturalist at the Gentle Trail parking area for a hike along Yellow Birch Trail. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and be prepared to encounter rocks, roots, and mud. An out- and- back hike of about 1 mile. We'll make several stops along the way to explore the different ecosystem types. ☼

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Nature Documentary Series - Animal Babies: First Year on Earth - Join the Nature Center staff for this 3-part series that follows six iconic baby animals as they grow and develop. Not Rated. ☼

11:00 am. Episode One: First Steps

12:00 pm. Episode 2: Testing Limits

1:00 pm. Episode 3: New Frontiers

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Nature Documentary Series - Animal Homes - Join us for this 3-part series that looks at how animals from around the globe make their homes. Rated G. ☼

11:00 am. Program One: The Nest

12:00 pm. Program Two: Location, Location, Location

1:00 pm. Program Three: Animal Cities

Friday, August 28, 2026

5:30 pm. Meet the Naturalists - Park Naturalist staff will be in the Blackwater Lodge lobby to answer any nature-related questions. See what they've got to show and tell, pick up some activity sheets to take home, or just say hello. ☼

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.



Saturday, August 29, 2026

11:00 am. Monarch Walk - Join the Naturalists as they look for Milkweed, Monarch Butterflies, and caterpillars. We'll start at the Nature Center's Pollinator area, make our way to the Pendleton Lake dam, and check out the Pendleton Point Overlook before we return to the Nature Center. Along the way we'll talk about all thing Monarch and Milkweed. About 1 mile of walking. Around 90 minutes. ☼

1:30 pm. Butterfly Film and Craft - Join the Nature Center staff to watch a 35-minute documentary all about Butterflies and Moths. During the movie you can make a pair of wearable, child-sized butterfly wings. Making these "stained glass wings" will require cutting with adult supervision and assistance. \$4.00 materials fee for craft.

Meet our Staff



KENNY, NAI/CIG



BLAINE



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)

In September...

Friday, September 18 - Saturday, September 19, 2026

Astronomy Weekend at Blackwater Falls

Hosted by the Kanawha Valley Astronomical Society

Star Parties will be held at the Nature Center at Dusk.

Events are free and open to the public.

For a full schedule of guest speakers and topics check out

kvaswv.org

Saturday, September 26, 2026

National Public Lands Day

Held annually on the 4th Saturday in September,

National Public Lands Day is one of the Nation's largest single days of service and celebration for public lands.

This year's theme is "Caring for our Shared America"

Programming will include such topics as State Natural Areas, Invasive Species, Blackwater Falls History, and more

10:30 am. Invasive Plant Species Removal at Blackwater Lodge!

More info soon.

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!

