



FEARLESS FEST

Every October, families visiting Hidden Oaks during Fear-less Fest have experienced a natural wonder --- nocturnal "wildlife" raising their voices to complain about their undeserved scary reputations! Once a year, naturalists guide small groups along a dark trail where the intrepid explorers happen upon a five-foot flying squirrel, a six-foot raccoon or even a sweet, oversized skunk who explains how humans just misunderstand their unusual ways.

Animals active at night have different adaptations than daytime creatures, enabling them to get a meal or to keep from being a meal. Some are predators, such as the loud barred owl. Others are prey, such as the tuneful skunk that just wants to be left alone. Naturalists explain that the animals may have their own opinion on how they affect humans. The black widow spider may not be quite as innocent as she lets on!

While waiting for their nighttime walk, program participants will learn about the mysteries of animals through crafts, live animal presentations and a wildlife skull display. Though the wild animals (and an occasional plant) may slightly s-t-r-e-t-c-h the facts, all visitors to this unusual nighttime gathering gain a different perspective of the challenges facing creatures that prowl the night.

For more information about Fearless Fest, please turn to the Nature section.



BUG OUT WITH US & CELEBRATE OUR INAUGURAL BUG FEST!

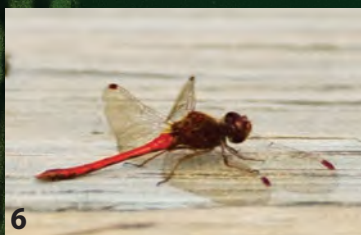


Are you a bug enthusiast? Do you have a passion for creepy-crawly creatures? Lewinsville Park is featuring Bug Fest this year on Saturday, October 1 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The entire family will love this program designed to appeal to learners of all ages who love insects!

Bug Fest features exciting, creepy bug themed programs, activities, and demonstrations. Join an insect safari, explore live insects, observe insect collections, roll logs to find bugs, play in soil stations, go for a bug walk, conduct bug experiments, and even make your own bug! You can also use technology to explore the world of insects.

So, buzz on over and come help us celebrate the un-bee-lievable and mite-y ways bugs impact our world every day!

Lewinsville Park is located at 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Va. Find details at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lewinsville-historic-house. Pre-registration is required.



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