

Saturday, February 25
All Abuzz About Bees
 Learn all about the fascinating lives of our native bees at Huntley Meadows Park from 3 to 4:30 p.m. We'll discuss the best plans for bee boxes and how to build and care for them. The cost is \$6 per person. Register online. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Sunday, February 26
Leaps & Bounds: Animal Champions
 Celebrate leap year with surprising facts about nature's fastest, largest, strongest and other superlative animals at Hidden Oaks Nature Center from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Discover what nature did first that inspired human inventions. Meet live animals. Participants must be at least three years old. The cost is \$6 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Harry Allen Winter Lecture Series
Design in the Natural World
 Nature inspires great design. Steve Robinson of Axios Architecture in Atlanta shares a reverence for nature and creates structures that have conversations with their natural surroundings. From 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, Robinson will share design process, actual projects (including the acclaimed 600' long canopy walk at the Atlanta Botanical Garden) and ideas for the future. The cost is \$10 per person. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Queen Elizabeth: A Day in the Life
 She lives in splendid palaces and has hundreds of servants, but how does the Queen spend a regular day at Buckingham Palace? Enjoy a glimpse into the daily life of Her Majesty and learn how she throws a tea party for thousands! This program runs from 1 to 3 p.m. at Historic Green Spring. The \$27 fee includes a traditional English tea program. To make a reservation, please call 703-941-7987.

Monday, February 27
Jr. Naturalists
 Children ages 7 to 11 explore habitats, wildlife and history at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. This winter's theme is "What's Underneath?" Learn about the hidden things beneath the snow in February. The cost is \$5 per child. Register online. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Wednesdays
Wildlife Wednesday: Winter
 Learn about nature by meeting live animals, exploring the wilds around Hidden Pond Nature Center, and participating in fun activities from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Participants must be at least three years old. The cost is \$4 per child. Register online. For information, call 703-451-9588.

Mondays
Yoga for Gardeners
 Monday morning classes at Green Spring Gardens from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. feature a gentle introduction to the Vinyasa method helping participants increase strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. The cost is \$39 for each four-class session. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Free Bird Walk
 Discover the resident birds of the Accotink Stream Valley on a walk through Eakin Community Park from 7 to 9 a.m. Bring binoculars. Meet at the Prosperity Avenue parking lot. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Daily
Frying Pan Wagon Rides
 Enjoy a 20-minute wagon ride through the woods and fields of Frying Pan Farm Park. During your ride, learn about the plants and animals living at the park. Rides are \$3 per person. To schedule a date, call 703-437-9101.

Birthday Party Packages
 What better place to celebrate than in your favorite park? The array of birthday party themes and star attractions range from swimming, fishing, history, and nature to carousels, mini-golf, and a miniature train. For party particulars, check the site listings at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parties.htm or call the sites directly.

Year-Round Water Fun at Cub Run
 Slides, bubblers, fountains, a "river" current, and other fun features turn the leisure pool at Cub Run RECenter into a water playground. Here the temperature is tropical year round! RECenter admission includes the leisure pool. For hours and pricing, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/wcrec.htm, or call 703-817-9407.

Birthdays on the Wild Side
 At Riverbend Park, children ages 3 to 11, may explore the world of reptiles and amphibians, uncover clues about forest animals, dig into dinosaurs, or take an archeology adventure. The package includes rental of the nature center for two hours and a one-hour naturalist program. The cost is \$175. Customized goodie bags are available for \$6 each. Make your birthday celebration memorable. Call 703-759-9018.


Riverbend Wagon Rides
 Book your family outing, play group, school group, or birthday party wagon ride at Riverbend Park and choose your favorite theme. The minimum number of passengers is 11. The wagon carries up to 20 people. The cost is \$5 per person. For available times, call 703-759-9018.

Off-Leash Dog Areas
 Unleashed dogs can enjoy a good run or a friendly romp in fenced areas.
 • Blake Lane, Oakton
 • Baron Cameron, Reston
 • South Run, Springfield
 • Mason District, Annandale
 • Chandon, Herndon
 • Quinn Farm, Centreville.
 • Grist Mill, Alexandria
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parkrules/dogpark.htm

Hold Your Event in a Park
 These sites are suitable for all types of functions such as weddings, receptions, parties, corporate meetings and events, and other social gatherings.
 • Cabell's Mill
 • Clark House
 • Dranesville Tavern
 • Great Falls Grange
 • Hunter House
 • Old Forestville Schoolhouse
 • Stone Mansion
 • Wakefield Chapel
 • Nature Centers/Frying Pan Farm Park
 • Hidden Oaks Nature Center: Meeting Room Rental
 • Huntley Meadows Park: Meeting Room Rental
 • Frying Pan Farm Park: Visitor Center
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-rentals.htm

Listening Forum
 Join Park Authority Director John W. Dargle, Jr., for an open discussion about parks in your community at **The Hunter House on Thursday, February 16, at 7 p.m.** For more information, call the Fairfax County Park Authority Public Information Office at 703-324-8700.

Follow FCPA on Facebook!
 Scan this code with a barcode reader.



Prepared by the Fairfax County Park Authority Public Information Office
 Phone: 703-324-8700 • Fax: 703-324-3974
 Email: Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov
 Distribution and Information: 703-324-8677
 To subscribe to the calendar, please visit:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/calendars/subscribe.htm>
 To request reasonable ADA accommodations, call Inclusion and ADA Support at 703-324-8563 or TTY 703-803-3354. A Fairfax County, Va., publication.

Parktakes ON-LINE Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes, or call 703-222-4664.

February 2012
 Thursday, February 2
Groundhog Day!
 Meet our larger-than-life Walney groundhog! Learn the story behind Groundhog Day and some interesting facts about this animal at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Visit the home of the Walney garden groundhog and play some groundhog games. Participants must be at least three years old. The cost is \$5 per person. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Friday, February 3
Klondike Campfire Cookout
 Prepare a winter meal with your family using the centuries-old technique of Dutch oven cooking at Riverbend Park from 6 to 8:30 p.m. As your meal cooks learn about the history of colonial and indigenous cooking techniques around the campfire. Bring a flashlight and warm clothes. Food and drinks are provided. Space is limited. The cost is \$18 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-759-9018.

Saturday, February 4
7th Annual Seed Exchange
 Washington Gardener, the publication for D.C.-area gardening enthusiasts, is co-hosting the seventh annual Washington Seed Exchange at Green Spring Gardens from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. This event includes lectures, face-to-face seed swap, and more. Bring your extra seeds to swap with other gardeners. Leave with a bag of seeds, new garden friends and expert planting advice. The fee includes lectures, goody bag and seed swap. The cost is \$15 per person; and \$10 for Washington Gardener subscribers and Friends of Green Spring. To register, call 703-642-5173.

IMA VOLUNTEER! Get involved with our Invasive Management Area (IMA) program and help remove invasive species and restore habitat on parkland. As a volunteer, you can make a big difference! Learn more online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/IMA.

Saturday, February 4
Special Event: Wolf Scout Badge Fest
 From 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Wolf Scouts can earn one to four badges from the following: Your Living World, Start a Collection achievement/arrow point, Native American Lore (using, not making, traditional instruments and clothing) and Birds (13 a-e). Activities include trail walks, meeting live animals, and a clean-up project (weather permitting). The cost is \$12 per scout or sibling. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-941-2073.

Virginia Hunters Horse Show Series
 Join us to watch horses and riders show their skill, partnership and style on the flat and over fences at Frying Pan Farm Park. The show starts at 9 a.m. Admission is free for spectators. For more information, call 703-437-9101.

Sunday February 5
Just Jumpers Horse Show Series
 Watch as horse and rider teams try to complete a jump course as quickly as possible without knocking a rail down at Frying Pan Farm Park. The show starts at 9 a.m. Admission is free for spectators. For information, call 703-437-9101.

Concert: Who's on First Bass?
 What do sports have to do with classical music? Everything! *Who's on First Bass* explores teamwork, communication and skill development themes and the use of specialized equipment. In this interactive program at Colvin Run Mill from 2 to 3 p.m., audiences help the Virginia Virtuosi team perform classics by Rossini, "Duke" Ellington, Mendelssohn and the new "Concerto for Basketball." Come and see why audiences describe this concert experience as a "home run!" The cost is \$2 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-759-2771.

Follow Us On Twitter at twitter.com/fairfaxparks

Happy Valentine's Day!

Saturday, February 4
Family Fun: Valentine Workshop
 Learn fact and folklore about Cupid and this important day of love at Green Spring Gardens from 2 to 3 p.m. Make time honored Valentine crafts and a special something for that special someone. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. The cost is \$6 per person. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-642-5173.



Saturday, February 11
Animal Sweethearts Dance
 One of the most popular winter programs at Hidden Pond Nature Center is back! This year's program features dancing, Valentine craft making, an informative nature presentation, "Wildlife Harmony," plus the short drama, "Forest Grump or Nobody Loves a Grouch," starring Justin Beaver and Selena Gopher. Refreshments are provided. This program for three to eight-year-olds is offered from 10 a.m. to noon and from 2 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$8 per child. Register online. For information, call 703-451-9588.

Valentine Craft Sampler Workshop
 Children ages 6 to 11 gather with staff in the Lake Accotink Park's visitor center classroom from 10 a.m. to noon and make something special to give Mom or Dad this Valentine's Day. In this workshop you can make creative gifts for friends and family. The cost is \$6 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-569-0285.

Valentine's Day Tea and Craft
 Children ages 8 to 12 gather for a social tea, create a valentine sachet and learn about historic Valentine traditions at the Forestville Schoolhouse in Great Falls from 1 to 2:30 p.m. This program is presented by Colvin Run Mill Historic Site staff. The cost is \$15 per child. Register online. For information, call 703-759-2771.

Sunday, February 5

Birds Around Us

Beaks, feathers, nests and talons are examined from 10 to 11 a.m. as we explore an avian world that lives around us. Find out about bird life cycles, migration patterns and adaptations that make birds such fascinating animals. See stuffed specimens, live bird(s), and examine bird behavior and their place in the environment. This program meets at Cabells Mill in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Participants must be at least eight years old. The cost is \$5 per person. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-631-0013.

**Harry Allen Winter Lecture Series
George Washington's Garden**

For more than 150 years, people have studied, researched and dug the earth for clues helping to make George Washington's home one of the most accurately restored 18th century estates in America. The beauty, use and importance of Mount Vernon's gardens and landscape will be discussed with a focus on the most recently restored pleasure garden. Horticulture Director Dean Norton's presentation from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens is not a history lesson but an informative yet entertaining look at the gardening world of George Washington. Afterward, meet Director Norton and enjoy refreshments. The cost is \$10 per person. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Monday, February 6

Garden Sprouts: Love Is In The Air

Children ages three to five find the love in nature at Green Spring Gardens from 11 a.m. to noon. Love is all around, from the cooing doves to the redbud leaves. Kids will make a Valentine treat for someone special. The cost is \$5 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Thursday, February 9

Nature Detectives: Owls

Children ages three to five learn about these amazing hunters through an activity, story and craft project from 10 to 11 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park. The cost is \$8 per child. Register online. For information, call 703-768-2525.

Friday, February 10

Globe at Night

This free, hands-on, family-friendly astronomy event at Cub Run RECenter from 7 to 8 p.m. will teach you how to measure and report light pollution by observing the constellation Orion. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. The cost is \$18 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-817-9407.

Friday, February 10

Maymont Flower and Garden Show

Step out of the winter blues and into a home-and-garden showplace blooming with inspiration at the Maymont Flower and Garden Show in Richmond, Va. Attractions include display gardens, lecture series, and the marketplace and home show. Lunch may be purchased in the convention center. The bus departs Green Spring Garden at 9:45 a.m. and returns at 5:45 p.m. The \$85 fee includes travel and admission. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Friday, February 10

Basic Gardening: Tree and Shrub Pruning

Intimidated by the thought of pruning trees and shrubs? Master Gardeners present basic pruning techniques and tips on tool selection at Green Spring Gardens from 1:30 to 2 p.m. to give you the confidence to tackle those pruning tasks in your landscape. The cost is \$10 per person. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Saturday, February 11

Riverbend Night Sky Festival

Enjoy guided star gazing, looking through the telescope, and listening to ancient stories about the constellations around the campfire at Riverbend Park from 6 to 8 p.m. Jupiter is this event's featured planet. Enjoy other activities and games throughout the evening. Hot chocolate and snacks will be available for purchase. The cost is \$5 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-759-9018.

Starting from Scratch with Seeds

Be inspired with seed starting fever! Learn to grow flowers, vegetables, and herbs from seed and expand your garden. Mary Frogale, Green Spring Gardens' propagator/horticulturist, discusses topics such as potting mixes, containers, seed treatments, lighting, fertilization, watering, seed sources, and timing from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Then take home a few seeds to start your own collection. The cost is \$22 per person. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Coffee and Chocolate: Warming up Winter

Hot coffee, tea and chocolate kept the Lees warm during cold winter days. Accompanied by bread or biscuits warm from the oven, this small meal was just the thing to drive away a chill. Learn to make a proper cup of coffee or tea, and see how chocolate was prepared 200 years ago at Sully Historic Site. Enjoy your drink with a delicious treat prepared in the open hearth. This program is offered from 1 to 2 p.m. and from 3 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Participants must be at least five years old. Register online. For information, call 703-437-1794.

Saturday, February 11

Bird Banding

See hand-held birds' close-up at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Discover how they are captured, examined, banded with numbered rings, and safely released as part of a park naturalist wildlife project which contributes to federal bird migration studies. Participants must be at least six years old. The cost is \$6 per person. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Sunday, February 12

Home Made Bird Feeders

Bring your empty milk jugs and/or two-liter soda bottles to make bird feeders at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. We will discuss tips for feeding birds and learn to identify common birds that visit home bird feeders. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. Participants must be at least two years old. The cost is \$5 per person. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Chocolate Lovers' Tea

Celebrate the lovers' holiday with something we all love: chocolate! From 1 to 3 p.m. at Historic Green Spring, hear all about chocolate, its history, origins, and how it's transformed from bean to bar. Sample a selection and indulge in some delicious chocolaty treats! The cost is \$27 per person. For reservations, call 703-941-7987.

**Harry Allen Winter Lecture Series
Collaborating with Native Wild Plants**

Chris and Lisa Bright, founders of Earth Sangha, share their experience propagating native plants directly from the wild at Green Springs Gardens from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Earth Sangha operates the Wild Plant Nursery, a volunteer-based nursery now producing more than 200 species of native trees, shrubs, vines, forbs, and grasses for local ecological restoration projects. The Brights' talk will cover all phases of the nursery's work, from seed collection to planting out the stock. Afterward, meet the Brights and enjoy refreshments. The cost is \$10 per person. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Birding for Beginners

Interested in birding? Learn about the birds in Huntley Meadows Park and some basic identification skills. The program begins with an indoor discussion. Children ages 12 to 16 must be accompanied by a registered adult. This program runs from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and the cost is \$6 person. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-768-2525.

Sunday, February 12 & 19

Maple Syrup Boil-Down

The sap is rising and the maple trees are tapped at Colvin Run Historic Site. Now it's sugaring time! Watch and learn as sap is boiled down into sweet syrup over an open fire from noon to 2 p.m. Sample the delicious combination of maple syrup and cornbread. The cost is \$3 per person. For information, call 703-759-2771.

Monday, February 13

Nature Snoopers

Children ages five and six explore outdoors, enjoy hands-on activities, and make crafts with their adults at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park from 3 to 4 p.m. This winter's theme is "What's Underneath?" Learn about the hidden things beneath the snow in February. The cost is \$5 per child. Register online. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Wednesday, February 15

Campfire Night Hike: Predators at Night

Not all predators are sleeping. Enjoy a night hike to learn about nocturnal hunters at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Listen to taped calls of owls and coyotes and catch a glimpse of them in the forest. End the evening with hot chocolate and roasted marshmallows round the campfire. Participants must be at least two years old. The cost is \$6 per person. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Friday, February 17

Special Event: Cub Scout Sleepover

Starting at 6 p.m., Cub Scouts enjoy a fun-filled night of games and activities from the early 1900s with a Riverbend naturalist at the Great Falls Grange. Bring sleeping bags, flashlights and a picnic dinner. Adult chaperones must accompany scouts at all times. Light breakfast is provided. The cost is \$14 per person. An optional Riverbend patch is available \$3.15 each. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-759-9018

Saturday, February 18

Pressed-Leaf Butterfly Workshop

Make lovely winged creatures from vivid autumn leaves at Green Spring Gardens from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. In this workshop, staff horticulturalist Nancy Olney shows you how to create this work of art using recently pressed leaves. Take your 'butterfly' home in a matted frame. The cost is \$25 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes

Saturday, February 18

Pruning Crape Myrtles

Late winter or early spring is the time to prune crape myrtle trees. Come to Green Spring Gardens from 1 to 3 p.m. to learn how to skillfully prune these trees to achieve a pleasing shape and abundant flowering. After listening to pruning basics, gain confidence by joining instructors, Josh Darkow and Taylor Duke from Bartlett Trees, outside for hands-on training. Dress for the weather as class will be held inside and outside. The cost is \$18 per person. For information and registration, call 703-642-5173.

Consider Conifers

Conifers stand out in the winter garden. Master Gardener docents lead a brisk stroll at Green Spring Gardens from 10:30 a.m. to noon to identify and describe some of the parks' evergreen trees. Be inspired to consider conifers to brighten and define your winter landscape. Then step into the warmth of the Historic House for refreshments. The cost is \$12 per person. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-941-7987.

Civil War Lecture

Hear a Civil War lecture presented by Virginia Mescher on "Making Do" or Substitutions of Scarce Items during the Civil War at Colvin Run Historic Site from 2 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-759-2771.

Wolf Run Shoals Expedition

Explore the traces of the little known community and Civil War site in Clifton, Va. Discover the stories and families, mill and shops. Learn about the encampment of the 12th and 13th Vermont infantry. Bring a bag lunch and wear shoes appropriate for a moderate hike. The van departs from Walney Visitor Center at 10 a.m. and returns at 4 p.m. Reservations are required by February 14, 2012. The cost is \$24 per person. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Winter Hike: Wetland Waterfowl

At Huntley Meadows Park from 2 to 4 p.m., hike the boardwalk to the observation tower and look for green-winged teals, pintails, swamp sparrows, winter wrens and, hopefully, spot a bald eagle. Participants must be at least 10 years old. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$6 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-768-2525.

Sunday, February 19

Game Day at Frying Pan Farm Park

It's all fun and games when you gather family and friends for Monopoly, Dominoes, or Backgammon from 2 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 703-437-9101.

Sunday, February 19

Harry Allen Winter Lecture Series

Grow the Best Tasting Tomatoes, Ever! Tired of tasteless tomatoes? Tomato lover and WTOP host of You Bet Your Garden, Mike McGrath, reveals tricks and tips you need to be a tomato taste-test winner. From 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, McGrath focuses on the importance of correct planting, feeding, watering and support, with a special emphasis on common mistakes to avoid when growing tasty tomatoes in containers. A book signing and refreshments follow the lecture. The cost is \$10 per person. Register online or call 703-222-4664. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Raise the Rafters Music Series

Rock & Roll music evolved with the social change of the 60s. From 2 to 3 p.m. hear selections that reflect the political and musical influences of the era in Frying Pan Farm Park's visitor center. Performances by the talented duo, Katy Benko and Julie Crosson are free to attend. For more information, call 703-437-9101.

Saturday, February 25

8th Annual EcoSavvy Gardening Symposium at Green Spring Gardens

Green Spring Master Gardeners are committed to showing homeowners and gardening professionals how everyone can make a difference in the health of our environment. The 8th Annual Symposium will explore the world of birds, bats, bees and bugs at Green Spring Gardens, starting at 8:30 a.m. The symposium is sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. The cost is \$50 per person. To order a vegetarian or non-vegetarian lunch for \$12, call 703-642-5173 by February 17.

An Afternoon of Traditional Music

Come in out of the cold and hear the hammered dulcimer played by Ralph Smith at Sully Historic Site from 1 to 2 p.m. or 2 to 3 p.m. Learn the history of the dulcimer and listen to songs from Ralph's new book, "Folk Songs of Old Virginia." Participants must be at least six years old. The cost is \$8 person. Register online. For information, call 703-437-1794.

Flying Squirrels: Gliding in Tonight

Join a naturalist at Hidden Oaks Nature Center from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. to look for flying squirrels at their roosting boxes. Learn how you can encourage flying squirrels to visit your yard. Participants must be at least four years old. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. The cost is \$6 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-941-1065.