



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

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

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the programs that were previously scheduled for today have been cancelled.
We apologize for the last-minute changes

11:00 am. Nature Documentary - Butterfly Blueprints - Join the Nature Center staff for this film that dives deep into the biology of these amazing insects and how they are inspiring advancements in a variety of scientific fields. About 55 minutes.
Not rated. ☀

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. ☀

Sunday, September 13, 2026

No Naturalist on Duty

11:00 am. Nature Documentary - Raptors: A Fistful of Daggers - Learn more about eagles, hawks, owls, and falcons, as well as some of the lesser known hunters. About 110 minutes.
Not rated. ☀

1:30 pm. Nature Documentary - Butterfly and Moth - Take a look into their miraculous transformation from a lowly caterpillar to airborne adult and learn why these delicate insects have long inspired and entranced us. About 35 minutes. Not rated. ☀

Monday, September 14, 2026

No Naturalist on Duty

11:30 am. Nature Documentary - Season of the Osprey - This film follows a family of Ospreys for an entire summer as they fend off enemies, catch hundreds of fish, and raise their tiny chicks into the next generation of these consummate sea hawks. About 55 minutes. Not rated. ☀

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

No Activities Scheduled

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

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

11:00 am. Pollinator Walk - Join a Naturalist to explore the Nature Center pollinator area looking for butterflies, bees, and more. We'll also discuss some high-value pollinator plants. About an hour of easy walking. ☀

1:00 pm. Asters and Goldenrods Walk - Join a Naturalist to take a look at these iconic early autumn flowers. See how many species of each we can pick out. Easy walking. About an hour. ☀

Thursday, September 17, 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, 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.

This event is free and open to the public.

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

Friday, September 18, 2026

**Nature Center is closed to the public until 1:30 pm.
We apologize for the inconvenience.**

12:30 pm. Astronomy Weekend Welcome Reception -
Blackwater Lodge Conference Center

Astronomy Weekend guest Speakers and Workshops will take place in the conference center from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

After Dark - Star Party with the Kanawha Valley Astronomical Society

Join members of the KVAS at the Nature Center for an evening of astronomy.

There is no formal program, but feel free to ask questions. Please keep your light usage to a minimum as to not disrupt others' night vision and astronomy enjoyment.



Saturday, September 19, 2026

9:00 am. Beginning Astronomy - Blackwater Lodge Conference Center.

Astronomy Weekend guest speakers and workshops will take place in the conference center until 5:00 pm.

11:00 am. Owls of Blackwater Falls - Join the Seasonal Naturalist to learn about the owls that can be found on the park, which ones live here year round, and (of course) the sounds they make. NO live birds will be present. ☼

Saturday, September 19, 2026, continued

2:00 pm. 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. ☼

7:00 pm. Beaver Walk - Join the Naturalist for a short walk around Pendleton Lake to explore some Beaver habitat. Beavers get more active around sundown, so we may get to observe North America's largest rodent. About 30 - 45 minutes. ☼

Dark - Star Party with the Kanawha Valley Astronomical Society

Join members of the KVAS at the Nature Center for an evening of astronomy.

There is no formal program, but feel free to ask questions. Please keep your light usage to a minimum as to not disrupt others' night vision and astronomy enjoyment.

Sunday, September 20, 2026

10:30 am. 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. ☼

2:00 pm. Bubbles! Gather on the Nature Center lawn to make some giant bubbles!

Monday, September 21, 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. ☼

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

No Activities Scheduled

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

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

No Activities Scheduled

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

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)

Thursday, September 24, 2026

No Activities Scheduled

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

Friday, September 25, 2026

2:00 pm. What's So Bad About Invasive Species? - Join the Park Naturalist to learn about some of the plant and insect invaders found in the region, how they are affecting our forests, and how you can help prevent their spread. Join us tomorrow morning at the Lodge to help us remove some invasive plants! ☀

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/

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.



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!

