



BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Nature Center Fall Hours

Daily

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Hours may change at the discretion of the Park Naturalist

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.

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

We need your help in eliminating invasive species from the park.

Meet the Naturalist in the Blackwater Lodge lobby for an overview of the project. We will be focusing on some thorny plants, so bring gloves if you have them. Tools and some gloves will be provided. ☀

1:30 pm. Documentary Film - The Resilient Forest - Join the Nature Center staff for this film produced by the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area that explores the early history, settlement, industrialization, folklife, recreation, conservation and forestry practices that have shaped the cultural identity of the residents of the Appalachian forests. About an hour. Not rated. ☀

8:30 pm. Harvest Moon Hike!

Meet at the Nature Center for an after-dark exploration of the park. Learn about our nocturnal residents and how they each have different adaptations for life at night. Learn about the Dark Skies initiative at Blackwater Falls State Park and, weather permitting, do some stargazing. This hike will last about an hour and take place on paved and packed surfaces. Please dress for the weather and keep your light sources to a minimum. ☀



Sunday, September 27, 2026

11:00 am. The Monarch Butterfly - Join the Naturalist to learn all about West Virginia's official State Butterfly. From its fascinating life cycle to its incredible yearly migration. ☀

1:00 pm. Pollinator Plant Seed Saving - Join the Naturalist to collect seeds from some of the flowers and grasses in the Nature Center Pollinator Area for use in establishing future pollinator areas at Blackwater Falls State Park. ☀

Monday, September 28, 2026

11:00 am. Nature Film - On the Wings of the Monarch - An in-depth look at the fascinating life cycle, habitats, and amazing annual migration of the Monarch Butterfly. About 45 minutes. Not rated. ☀

1:00 pm. Butterfly Craft - Learn a little bit about butterflies while you make a butterfly clip magnet for your refrigerator. Free Craft. ☀

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

No Activities Scheduled

Nature Center Open 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

No Activities Scheduled

Nature Center Open 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Thursday, October 1, 2026

No Activities Scheduled

Nature Center Open 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Meet the Monarchs

September is the peak Monarch Butterfly migration month as they make their way south to Mexico for the winter.

Stop by the Nature Center to get a closer look at their amazing life cycle.



Throughout September, we are raising Monarchs at the Nature Center and tagging them as part of a community science project through Monarch Watch.

almost heaven

Friday, October 2, 2026

2:00 pm. Pollinator Plant Seed Saving - Join the Naturalist to collect seeds from some of the flowers and grasses in the Nature Center Pollinator Area for use in establishing future pollinator areas at Blackwater Falls State Park. ☼

Saturday, October 3, 2026

8:00 am. Early Bird Walk - Join the volunteer bird walk leader at the Nature Center for a morning of easy walking as you bird along park roads and trails. Bring your binoculars, water, and a snack if you wish. ☼

10:00 am. WonderFALL Walk - Meet the Naturalist at Blackwater Lodge to walk along sections of three different park trails for this loop hike of just over a mile. Will our Autumn leaves be at peak color? You'll have to come find out! Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Participants will receive a WV State Parks WonderFALL Hike patch. This hike will take around 70 minutes. ☼

1:00 pm. FUR-real! - See and touch the pelts of a number of West Virginia mammals and learn a little about each animal. What different purposes might having a furry coat serve? ☼

2:00 pm. Suncatchers - Make your own decorative suncatcher to take home. Several designs to choose from. \$1 materials fee.

Sunday, October 4, 2026

10:00 am. Morning Nature Stroll - Join the Naturalist for some easy walking along Pendleton Lake to look and listen for wildlife. Please dress for the weather. About an hour. ☼

1:00 pm. - Who was Porte Crayon? - Learn a little local history with the Park Naturalist and find out about the life and adventures of the man known as Porte Crayon. ☼

2:30 pm. Origami - Join the Naturalist to learn to make some folded paper butterflies.

Monday, October 5, 2026

11:00 am. Nature Film - An Original DUCKumentary - There are more than 120 species of ducks found across the world. Get to know a few of them, their habitat, characteristics, and unique survival strategies during this film produced by PBS and Nature. About an hour long. Rated PG. ☼

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

No Activities Scheduled

Nature Center Open 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

No Activities Scheduled

Nature Center Open 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Thursday, October 8, 2026

No Activities Scheduled

Nature Center Open 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Friday, October 9, 2026

No Activities Scheduled

Nature Center is Closed to the Public until 1:00 pm.

Nature Center Open 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Saturday, October 10, 2026

10:00 am. WonderFALL Walk - Meet the Naturalist at the Sled Run parking lot walk along sections of three different park trails for this loop hike of about 1.5 miles. Will the Fall colors be gone by then? You'll have to come find out! Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Participants will receive a WV State Parks WonderFALL Hike patch. This hike will take around 90 minutes. ☼

1:00 pm. Decorative Wreaths - Join the Nature Center staff and our volunteer to make your own Fall-themed wreath with artificial flowers, leaves, and ribbons. Pay what you will.



Meet our Staff



KENNY, NAI/CIG



BLAINE



VICTOR

**Harold Walters Nature Center
Open Daily**

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Nature Store: 10 am to 4:00 pm.

(subject to change at discretion of park naturalist)

Sunday, October 11, 2026

11:00 am. Saving Our Dark Skies - Join the Naturalist to learn about pollution, its negative effects, what you can do to help, and the Dark Skies initiative at Blackwater Falls State Park. ☼

2:00 pm. Paper Plate Habitats Craft - Join the Naturalist to learn about the different places that animals might make their homes as you make a movable habitat scene. ☼



Monday, October 12, 2026

11:00 am. - What is a "Natural Area?" - Join the Park Naturalist to learn why some areas of the park are designated as State Natural Areas and what makes them special. ☼

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Coming Later This Month

Monday, October 26, 2026

7:00 pm. Hunter's Moon Hike - Meet at the Nature Center for an after-dark exploration of the park. Learn about our nocturnal residents and how they each have different adaptations for life at night. Learn about the Dark Skies initiative at Blackwater Falls State Park and, weather permitting, do some stargazing. This hike will last about an hour and take place on paved and packed surfaces. Please dress for the weather and keep your light sources to a minimum. ☼

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Coming Next Month

Tuesday, November 24, 2026

7:00 pm. Beaver Moon Hike - Meet at the Nature Center for an after-dark exploration of the park. Learn about our nocturnal residents and how they each have different adaptations for life at night. Learn about the Dark Skies initiative at Blackwater Falls State Park and, weather permitting, do some stargazing. This hike will last about an hour and take place on paved and packed surfaces. Please dress for the weather and keep your light sources to a minimum. ☼

Thursday, November 26, 2026

Happy Thanksgiving!

Nature Center Closed

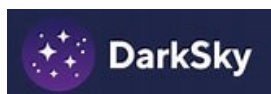
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Special Announcement!

14th Annual Paulita Cousin
Cardboard and Duct Tape Sled Race

The annual Cardboard and Duct Tape Sled Race at the Blackwater Falls Sled Run is always the last Saturday in February. Save the date, this event will take place on **Saturday, February 27, 2027.**

The theme this time is **Six Legs or More!**
That means... insects of all kinds, spiders, centipedes, millipedes, and what ever other kind of -pede you can come up with!



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

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

☼ in description indicates a qualifying activity.

