

# March 2023

SENECA CREEK STATE PARK

11950 Clopper Road | Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878  
301-924-2127 [scspnaturalist@gmail.com](mailto:scspnaturalist@gmail.com)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Registration advised for programs that are not reoccurring, call (301) 924-2127 or email <a href="mailto:scspnaturalist@gmail.com">scspnaturalist@gmail.com</a> .  Dress for the weather and activity, wear sunscreen and insect repellent, bring plenty of water and snacks, and remember to check for ticks.			1	2	3	4
5 Making Maple Syrup <b>2:30 p.m.</b>	6	7 Nature Crafts: Signs of Spring Scavenger Hunt <b>10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</b> Early Signs of Spring Hike <b>4 p.m.</b>	8	9	10 World Wildlife Day Hike <b>3:30 p.m.</b>	11
12 Get Your Feet Wet at Monocacy Hike <b>1:30 p.m.</b>	13	14 Nature Crafts: Paper Chain Snakes <b>10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</b> Find Signs of Spring Hike <b>5 p.m.</b>	15	16	17	18 Lake Frank Eagle Nest Watch Hike <b>10:30 a.m.</b>
19	20	21 Nature Crafts: Animal Masks <b>10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</b> International Forest Day Hike <b>5 p.m.</b>	22	23	24	25 Slow Hike to the Stonecutter Cemetery <b>1:30 p.m.</b>
26	27	28 Nature Crafts: Bird Nest Art <b>10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</b> Find Signs of Spring Hike <b>5 p.m.</b>	29	30	31	For photos & more, visit: Friends of Seneca Creek State Park Facebook Page.

*All events are all ages and free unless otherwise noted. Be advised some programs have applicable entrance fees.*

### **World Wildlife Day Hike**

#### **3:30 p.m. at Kingfisher Overlook**

The United Nations declared March 3<sup>rd</sup> as World Wildlife Day to celebrate the plants and animals that contribute to the health of the planet. On this hike we will see the works of a keystone species right in our park: Beavers! A new dam has been built on Long Draught Branch and trees are coming down as the water rises. Join a 2.5-mile hike to see what the beavers are up to and why they are gaining a reputation as warriors in the battle against climate change.

### **Making Maple Syrup**

#### **2:30 p.m. at the Park Office**

We tapped a sugar maple in February. Come see how the sap is boiled down for sweet maple syrup. There will be a sugar maple treat for all in attendance. The Grusendorf family's log farmhouse will also be open for tours.

### **Nature Crafts: Signs of Spring Scavenger Hunt**

#### **10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Park Office**

No Nature Crafts this week. Instead, we will leave a scavenger hunt that you can pick up in the park office and use while you enjoy the park.

### **Early Signs of Spring Hike**

#### **4 p.m. at the Park Office**

The earliest flowers like bloodroot, ground ivy and hepatica will bloom this month. Join a volunteer naturalist for an easy hike to see what signs of spring we can find. Heavy rain cancels program. Please dress for the weather and muddy trails.

### **Get Your Feet Wet at Monocacy Hike**

#### **1:30 p.m. at Monocacy Natural Resource Management Area 6501 Dickerson Rd, Dickerson, MD 20842**

Did you know that our park staff also manages Monocacy Natural Resource Management Area? Put on your waterproof boots for a 2-mile round trip hike that has five stream crossings, but only one bridge. On the Furnace Branch Trail we will discover slag from an 18<sup>th</sup> century iron furnace, lime kiln ruins, a quarry and hemlock grove. These are 'rustic trails' for a more challenging hiking experience. Hiking poles are advised. Find the parking lot just off Rt. 28 in Dickerson, MD, on the east side of Dickerson Rd just before the bridge over the Monocacy River. There are no restrooms available at this site.

### **Nature Crafts: Paper Chain Snakes**

#### **10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Park Office**

With the weather warming up, reptiles will soon be waking up from their long winter naps. The park corn snake, Maize, should be getting more active so you may be able to see him. We will be doing a simple paper craft to make our own snakes.

### **Find Signs of Spring Hike**

#### **5 p.m. at the Park Office**

New later time for Daylight Savings! The earliest flowers like bloodroot, ground ivy, and hepatica will bloom this month. Join a volunteer naturalist for an easy hike to see what signs of spring we can find. Heavy rain cancels program. Please dress for the weather and muddy trails.

### **Lake Frank Eagle Nest Watch Hike**

#### **10:30 a.m. at Meadowside Nature Center 5100 Meadowside Lane, Rockville, MD 20853**

This Montgomery County park is the home of a bald eagle nest. Join us for an approximately 2.5-mile round trip hike to see the nest, maybe eagles and an active beaver lodge. Bring binoculars and water. This is a natural surface trail with some hills. Please dress for the weather and trail conditions. Please note that there are no restrooms available at this location.

### **Nature Crafts: Animal Masks**

#### **10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Park Office**

Let's get together and make paper masks of different animals. Then, pretend to be the animal or tell stories about them.

### **International Forest Day Hike**

#### **5 p.m. at the Park Office**

The United Nations proclaimed March 21<sup>st</sup> the International Day of Forests in 2012 to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests. What better way to celebrate than to take a walk in our own deciduous forest? Forest clean our air and purify our water while providing a quiet retreat from our daily grind. This year's theme is Forests and Health. Do something for your health – take a hike! Heavy rain cancels hike. Please dress for the weather and possibly muddy trails.

### **Slow Hike to the Stonecutter Cemetery**

#### **1:30 p.m. at 16500 River Rd, Poolesville, MD 20837**

Come for a bushwhacking, history-seeking hike to the final resting place of 100 or more quarry workers who mined the sandstone that was used to build the Smithsonian Castle. There is no trail to the cemetery; we will be crossing farm fields and woods. Dress for bushwhacking with sturdy footwear that can get muddy and bring water to drink. Round trip hike will be approximately 2.5-miles. This hike will be at a slower pace to allow more people to join. There are no restrooms at this location.

### **Nature Crafts: Bird Nest Art**

#### **10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Park Office**

Birds need safe places to lay eggs and hatch their babies. Come learn about how and where birds do this, then try making a bird nest yourself.