



BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Monday, August 31, 2026

No Naturalist on Duty

11:30 am. Nature Film Series- The Secret Life of Birds - Join the Nature Center staff for this 5-part series that investigates how and why birds communicate, breeding and nesting behaviors, survival challenges, and much more.

Total run time is 152 minutes. Not rated

Part 1 - Dawn Chorus

Part 2 - Feathering the Nest

Part 3 - Living on the Edge

Part 4 - Living with Us

Part 5 - Designed for a Welsh Life



Tuesday, September 1, 2026

11:00 am. Some Useful Trees Walk - Join the Seasonal Naturalist for a 1.5 mile hike along Balsam Fir Trail. Along the way you'll learn about food, medicine, and other useful things that come from different trees. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Expect the walk to last about 90 minutes. ☀

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

11:00 am. Lake Search - Investigate the different life forms that live in Pendleton Lake. Some might stay on the water's surface, some live on the bottom, and others are so small as to go largely unnoticed by people. You might get your shoes wet, so plan accordingly. Walking will be a long potentially wet, muddy, or rocky surfaces. About an hour. ☀

Thursday, September 3, 2026

11:30 am. Nature Documentary - Owl Power - What makes owls so special? Learn how they hunt, how their vision and hearing works, and how they are able to fly so silently. Run time is about an hour. Not rated. ☀

Friday, September 4, 2026

11:30 am. "Stained Glass" Amphibian Craft - Learn a little bit about salamanders with the Naturalist as you make an imitation "stained glass" salamander to put in your window. ☀

2:00 pm. Snakes Alive! - Get to know some of these misunderstood reptiles and learn which ones can be found in West Virginia. You'll learn the backstories of our Nature Center ambassador animals and maybe get to meet one in person. About an hour. ☀

Saturday, September 5, 2026

11:00 am. 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. ☀

1:00 pm. 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 things Monarch and Milkweed. About 1 mile of walking. Around 90 minutes. ☀

2:30 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. ☀

Sunday, September 6, 2026

11:00 am. Paracord Crafting - Make a paracord "survival" bracelet with the Naturalist. Lots of colors to choose from. Finishing your bracelet will require some patience and persistence. \$1.00 materials fee. ☀

1:00 pm. Make a Weather Window - Join the Nature Center staff to learn about clouds while you make a Weather Window Cloud Finder. Take it outside and see what kinds of clouds you can identify. After the craft, stick around for a film all about the weather. Runtime is about 35 minutes and is not rated. ☀

2:30 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, September 7, 2026

11:00 am. Natural Areas of Blackwater Falls - Join the Park Naturalist to learn about the designated State Natural Areas at Blackwater Falls State Park, why they exist, and why they are worth protecting. ☀

1:00 pm. What's the Opposite of Camouflage? - When danger is afoot, many animals try their hardest to blend into their surroundings. There are other options, though. Learn about some creatures whose survival strategy is all about being noticed. ☀

almost heaven

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

1:00 pm. Nature Documentary - Hummingbirds - As tiny as they are, hummingbirds are some of the toughest and most energetic creatures on the planet. Run time is about an hour.
Rated G. ☼

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

11:00 am. Ravens: A Walk and Talk - Join the Seasonal Naturalist to take a short walk to look and listen for ravens. Learn how to tell the difference between ravens and crows and learn some of the habits of one of the most intelligent birds. Some easy walking. ☼

Thursday, September 10, 2026

1:00 pm. Nature Documentary - On the Wings of the Monarch - An in-depth look life cycle, habitats, and amazing migration of North America's most recognizable butterfly. Run time is 47 minutes. Not rated. ☼

Friday, September 11, 2026

2:00 pm. The Monarch Butterfly - Join the Guest Naturalist to learn all about West Virginia's official State Butterfly. From its fascinating life cycle to its incredible yearly migration. ☼

Saturday, September 12, 2026

11:00 pm. What's Blooming Walk - Join the Seasonal Naturalist for walk around to look at the late summer flowers currently blooming on the park. About an hour. ☼

1:00 pm. Digging up the Past: Fossils! - Explore some of the fossils in the Nature Center and learn a bit about the Earth's past with the Nature Center attendant. Uncover your own replica fossil during the program for a \$3 materials fee. . ☼

2:30 pm. Ecosystem in a Jar - Discover the various kinds of tiny life forms that live in bodies of water. Collect water samples with the Seasonal Naturalist and bring them inside to see what you can find living in them. ☼

Later this Month

Friday, September 18 - Saturday, September 19, 2026

Astronomy Weekend at Blackwater Falls

Join the Kanawha Valley Astronomical Society for a weekend of out-of-this-world exploration!

Guest speakers from West Virginia University, Marshall University, Shawnee State University and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory will cover astronomical topics for all interest levels during the day, including special interest topics such as astrophotography.

Star parties will be held in the evenings (weather permitting) at the Harold Walters Nature Center. Come out and enjoy the scenic beauty of West Virginia and the amazing hospitality of our state parks and forests.

This event is free and open to the public.

For a full schedule of guest speakers and topics check out kvaswv.org

Friday, September 25, 2026

Farm-to-Table Dinner

Join us at Blackwater Falls for our annual Farm to Table dining event. Social starts at 5 pm with a cash bar, followed by dinner at 6 pm. Musical entertainment will be provided by Scott Cain, Naturalist at Blennerhassett Island State Park. Limited seating available. Tickets are \$78 per person, all inclusive.

Make reservations online at wvstateparks.com/programs/farm-to-table-dinners/

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)

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"

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.



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.



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!

