



February 2022

Tuesday, February 1

Enslaved Lives and the Legacy of Slavery

(Adults) Join a historian for a tour of Huntley that examines the relationship of the Mason family to slavery and recovers insights into the lives of the Humphrey family and other enslaved people whose labor maintained Mason wealth and social status. The program at Historic Huntley runs from noon to 1 p.m. The cost is \$9 per person. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Outdoor Science Lab at Huntley: Chemistry-Slime Science

(6-Adult) Explore the exciting world of science with fun hands-on experiments, activities and challenges. Enrich your understanding of various science and engineering topics using scientific investigations, observations, and lab skills with the guidance of a park naturalist. Each Outdoor Science Lab class focuses on a different science theme. All supplies are included. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Wednesdays, February 2, 9, 16 & 23

Forest Fledglings

(3-5 yrs.) Children and their parent/guardian can have fun learning about local animals and plants through hikes, stories and games. The topics will be: Feb. 2- Groundhogs; Feb. 9-Animal Valentines; Feb. 16-Rain Forests; and Feb. 23- Mammals. The program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center runs from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. and again from 11 to 11:45 a.m. The cost is \$8 per child for each session. One adult only per registered child. Sorry, but no siblings. Call 703-941-1065.

Wednesday, February 2

Groundhog Day!

(4-12 yrs.) Learn the story behind Groundhog Day and some interesting facts about the groundhog. Visit the home of the Walney garden groundhog and play some groundhog games. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 3 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$7 per child. Children must attend with a registered adult. Call 703-631-0013.



Valentine's Day Programs

Celebrate Valentine's Day with family arts and nature programs in the parks. Look inside for details on these holiday-themed events from February 6 through February 14:

- ♥ Custom Valentine Making
- ♥ History Tots-Winter
- ♥ Forest Fledglings
- ♥ Animal Sweethearts Dance
- ♥ How to Say "Be Mine" in the Animal World
- ♥ Courtship in the Animal World Campfire
- ♥ Dashing Deer on Valentine's Day

Wednesday, February 2

Nature Tots-Winter

(1-3 yrs.) Bring your toddler to Ellanor C. Lawrence Park to explore nature through sight, sound, smell and touch with indoor and outdoor activities. Adults must be able to participate with children. Topics vary with the season. The topic in February is Wind and Mud. The program runs from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. and again from 11 to 11:45 a.m. The cost is \$8 per child. Call 703-631-0013.

Water Cycle

(K-Grade 3) Parks provide an experience not easily duplicated in the classroom. Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real outdoor experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia Standards of Learning. Experiences vary by park resources. This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners, including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. All attendees, parents and students must register to control group size. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Wednesday, February 2

Topics in Astronomy at the Roll-Top Observatory

(8-Adult) Explore everything from space missions to planets, stars and galaxies with different monthly topics at the Roll-Top Observatory at Turner Farm Park. Classroom discussion is followed by an observing session with telescopes, weather permitting. Check the Analemma Society website for the monthly topics (<http://www.analemma.org>). The program at Turner Farm Park runs from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-759-9018.

Thursdays, February 3 & 17

Homeschool at the Lake Winter

(7-12 yrs.) This program focuses on nature and history. A different topic and hands-on activities are covered each month. The topic in February is Snow. The program at Lake Accotink Park runs from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per child. For more information, call 703-569-3464.

Thursday, February 3

Saturday, February 26

Nature Storytelling

(3-6 yrs.) Hear a story, enjoy nature activities, take a short hike, and finish with a craft. Topics will change seasonally. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 10 to 11 a.m. on Feb. 3 and from 1 to 2 p.m. on Feb. 26. The cost is \$8 per child. A parent must accompany each child registered in the program. Call 703-631-0013.

Please register for programs at Parktakes online

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes



Fridays, February 4 & 18

Campfire Fridays-Winter

(3-Adult) Join us for an evening campfire the whole family can enjoy. Our programs may include nature walks, interactive activities, animal presentations or other opportunities to learn about nature and our place in it. Topics vary, but all programs include s'mores. The topics in February are: Feb. 4-Hibernation and Feb. 18-Winter Survival. The program at Lake Accotink Park runs from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, call 703-569-3464.

Friday, February 4

Corn Grinding & Clay Pottery

(4-Adult) How did the Powhatan Native Americans use the plants and animals you see every day for their medicine, grocery store, clothing and fun? Immerse yourself in a way of life 400 years ago. Grind corn, make a clay pot, master corn darts and go on a guided tour to see the park from the perspective of a Virginia Indian. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Saturdays, February 5 & 12

Drawing and Learning about Bones

(16-Adult) Learning about bones, skeletons and skulls can really improve your drawings of animals. Discover how to simplify the drawing of bones by working on toned paper using a combination of thick black markers, white gel pens and colored pencils. Watercolor options will be discussed. The program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center runs from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for two weeks. The cost is \$40 per person for the two sessions. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Saturday, February 5

African Americans at Walney Walking Tour

(8-Adult) Hear the names and stories of many African American families who lived and worked here at Walney. Learn about slave tenancy and hear stories of resistance and survival. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 11 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Flying Squirrel Campfire

(4-Adult) Enjoy an evening around the campfire toasting marshmallows over the embers and learn about flying squirrels that live in our area. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Children must attend with an adult and all attendees must register. Call 703-631-0013.

Saturday, February 5

Nature Scavenger Hunt

(4-Adult) Join us on the first Saturday of each month to learn about different aspects of nature and go on the hunt for themed objects around the park. The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 11 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$7 per person. All attendees, including parents, must register to control group size. Call 703-642-5173.

Washington Gardener Seed Exchange

(16-Adult) Washington Gardener Magazine is co-hosting the annual seed exchange at Green Spring Gardens with lectures, a face-to-face seed swap, and more. Bring your extra seeds to swap and leave with a bag full of seeds, new garden friends, and expert planting advice. The exchange runs from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 for verified Friends of Green Spring members and Washington Gardener subscribers; \$20 for guests. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Hot Cocoa Wetland Night Hike

(6-Adult) Sip hot cocoa and join a naturalist for a special winter wonder wetland tour after dark. We look for signs and listen for sounds of beavers, owls, deer and other nocturnal winter animals. We encourage program participants to bring their own mug to help us reduce waste. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

The Fire of Frederick Douglass

(9-Adult) Frederick Douglass was a visionary – a prophet who could see a better future that lay just beyond reach. His talents were nothing short of extraordinary, and he put his exceptional gifts to use in the service of freedom, driving American slavery into the grave. In this talk, we'll explore this many-sided man's life, family and career and consider his impact upon our modern struggle to advance the cause of Black freedom in the United States. This free online program is sponsored by the Sully Foundation, Ltd. and will be presented by special guest speaker Dr. Richard Bell, Professor of History at the University of Maryland. The virtual program runs from 3 to 4 p.m. Registered participants will receive an emailed link for the program by 10 a.m. on the day of the program. For more information, call 703-437-1794.

Sundays, February 6 & 20

Maple Syrup Boil Down

(3-Adult) The sap is rising and the maple trees are tapped. Now it's sugaring time! Bundle up, brave the weather, watch and learn as sap is boiled down into sweet syrup over an open fire. Sample the delicious combination of maple syrup over cornbread made from Colvin Run Mill cornmeal. While supplies last! This is an outdoor program, so please dress appropriately. The program runs from noon to 1 p.m. and again from 1 to 2 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-759-2771.

Sunday, February 6

Winter Bird Walk

(4-Adult) Take a hike through the woods with a naturalist to listen and look for winter avian residents and migrants at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Find out what birds do to survive the winter weather. The program runs from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$7 per person. Call 703-631-0013.

Custom Valentine Making


(3-Adult) Nothing says I LOVE MOO like a handmade Valentine's Day card! Bring your smocks and creativity to the Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center to get creative with your family and friends. Listen to music, use a ton of glue, and leave the clean-up to us. Materials will be provided for cards that kids and adults can make. Farm animal puns and historic style cards will be the featured crafts. Stay for a little while, or the whole time. The program runs from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$5 per person. Call 703-437-9101.

Flying Squirrels-Gliding in Tonight

(4-Adult) Join a naturalist calling in these amazing night gliders and look for flying squirrels at roosting boxes near the nature center. Learn how you can encourage flying squirrels to visit your yard. The program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center runs from 6 to 7 p.m. and again from 7 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$7 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, call 703-941-1065.

Family Hilltop Outing

(5-Adult) Join us for a family-friendly tour of Historic Huntley. What significance does this villa have to one of our founding fathers? Hop back in time with us to discover life of days past. Challenge yourself using historical tools like ice tongs. Can you hold a block of ice with just one finger? See if you can master old timey children's games. The program at Historic Huntley runs from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. For information, call 703-768-2525.



Follow Us On Twitter at
<https://twitter.com/fairfaxparks>

Sunday, February 6

The Art of Calligraphy

(12-Adult) Mary Teichman says “calligraphy is a great antidote to modern life.” Explore the connection of Huntley’s past residents to the beautiful art of writing. Try your hand at a variety of pens and brushes. Supplies are included. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Call 703-768-2525.

World Wetlands Day Sketch Hike

(10-Adult) Celebrate World Wetlands Day by joining park naturalist and artist Margaret Wohler on a hike to learn about the vital role wetlands play while identifying plants and animals. Learn drawing techniques to enhance your observation skills. Drawing supplies are included. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 1 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person. Call 703-768-2525.

Virginia Bird Calls

(4-Adult) Find out what birds stay around all winter long as we discuss common birds you may see. We will also explore what you might hear as we learn familiar bird calls. Prepare a treat to take home and share with your backyard feathered friends on the next cold or snowy day. The program at Lake Fairfax Park runs from 1 to 2 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Call 703-471-5414.

**Winter Lecture-
Thomas Rainer Garden Design**

(16-Adult) Renowned landscape architect and design blogger Thomas Rainer will talk about going beyond the basics of good garden design. Take lessons from his garden creations to improve your own planting plans for an ecologically diverse and beautiful garden. This program is sponsored by the Friends of Green Spring and runs from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

**Monday, February 7
Garden Sprouts Winter-
Nature Playgroup**

(3-5 yrs.) Your preschooler enjoys nature-themed activities while you meet other playgroup parents one Monday a month. Through games, songs, activities and a garden walk, we explore seasonal topics. The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Storytelling in the Garden

(2-Adult) Join us at Green Spring Gardens for a story. Bring a picnic blanket or just sit in the grass and listen to our storytellers. Then, take some time to explore our gardens, ponds and Historic House. The program runs from 9 to 9:45 a.m. The cost is \$5 per person. Call 703-642-5173.

Monday, February 7

**Homeschool Science-
Introduction to Mammalogy**

(6-12 yrs.) Join park naturalists to explore the branch of biology that studies and observes mammals. Learn how mammals interact with their habitats and other wildlife, and discover their contributions to the ecosystem. We will also discuss anatomy and physiology. Use scientific instruments to enhance your observation skills. Examine preserved specimens followed by outdoor exploration into their natural habitat. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from noon to 2 p.m. The cost is \$14 per child. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Tuesday, February 8

Wildlife Walk at Huntley Meadows

(4-Adult) Enjoy a naturalist-guided walk through the forested trails and wetland boardwalk. Look and listen for seasonally active wildlife such as birds, frogs, turtles, dragonflies, muskrats and more. Touch biofacts like turtle shells and snake-skin. Each season brings different wildlife into view. What will you discover? The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 1:30 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$9 per person. Children must be accompanied by registered adult. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

**Night Sky Tour at the Roll-Top
Observatory**

(8-Adult) Take a fun tour of planets, constellations, stars, nebulae and galaxies that can be seen with the naked eye and through telescopes at the Roll-Top Observatory at Turner Farm Park. If the weather is bad, we will discuss and show images of objects that could be observed in clear skies. No knowledge of astronomy is needed, just an interest in learning about the universe. The course is held rain or clear skies from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 703-759-9018.

Wednesday, February 9

History Tots-Winter

(1-3 yrs.) Bring your toddler to explore history through sight, sound, smell and touch. The seasonal program includes indoor and outdoor activities, and adults must be able to participate with children. The topic in February is Love. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. and again from 11 to 11:45 a.m. The cost is \$8 per child. Call 703-631-0013.

Wednesday, February 9

Birding at Huntley

(12-Adult) More than 200 species of birds have been identified in the forests, meadows, and wetland habitats of Huntley Meadows Park. Each season brings new feathered residents, for brief or extended stays. Grab your binoculars and join a park naturalist on your next birding adventure. All skill levels are welcome. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 9 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$15 per person. Call 703-768-2525.

Thursday, February 10

**Outdoor Science Lab at Huntley:
Biology-Owl Pellet Dissection**

(6-Adult) Explore the exciting world of science with fun hands-on experiments, activities and challenges. Enrich your understanding of various science and engineering topics using scientific investigations, observations, and lab skills with the guidance of a park naturalist. Each Outdoor Science Lab class focuses on a different science theme. All supplies are included. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 3 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-768-2525.

Friday, February 11

Winter Tree Detectives

(8-Adult) No leaves? No problem! Learn to use clues like buds, bark and fruit to identify and enjoy the winter beauty of some of the native trees at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. The program runs from 11 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$7 per person. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Epidemics of the Past

(14-Adult) Disease has always shaped our history. Enjoy a healthy stroll up to a lovely view while we uncover why the Masons built a summer home upon a hill. Learn how epidemics of the past shaped the society we live in today. The program at Historic Huntley runs from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-768-2525.

Winter Waterfowl Hike

(8-Adult) Hike with a naturalist to search for winter waterfowl along the Upper Potomac River. Bring binoculars and spotting scopes. The program at Riverbend Park runs from 9 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-759-9018.

Saturday, February 12

Animal Sweethearts Dance

(3-5 yrs.) It's back -- the social event of Hidden Pond's winter season! There will be dancing, refreshments, crafts and live animals to entertain. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 10 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$10 per child. For more information, call 703-451-9588.





Saturday, February 12

Premium Teas and Chocolate Pairing

(16-Adult) Always a February Favorite! Certified Tea Specialist Laurie Bell of Great Falls Tea Garden will lead a discussion on the similarities of terroir and processing of the tea plant and the cacao tree. Learn how to bring out the best flavor combinations in both. Tea-infused treats and a take-home tea and chocolate sampler are included. The program at ColvinRun Mill runs from 1 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$45 per person. For more information, call 703-759-2771.

Winter Stream Life

(8-Adult) Explore Walney Creek with a naturalist to meet some of the small creek critters (macroinvertebrates) that call it home. Learn why so many different types of macroinvertebrates are active in winter streams. The naturalist will demonstrate winter collecting and participants can help pick, sort and learn to identify these magnificent critters. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 1 to 2 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-631-0013.

Family Fun-Forcing Flowers

(7-Adult) Flowers in winter? You bet! Discover the science behind blooms, and how to coax them out, even in winter. Create an early bouquet including pussy willow and forsythia branches to bloom indoors. The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$12 per person. All attendees, including parents, must register to control group size. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Starting from Scratch with Seeds

(16-Adult) Grow flowers, vegetables and herbs from seed and expand your garden. Be inspired by Green Spring staff members as they discuss potting mixes, containers, seed treatments, lighting, fertilization, watering, seed sources and timing for plants in your garden. Then, take home a few seeds to start your own collection. The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$22 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

How to Say "Be Mine" in the Animal World

(3-Adult) Animals communicate in many ways. Learn how to express your affection in chimpanzee, toad, wolf and more on this outdoor Valentine's Day walk and talk. The program at Lake Fairfax Park runs from 2 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Children must be accompanied by an adult who is also registered in the class. For more information, call 703-471-5414.

Saturday, February 12

Twilight Boardwalk Stroll

(6-Adult) Join a park naturalist for a guided walk along the forested paths to the wetland and experience Huntley Meadows Park as it transitions from day into night. Watch and listen for beavers, owls and other nocturnal residents. The program runs from 5:15 to 7:15 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Astronomy Festival

(3-Adult) Enjoy activities including guided star gazing, looking through a telescope, and listening to ancient stories about the constellations round the campfire. Participate in other activities and games throughout the evening. Hot chocolate and snacks will be available for purchase. The program at Turner Farm Park runs from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. This event will be canceled if it is raining or snowing. For more information, call 703-759-9018.

Sunday, February 13

Monday, February 14

How to Say "Be Mine" in the Animal World

(3-Adult) Animals communicate in many ways. Learn how to express your affection in chimpanzee, toad, wolf and more on this outdoor Valentine's Day walk and talk. The program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center runs from 1 to 2 p.m. on February 13. On February 14, it runs from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and again from 11 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$7 per person. Children must be accompanied by an adult who is also registered in the class. For more information, call 703-941-1065.

Sundays, February 13 & 20

Saturday, February 19

Making Rope

(5-Adult) Ever wonder how rope was made in the 1800's? Experience the challenges people faced in making a rope that was sturdy enough for their needs. Make a piece of rope from plants found on the property and take it home to compare with today's rope. The 45-minute program at Sully Historic Site runs on the hour from 10 a.m. through 2 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 703-437-1794.

Sunday, February 13

Sip & Sketch Animals

(5-Adult) Join a park naturalist to sip hot cocoa with marshmallows and learn the basics of drawing in this family-friendly program. Then, try your hand at drawing some of our taxidermy animals like a fox, owl, beaver, duck or raccoon. Drawing materials will be provided. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person. Call 703-768-2525.

Sunday, February 13

History of the Kiss Afternoon Tea

(Adults) A kiss can express many things: love, attraction, respect, friendship and sacrament. Hear about kissing's origin and meaning as we explore kisses in art, famous kisses in history, and iconic kisses of the silver screen. Discover that the meaning and etiquette of kissing varies wildly across cultures. A traditional English tea follows the presentation. Full tea includes finger sandwiches, pastries, and scone with cream and jam. The tea program at Historic Green Spring runs from 1 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$38 for the program and tea; \$15 for the program only. Programs are by reservation only. For more information or to make a reservation, call 703-941-7987.

Virtual Winter Lecture: Create Designer Container Gardens

(16-Adult) Winter is the perfect time to begin planning your spring and summer container gardens. Container gardening expert Steph Green of Contained Creations discusses the elements behind her luxurious, eye-catching designs and shares her techniques for building lush, layered arrangements. We'll cover pot selection, plant combinations, and layouts that will help you elevate your own designs this year. A Zoom link will be emailed before the event. This virtual program is sponsored by the Friends of Green Spring and runs from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Hike with a Gal Friend

(5-Adult) Celebrate the sisterhood of women by grabbing your best gal friend and going on a guided hike with a naturalist. Learn about the flora and fauna at Lake Fairfax Park, and most importantly, spend time with a close friend. The program at Lake Fairfax Park runs from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person. For more information, call 703-471-5414.

Give the gift of fun and fitness with a Fairfax County Park Authority Gift Card.



Get details at:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gift-cards>

Monday, February 14

**Courtship in the Animal World
Campfire**

(4-Adult) What does it take to attract a mate in the animal world? Turtles, frogs, insects, birds and even fish all have unique techniques for finding that special someone. Learn about these unique specialties and enjoy a short hike before sitting around a campfire to roast marshmallows. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 6 to 7 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Dashing Deer on Valentine's Day

(3-6 yrs.) Join a naturalist to learn about the white tailed deer, our largest mammal neighbors. What do they eat and how do they live? Touch real deer fur, antlers and bones. Make a deer Valentine's day craft for your "deer." The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$10 per child. Call 703-768-2525.

Storywalk

(4-Adult) Do you love books, gardens, and nature walks? Combine all three and join our storytellers to move through the pages of a story and the beautiful gardens of Green Spring, connecting literature to the physical world. The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 9 to 10 a.m. The cost is \$8 per person. All attendees, including parents, must register to control group size. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

**Homeschool Science-
Introduction to Ornithology**

(6-12 yrs.) Explore how bird adaptations allow birds to live in their chosen ecosystem. Study the collection of preserved specimens at Huntley Meadows Park and do outdoor observations and exploration using field tools to learn identification and classification. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from noon to 2 p.m. The cost is \$14 per child. Call 703-768-2525.

Tuesday, February 15

Powhatan of the Eastern Woodlands

(Grade 1-6) Parks provide an experience not easily duplicated in the classroom. Our new "Field Trips for All" programs offer parents a unique opportunity to supplement their child's science learning with real experiences and application of the concepts required in the Virginia Standards of Learning. This program is geared by grade level to provide enrichment to all learners, including homeschool. Registration is limited to allow for social distancing. All attendees must register to control group size. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from noon to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-768-2525.

Tuesday, February 15

**Outdoor Science Lab at Huntley-
Secrets of the Past**

(6-Adult) Explore the exciting world of science with fun hands-on experiments, activities and challenges. Enrich your understanding of various science and engineering topics using scientific investigations, observations, and lab skills with the guidance of a park naturalist. Each Outdoor Science Lab class focuses on a different science theme. All supplies are included. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Wednesday, February 16

Full Moon Photography

(16-Adult) Learn how to capture images of the full moon. Test out your telephoto lens with a tripod to capture images of the full moon from the boardwalk at Huntley Meadows Park. Bring a backup lens if we get clouds to shoot long exposures of the park from the boardwalk after sunset. Bring your DSLR and tripod. All skill levels are welcome. Tripods are essential for this class. The program runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$40 per person. For information, call 703-768-2525.

Astronomy-Listening to the Universe

(8-Adult) What can you hear from space? Join the adventure to understand cosmic noise and what it tells us about the sun, the magnetic structure surrounding some of our planets, and the radio signals from Jupiter. Learn how our galaxy is mapped using the faint signals from hydrogen atoms and the behavior of molecules. Listen to the sounds of pulsars, strange dense fast rotating stars. Come hear what our universe is saying. The class will be held in the Roll-Top Observatory at Turner Farm Park from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-759-9018.

Thursday, February 17

Colvin Run Book Club

(16-Adult) Enjoy tucking into a Jane Austen novel. Join us at Colvin Run Mill as we explore some of Austen's most popular novels. In February, we will read "Emma." Meet in the Education Center to enjoy conversation and light refreshments. Please bring your own book. The program runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-759-2771.

Thursday, February 17

Skiing Penguins and Snowman Fun

(3-9 yrs.) Make fun crafts to keep or share. Build and race penguins and create spiffy snowmen. Create a gift bag to take home your fun creations. The program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center runs from 10 to 11 a.m. and again from 4 to 5 p.m. The cost is \$9 per child. Children should be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-941-1065.

Lunch and Learn-Black History Month

(9-Adult) When Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week in 1926, he wanted schools and other organizations to study Black history. The week of recognition has since grown to Black History Month. In honor of this month, learn about the enslaved people who made Sully their home during the 18th century. This program includes a visual presentation and hands-on elements. Bring your lunch and your questions, as discussion is welcome. The program at Sully Historic Site runs from noon to 1 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 703-437-1794.

Friday, February 18

**Campfire Night Hike-
Predators at Night**

(4-Adult) Enjoy a night hike to learn about nocturnal hunters. Listen to taped calls of owls and coyotes and try to catch a glimpse of them in the forest. End the evening with s'mores 'round the campfire. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 6 to 7 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-631-0013.

Twilight Hilltop Tour

(Adults) Historic Huntley sits high upon a hill overlooking Hybla Valley and Huntley Meadows Park. It's a dramatic setting made all the more stunning by the setting sun. Join us after hours for a special tour and see the house in a different light. Light refreshments will be served afterward. Dress appropriately for the weather. The program at Historic Huntley runs from 5 to 6 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-768-2525.

Saturday, February 19

Friday, February 25

Catch a Critter!

(4-Adult) Grab a net and join us for a special day with a park scientist to see, touch, and study wetland creatures up close and personal. Use magnifying lenses to study their unique characteristics. What can these wetland critters tell us about their home? The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on February 19 and from 2:30 to 4 p.m. on February 25. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Read our Blog at:
<https://ourstoriesandperspectives.com>



Our Stories and Perspectives
PARK AUTHORITY BLOG



Saturday, February 19

Family Outdoor Exploration

(All ages) Get your family into the great outdoors with a personalized program led by a naturalist or historian. This choose-your-own exploration can investigate topics such as Stream Life, Pond Life, Historic Ice Cream, and much more. Once you register, we will reach out to you to plan your family exploration. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 3 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$40 per family. Call 703-631-0013.

Feeding Day

(4-13 yrs.) Join a naturalist and youth volunteers as we demonstrate how we feed our site display animals. Search for worms and insects and assist in serving dinner. Make a birdfeeder to take home and use. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$8 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Virtual EcoSavvy Symposium- Restoring Urban Forest

(Adults) Help restore our urban forest, one yard at a time. This program will help you understand the ecological imperative to preserve and grow our tree canopy. Learn what you can do to help improve the issue of tree canopy decline throughout the region, and learn steps you can apply in your community and in your own yard to reverse this disturbing trend. A Zoom link will be emailed before the event. The virtual program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$58 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Family Fun-Polyhouse Planters

(7-Adult) Can't wait until April to plant? Come to our warm and toasty polyhouses. Explore these amazing tools our gardeners use to grow seeds all year round. Plant your own seed tray to come back and collect in spring. The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 11 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$10 per person. All attendees, including parents, must register to control group size. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Hiking Accotink Creek

(12-Adult) Enjoy a hike below the Lake Accotink Dam as you learn about the importance of Accotink Creek and its connection to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The hike will be dependent on the weather. The program at Lake Accotink Park runs from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 703-569-3464.

Saturday, February 19

Choose Your Nature Walk

(2-Adult) Book a walk with one of our Children's Education teachers and choose from a variety of topics for a themed tour of the park. Each tour will include a hands-on element and can be customized to include the science topics your students are learning in school. Choose one of the following topics: Pond Fauna & Flora, Native Virginia Plants & Trees, Watersheds & Geology of Green Spring, Virginia Ecosystems Walk, History of Green Spring as a Farm, or General Garden Tour. You can sign up for our scheduled walks or schedule an on-demand tour. The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 2 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$45 per group of up to nine people, including at least one adult. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Klondike Campfire Cookout

(5-Adult) Prepare a winter meal with your family using centuries-old colonial and indigenous cooking techniques around the campfire. Food and drink are provided. Bring a flashlight and warm clothes. Space is limited. The program at Riverbend Park runs from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person. Call 703-759-9018.

To Build a Fire

(4-Adult) Learn the science and art of building a fire and then test your skill with primitive fire bows and modern fire-making techniques. Use your new skills to roast s'mores. The program at Riverbend Park runs from noon to 1 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, call 703-759-9018.

Sunday, February 20

Mill Race Tour

(8-Adult) Cabell's Mill has changed over its 250 years. As we tour Cabell's Mill, we will discuss its function as a mill and in the community, learn how its function has changed over time, and examine its history through photography. The program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Family Fun Campfire

(All Ages) Join a naturalist for a private nature hike exploring the survival skills of our park's evening residents. Finish around a campfire toasting marshmallows. The hour-long program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park runs at 5, 6 and 7 p.m. The cost is \$90 per family. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Sunday, February 20

Birding for Beginners

(12-Adult) Interested in birding? We can get you started. Learn about the birds at Huntley Meadows Park and gain some basic identification skills. The program begins with a bird identification discussion and runs from 8 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$19 per person. Children age 12 to 16 must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Get Ready to Hike

(8-Adult) Get ready for your hiking trips this year. Join an instructor for a hike around Lake Fairfax, stopping at picturesque areas for selfies or memorable photos and practicing basic exercises you can do at home to get ready for those steep climbs and long treks across mountain ridges. You will leave empowered with information on how to prepare for your upcoming hikes. The program at Lake Fairfax Park runs from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person. Call 703-471-5414.

Virtual Winter Lecture- Lift Ev'ry Voice

(16-Adult) From sea to shining sea, Black people have made rich contributions to American garden history. Join horticulturalist and historian Abra Lee on this journey through the DMV and beyond as we celebrate these horticultural trailblazers. A Zoom link will be emailed before the event. This virtual program is sponsored by the Friends of Green Spring and runs from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Call 703-642-5173.

Tuesday, February 22

Wildlife Biology Kids

(6-12 yrs.) Join a park naturalist to explore the exciting lives of the animal kingdom. Outdoor nature hikes, hands-on activities and the use of scientific instruments will turn us into wildlife biologists. Each class in this series of programs covers a different animal's amazing abilities. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 1 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$14 per person. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Intro to Telescopes

(8-Adult) This course covers astronomy basics and what you need to know to set up and use your telescope. We will provide hands-on use of telescopes and observe objects in the sky from the Roll-Top Observatory, if the weather allows. Attendees can bring their own telescope for assistance and advice. The program at Turner Farm Park runs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$11 per person. Advance registration is required. For more information, call 703-759-9018.

Wednesday, February 23**Homeschool Science-
Introduction to Archaeology**

(6-12 yrs.) Discover how scientists learn about the history of human life through ground excavation and analysis of artifacts. The material objects humans left behind can tell us about their culture and how they lived. Become junior archaeologists as we examine real artifacts and participate in a mock dig. Can you solve the mystery we will uncover? The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 2 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$14 per person. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

**Outdoor Science Lab at Huntley:
Paleontology-Fantastic Fossils**

(6-Adult) Explore the exciting world of science with fun hands-on experiments, activities and challenges. Enrich your understanding of various science and engineering topics using scientific investigations, observations, and lab skills with the guidance of a park naturalist. Each Outdoor Science Lab class focuses on a different science theme. All supplies are included. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from noon to 1 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

**Thursday, February 24
Mapping the Past for
Homeschoolers**

(7-13 yrs.) Supplement your historical studies with a fun day of exploring, interpreting and making maps. Try your hand at orienteering, learn about different types of maps from around the world, and take home a personalized map of your life. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$14 per child. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

**Friday, February 25
Campfire Your Way**

(All ages) Join a naturalist for a private nature program at the Woodland Wildlife Tree Sculpture. Learn about the curious and creative survival strategies of nocturnal animals and then take a 25-minute nighttime hike to a cozy campfire in the woods to toast marshmallows. This program is for up to nine people in your family or COVID bubble group. It's ideal for celebrating a family birthday. The hour-long program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center runs at 4:30, 6, 6:45 and 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$90 per family. Bring a flashlight. A restroom is available. Contact kim.young@fairfaxcounty.gov for additional date options. This program will be rescheduled in the event of severe weather. For more information, call 703-941-1065.

Friday, February 25**Campfire Fridays**

(3-Adult) Join us for an evening campfire the whole family can enjoy. During the program we will explore the wonders of our natural world. Our programs may include nature walks, interactive activities, animal presentations, or other opportunities to learn about nature and our place in it. Topics vary by date, but all programs include s'mores. The program at Hidden Pond Nature Center runs from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-451-9588.

The Women of Historic Huntley

(16-Adult) A society matron, an enslaved wife and mother, a farmer's daughter, a military wife. Historic Huntley has been home to some interesting women and has seen the lives of women change dramatically since the house was built in 1825. See Huntley from a refreshingly different view as we stroll the house and grounds. The program at Historic Huntley runs from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Saturday, February 26**Colored Pencil & Acrylic Workshop**

(Adults) Colored pencils and acrylic layering is a fantastic technique for building up soft textures, sharp edges, and rich colors. Drawing from colorful photographs or still-life objects of flora or fauna, artist Dawn Flores helps you explore the techniques used to take colored pencils a step beyond their traditional use. A supply list will be emailed before class. The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., so please bring a lunch. The cost is \$97 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Spring Peepin

(4-Adult) Enjoy a winter hike through the trails looking for the first signs of spring. Join a naturalist to discover what life peeks out through the cold ground to take advantage of the early sun and first warm rains. The program at Eleanor C. Lawrence Park runs from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Family Fun-Nature Invaders

(7-Adult) An invasion is coming! Bugs, vines, birds and more. Come and join the fight against invasive species. Learn where these species come from and why we must put up a fight. Plant a native seed to take home and grow. The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person. All attendees must register. Call 703-642-5173.

Saturday, February 26**Garden Artists-
Fleeting Masterpieces**

(5-Adult) Explore the temporary art of Andy Goldsworthy, and utilize rocks, leaves, branches, and even ice to create your own fleeting nature masterpiece. The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 1 to 2 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. All attendees, including parents, must register to control group size. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

**Garden Talk-
Get Ready for Spring**

(16-Adult) Spring garden maintenance in Northern Virginia begins in winter and is a terrific way to shake the winter blahs. It's time to prune, transplant, fertilize, mulch and prevent weeds. Extension Master Gardeners give tips for selecting plants and starting seedlings. The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

**Great Woody Plants for the
Home Garden**

(16-Adult) Green Spring horticulturist Brenda Skarphol highlights beautiful flowering shrubs that grow well in Virginia home gardens. Get to know seasonal standouts for winter and spring. Learn the culture and care of these beauties and how to best showcase them in your garden. The program takes place outdoors at Green Spring Gardens from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$18 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

**Winter Garden Tour-
Green Spring Up & Down**

(Adults) Extension Master Gardener docents lead a tour of Green Spring's winter landscape. View some upper demonstration gardens, then take the garden path less traveled to explore the naturalistic lower garden areas -- the Virginia Native Plant Garden, woodland stream valley, and ponds. Finish at the Historic House with warm drinks. This tour involves a steep slope with loose gravel. The program at Green Spring Gardens runs from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$15 per person. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Flying Squirrel Campfire

(4-Adult) Enjoy an evening around the campfire toasting marshmallows over the embers and learn about flying squirrels that live in our area. The program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center runs from 6 to 7 p.m. and again from 7 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. Children must attend with an adult and all attendees must register. This program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. For information, call 703-941-1065.



Saturday, February 26

Poetry in Nature Sketch Hike

(10-Adult) Come enjoy a little creative time in the wild through poetry and drawing outdoors. Join naturalist and artist Margaret Wohler as we combine writing exercises and basic drawing skills to create a field page filled with images and words describing the Huntley wetlands and woods. Families are welcome. All drawing materials will be provided. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 1 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Hike with a Grandparent

(5-Adult) There is no better gift than being a grandparent. Spend time with valued family members by joining a naturalist for a guided hike. Keep an eye out for animals and listen to interesting tidbits from our naturalist. The program at Lake Fairfax Park runs from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person. For more information, call 703-471-5414.

Tree ID-Bark & Buds

(14-Adult) You may know how to identify tree species in the spring, summer and fall, but how about when the leaves and fruit are gone? Join us as we flex our tree ID muscles this winter and get to know a different side of our local trees. The program at Lake Fairfax Park runs from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 703-471-5414.

Sunday, February 27

Tree ID-Bark & Buds

(14-Adult) You may know how to identify tree species in the spring, summer and fall, but how about when the leaves and fruit are gone? Join us as we flex our tree ID muscles this winter and get to know a different side of our local trees. The program at Riverbend Park runs from noon to 2 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 703-759-9018.

Sniffing Out History

(Adults) Smells are like historical artifacts. Join us for an olfactory journey through the ages, exploring aromas from the past and the significant role of scent in human history. Learn how some museums use technology to recreate scents from bygone eras, from ancient perfumes to Viking toilets. A traditional English tea follows the presentation. Full tea includes finger sandwiches, pastries, scone, cream and jam. The tea program at Historic Green Spring runs from 1 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$38 for the program and tea; \$15 for the program only. Programs are by reservation only. For more information or to make a reservation, call 703-941-7987.

Sunday, February 27

Vernal Pool Ventures Campfire

(4-Adult) Vernal pools are one of the most fascinating and elusive ecosystems at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Join us after hours as we search for signs of new amphibian life. Learn about the life cycle and early development of local amphibians. Hike the trails at night and end the evening roasting s'mores over a campfire. The program runs from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, call 703-631-0013.

Monday, February 28

Secrets, Spies, Sputnik and Huntley

(Adults) Take a stroll with us on the less-visited side of Huntley Meadows Park to uncover the history of spies, espionage and how the Cold War struggle between the US and the USSR shaped Huntley and the Fairfax County we know today. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 2 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person. Meet at the South Kings Highway entrance. The program includes a 2.4-mile walk over flat terrain. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Homeschool-Sketching through History & Science

(6-12 yrs.) Did you know that 100 years ago most field scientists were accomplished artists? Without portable cameras, biologists needed a way to capture their discoveries, and art was their tool. Study the techniques used in making a field sketch page, learn some basic drawing skills, and get to know the stories of long ago explorers and scientists. A field sketch kit is included. The program at Huntley Meadows Park runs from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$14 per child. For more information, call 703-768-2525.

Stay on top of park happenings.



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Plan in advance with online reservations and payments to reduce contact and wait times for your favorite park activities.



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For inclusion and ADA support, Call 703-324-8727, TTY711

Programs may fill or be canceled after the Calendar is printed.

Please register at Parktakes online or confirm with the park.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes



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