

Sunday, January 25
Winter Lecture: The Cold Truth on Plant Hardiness
 Dr. Allen Hirsh explains factors that determine a plant's winter endurance at Green Spring Gardens from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. A half-hour reception follows the lecture. Learn how to "push the zones" in your garden. The cost is \$10 per person in advance; \$12 at the door. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Australia Day Celebration
 G'day mate! Celebrate Australia Day with traditional stories, games and songs, and meet a native animal at Hidden Oaks Nature Center from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Taste an Australian treat. Learn to speak Australian from our own Australian naturalist. The cost is \$7 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Tuesday, January 27
Genealogy: Scottish Research via Internet
 Learn about useful websites for researching Scottish ancestors from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at Lee High School. The cost is \$45 per adult. Register online. For information, call 703-222-4664.

Thursday, January 29
Feeding Day!
 We feed our display animals at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park from 3 to 4 p.m. Make a birdfeeder to take home and use. Search for worms and insects, and assist in serving dinner. The cost is \$5 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Thursday, Jan. 29 & Friday, Jan. 30
Wild Weir Winter Program
 Experience nature's wildest and weirdest stuff at Hidden Pond Nature Center. This program is full of science experiments, live animals, and outdoor exploration. Bring a snack to enjoy. This program is offered 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Jan. 30 for children ages three to six (\$18); 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 30 for children ages six to nine (\$18); and 3 to 5 p.m. on Jan. 29 (\$8). Register online. For information, call 703-451-9588.

Friday, January 30
Scotch Tasting Party
 Historic Green Spring hosts a sampling of fine Scottish single malts in celebration of Burns Night, the annual commemoration of Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns. Learn about the ancient history of Scotch whisky and the fine art of making and tasting it from 5 to 7 p.m. Enjoy traditional music and delectable Scottish accompaniments as you assess the unique characteristics of the "water of life" of the Highlands! The cost is \$42 (age 21 and over). To make a required reservation, call 703-941-7987.

Friday, January 30
S'more Wagon Ride & Campfire
 Enjoy a brisk wagon ride through the Rocky Run Stream Valley from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Discover who Ellanor C. Lawrence was and learn about other aspects of the areas local and natural history. Return to a warming campfire and make a sweet chocolate treat to eat. The cost is \$7 per person. Meet at Cabell's Mill. Register online. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Who-oo's at the Campfire?
 From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, gather round the campfire to hear stories of how owls came to be. Toast marshmallows. Learn how to recognize different owl calls. The cost is \$6 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Wake Up Sleepy Heads! Puppet Show & Wagon Ride
 Join us in getting our winter-sleeping puppet animals to rise and shine for springtime. Make a simple craft and enjoy a refreshing wagon ride through the meadow at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park from 1 to 2 p.m. The cost is \$10. Register online. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Garden Talks with Master Gardeners: Fern Gardening
 Have a damp or shady yard where it is difficult to grow flowers? Consider using ferns. From 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, Master Gardeners introduce you to the wide variety of ferns that add texture and interest to spaces that are not suitable for sun-loving flowers. The cost is \$10 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Saturday, January 31
Garden Design Lecture: Putting Your Garden Together
 From 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, landscape designer Amy Neiberline teaches you how to combine plants for your own garden. You will develop a plant list and learn about pricing and installing a garden plan. The cost is \$36 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Winter Birds at Mason Neck
 You don't need to be a bird expert to search for bald eagles, tundra swans, hooded mergansers, ruddy ducks and loons that winter along the Potomac. Take a hike in the first wildlife refuge to protect bald eagles from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pack a lunch and enjoy a bird discussion and picnic at Mason Neck State Park after our hike. Meet at the parking lot for the Great Marsh Trail at the Elizabeth Hartwell National Wildlife Refuge. The cost is \$15 per person or \$35 per family. Register online. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Saturday, January 31
Campfire Saturdays at Lake Accotink
 Join us for a campfire from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park! Adventure awaits as you explore the woodlands and lakefront spots where wildlife hides and resides. The program about nocturnal predators ends with a cozy campfire. Bring whatever you like to roast; s'mores provided. The cost is \$7 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-451-9588.

Mondays
Bird Walk at Eakin Community Park
 Go birding on a free walk from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Meet at the Prosperity Ave. parking lot. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Yoga for Gardeners
 This class at Green Spring Gardens features a gentle introduction to the Vinyasa method helping participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. The 11 classes in this session are held indoors. The cost is \$117. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.


Daily
"The Nutcracker, not the ballet" exhibit
 Did you ever wonder where the craze for collecting nutcracker dolls came from? See an array of colorful nutcrackers, both old and new in Sully Historic Site's special holiday exhibit, which is included with a guided tour. For information, call 703-437-1794.

Sully's New Visitor Center
 The new visitor center and Squirrel's Nest Museum Shop at Sully Historic Site are open with expanded merchandise, ticket sales and the Eddie Wagstaff Conference room, which is available for rent. The center is open daily, except Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, call 703-437-1794.

 **IMA VOLUNTEER!** Get involved with our Invasive Management Area (IMA) program and make a big difference! Find IMA workdays online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/IMA.

Prepared by the **Fairfax County Park Authority Public Information Office**

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 Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes.

January 2015
Friday, January 2
Snake and Turtle Feeding
 At least one snake, two turtles and a toad will be fed from 2 to 3 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center. The cost is \$5. Register online. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Wild Animals Puppet Show
 Learn about wildlife and our environment through puppet plays from 11 a.m. to noon at Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Activities may include live animals and interactive group activities. The cost is \$5 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Saturday, Jan. 3 or Monday, Jan. 12
Nature by Touch
 Children ages three to nine touch furs, plants and creatures that have amazing parts and features at Hidden Oaks Nature Center. This one-hour program is offered at 2 p.m. on Jan. 3 and 4:15 p.m. on Jan. 12. The cost is \$6. Register online. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Saturdays, January 3 & 31
Flying Squirrels: Gliding in Tonight
 Look for these amazing night gliders at roosting boxes near Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Learn how you can encourage flying squirrels to visit your yard. This one-hour program starts at 5 p.m. on Jan. 3 and 6 p.m. on Jan. 31. The cost is \$6. Register online. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Sunday, January 4
Stories in the Snow
 Join a naturalist in a search for paw prints and animal signs at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park and then learn what tales animal skulls can tell. This one-hour program starts at 10 a.m. and the cost is \$5 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Art Show Reception
 Come to the horticulture center and Historic House at Green Spring Gardens from 1 to 3 p.m. and see the work of artists of the Vienna Arts Society. Meet the artists at the reception, and enjoy light refreshments. The art show begins on December 30 and ends on February 22, 2015. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Sunday, Jan. 4 & Thursday, Jan. 29
Dino Puppet Show & Activities
 Children ages three to seven enjoy a puppet show along with fun fossil facts at Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Register online. This one-hour program starts at 2 p.m. on Jan. 4 and 10 a.m. on Jan. 29. The cost is \$6 per child. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Monday, January 5
Full Moon Hike
 Enjoy nature's tranquil beauty and winter's bright skies under the full moon at Hidden Pond Nature Center from 7 to 8 p.m. A naturalist guide points out signs of creatures that glide, fly and tiptoe through the woods in the dark. Refreshments are provided. The cost is \$6 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-451-9588.

Mondays, January 5, 12 & 26
Little Acorns: Winter
 Preschoolers ages two to four and their accompanying adult begin sharing nature's wonders in this interactive class at Hidden Oaks Nature Center from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Experiences include finger plays, stories, activities and weather permitting, an outdoor exploration. Dress for the weather. The cost is \$6 per child. Register online. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Thursday, Jan. 8 & Saturday, Jan. 10
Kids' Korner: Winter
 Preschool children ages four to six explore nature or history once a month, accompanied by an adult, at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. An outdoor activity and craft is included. The one-hour program starts at 1 p.m. on Jan. 8 and 10 a.m. on Jan. 10. The cost is \$5. Register online. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Saturday, January 10
Garden Sprouts: Prickly Cactus
 Imagine you are traveling to the desert as we find cacti in the warmth of Green Spring Gardens' glasshouse. Did you know that animals rely on cacti for food and shelter? Children ages three to five learn how from 11 a.m. to noon. Enjoy a story, taste a cactus treat and make a fun cactus craft to take home. The cost is \$6. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Try A Tea Program!

Saturday, January 10
The Sweet Side of Tea
 This interactive tasting seminar at Colvin Run Mill Historic Site explores the many flavors of honey and maple syrup and how they can enhance a variety of green, black and herbal teas. From 1 to 3 p.m., taste treats made with these three straight-from-nature ingredients. This program is presented by Certified Tea Specialist and Chef Laurie Bell of Great Falls Tea Garden. The cost is \$30 per person. To make a reservation, call 703-759-2771.



Sunday, January 11
Consider Carnations Tea Program
 Carnations are perfect flowers for lush and substantial winter bouquets or arrangements. From 1 to 3 p.m. at Historic Green Spring, discover how to play up the carnation's strengths to create simple yet sophisticated displays. The cost is \$32 per person and includes a full English afternoon tea. To make a required reservation, call 703-941-7987.

Saturday, January 24
Alice in Wonderland Tea Party
 Parents and children sip tea, enjoy butterfly-shaped sandwiches, and join the crazy fun of Alice in Wonderland's Mad Hatter and his friends at the strangest of tea parties at Hidden Oaks Nature Center from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Meet a live creature from the story. The cost is \$15. Register online. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Sunday, January 25
Caricature: The Wicked Art Tea Program
 View exaggerated and comical illustrations that convey biting social satire at Historic Green Spring from 1 to 3 p.m. A gallery of bold and bawdy prints shows how talented caricaturists of the late 18th and early 19th centuries documented and ridiculed current events, fashions and social mores and provided a humorous and illuminating "photo" archive of their time. The cost is \$32 and includes a full English afternoon tea. To make a required reservation, call 703-941-7987.

Saturday, January 10

Family Fun: Desert Dreams

Warm up in the glasshouse at Green Spring Gardens and investigate the deserts of the Southwest from 1 to 2 p.m. Join us for a story, sample a cactus treat, and take home a plant of your own. This family-friendly program is intended for children ages five and older with a registered adult. The cost is \$6. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Caribbean Reef Puppet Show

Children ages three to seven join an octopus, ray, shark, lobster and all their friends in this undersea adventure at Hidden Oaks Nature Center from 2 to 3 p.m. After the show, play a game, sing songs of the sea and make a craft. The cost is \$5 per child. Register online. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Evening Walk

Join Huntley Meadows Park naturalist PJ Dunn to hike the trails after dark from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Look and listen for owls, beavers and other night animals. The cost is \$6 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-768-2525.

Watercolor Workshop: Pouring Paint

Instructor Marni Maree demonstrates how to pour paint to make shapes, textures and colors that glow from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens. Learn to make wonderful glazes, stunning backgrounds and surprising colors. A morning demonstration is followed by student painting and critiquing. The cost is \$77. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Sunday, January 11

Birding for Beginners: Woodpeckers

Learn about woodpecker biology and behavior at Huntley Meadows Park from 8 to 11 a.m. See if you can spot some of the seven species found in the park. The cost is \$6 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-768-2525.

Meet Live Snakes, Turtles and Toads

Meet native reptiles and amphibians and learn how to identify these species at Hidden Oaks Nature Center from 2 to 3 p.m. See at least one animal being fed. Learn how these animals' wild cousins are adapting to seasonal stresses. The cost is \$5 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Reptile & Amphibian Club

Children ages 6 to 16 explore the amazing world of turtles, snakes, lizards, frogs and salamanders at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park from 3 to 4 p.m. Learn facts, encounter live animals and discover their habitats in the park. The cost is \$5. Register online. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Sunday, January 11

Bird Watching Club

Look up, listen carefully and discover the amazing variety of birds that inhabit Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Kids ages 4 to 12 meet from 2 to 3 p.m. to develop birding skills that will last a lifetime. The cost is \$5 per child. Register online. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Winter Lecture: Beautiful Winter Gardens

Smithsonian gardener James Gagliardi shares his expertise on making a beautiful winter garden at Green Spring Gardens from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. A 30-minute reception follows the lecture. The cost is \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Mondays, January 12 & 26

Nature Quest: Winter

From field to stream and everything in between, children ages three to six learn about our local animal species, hands-on and in the field at Hidden Pond Nature Center from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$6 per child. Register online. For information, call 703-451-9588.

Tuesday, January 13

Animal Feeding at the Nature Center

Children ages 3 to 12 help the Hidden Pond naturalist feed the animals from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$4 per child. Register online. For information, call 703-451-9588.

Genealogy: Scots/Irish Research

Learn how to trace your Scots-Irish (Ulster-Scots) ancestors from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at Lee High School. The lecture covers Internet research and introduces other avenues of research on this highly mobile group. The cost is \$45. Register online. For information, call 703-222-4664.

Wednesday, January 14


Nature Tots at Walney

Bring your toddler to explore nature through sight, sound, smell, and touch at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park from 10:15 to 11 a.m. Programs include both indoor and outdoor activities. The cost is \$4 per child. Register online. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Thursday, January 15 and 29

Amateur Naturalist: Winter

Adults join us at Hidden Pond Nature Center from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for hands-on learning. Topics include herpetology on Jan 15 and forestry on Jan. 29. The cost is \$6. Register online. For information, call 703-451-9588.



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Thursday, January 15 and 29

Monica's Mockingbirds

Children ages 4 to 11 explore the natural world with naturalist Monica at Hidden Pond Nature Center from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Topics include reptiles and amphibians on Jan. 15 and animal defenses on Jan. 29. The cost is \$6. Register online. For information, call 703-451-9588.

Friday, January 16

Garden Talks with Master Gardeners: Gifts from the Garden

Learn about drying flowers and herbs, forcing bulbs, making relish or chutney, potpourri and many other techniques at Green Spring Gardens from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$10. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Fridays, January 16, 23 & 30

Rockhounds Winter Series

Children ages 6 to 12 join naturalist Kyle at Hidden Pond Nature Center from 4 to 5:30 p.m. as he delves into a different topic each meeting with science, outdoor explorations and live animals. The cost is \$8 per child. Register online. For information, call 703-451-9588.

Fridays, January 16 & 30

Campfire Fridays: Winter

Come along for a night of campfire, s'mores, animals, and so much more! Each night features a different topic and different areas of Hidden Pond Park that we visit from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-451-9588.

Saturday, January 17

Campfire Saturdays at Royal Lake

Join us for a campfire from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Royal Lake. Adventure awaits as you explore the woodlands and lakefront spots where wildlife hides and resides. Bring whatever you like to roast; s'mores provided. The cost is \$7. Register online. For information, call 703-451-9588.

Ice Making in 19th Century Fairfax

Before there were refrigerators, there was ice. From 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, learn how ice was harvested and stored on Walney Farm in the 19th century. Make and eat ice cream. Please be sure to register an adult with your child. The cost is \$8. Register online. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Park Manager Walk and Talk

Join Huntley Meadows Park Manager Kevin Munroe on a walk from 3 to 5 p.m. Find out about the wetland restoration project and learn about the wildlife for which the park is known. Free. For information, call 703-768-2525.

Saturday, January 17

Squirrel Appreciation Day

Celebrate National Squirrels Day! Learn what makes them such a neighborhood success with stories, games and song at Hidden Oaks Nature Center from 2 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$5. Register online. For information, call 703-941-1065.

Garden Design Lecture: Elements of Design

Uncover basic garden design elements with landscape designer Amy Neiberline from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens. Discover how to use line, form, texture and color in your plantings to create your own beautiful garden. The cost is \$36 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Saturdays, January 17, 24 & 31

Garden Design Workshop: Three Morning Lectures + Three Afternoon Work Sessions

Learn do-it-yourself garden design and walk away with a design for your own garden. This three-session workshop at Green Spring Gardens includes morning lectures on landscape design basics, followed by afternoons of individualized help on your plan guided by landscape designer Amy Neiberline. This program runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$185 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Sunday, January 18

Family Fun: Hot Cocoa Party

From 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., take a walk through Green Spring Gardens' winter wonderland, then join us back inside to warm up with a hot cocoa party. Listen to some heartwarming winter stories and make a wintry craft to take home. This program is suited for children ages five and older with a registered adult. The cost is \$16. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Winter Lecture: Amazing Papyrus Plant

Dr. John Gaudet will enlighten you about this versatile plant and demonstrate paper-making from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens. A half-hour reception follows the lecture. The cost is \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Pooh Bear's Friends' Tea Party

Families enjoy honey, tea and cookies in a Pooh-style tea at Hidden Oaks Nature Center from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Learn about Virginia's black bears and whether heffalumps and wuzzles are native to Fairfax County. Bring your favorite stuffed animal and join us for a guided walk. The cost is \$15. Register online. For information, call 703-941-1065.



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Sunday, January 18

Richard Bland Lee's 252nd Birthday

During your house tour from 1 to 4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, discover important contributions of Mr. Lee's impressive political career. Stop in the east wing for a piece of birthday cake. Admission is half-price for this event: \$3.50 per adult, \$3 per student, and \$2.50 per senior and child. For information, call 703-437-1794.

Snow Big Deal

Find out how wild animals stay safe and snug while winter weather deals its worst at Hidden Pond Nature Center from 1 to 3 p.m. After an indoor presentation and animal homes hike expedition, make your own snow globe and six-sided snowflake. The cost is \$8. Register online. For information, call 703-451-9588.

Tuesday, January 20

Celestial Happenings: Winter

Come to Hidden Pond Nature Center from 7 to 8:30 p.m. to see and learn about different celestial events that occur during winter. The cost is \$8 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-451-9588.

Genealogy: Finding your VA Ancestors

This course is an overview of information needed to begin researching in Virginia. Topics covered include boundary changes and disputes, burned county information, vital records, immigration/naturalization, land, probate and church records and the repositories where these records can be found. The class meets from 7 to 9 p.m. at West Springfield High School. The cost is \$39. Register online. For information, call 703-222-4664.

Wednesday, January 21

Genealogy: Y-DNA Tracing Your Male Lines

Testing the Y-chromosome (Y-DNA), the most powerful DNA test, is a valuable tool in tracing paternal lineages, but only males can take this test. However, there are ways women can benefit from this test. This course at Annandale High School from 7 to 9:30 p.m. covers all recent advances and discusses strategies for testing and analysis. The cost is \$45 per adult. Register online. For information, call 703-222-4664.

Friday, January 23

Family Nature Night

Reconnect with nature at Huntley Meadows Park through activities, crafts, games and walks from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-768-2525.

Saturday, January 24

Evening Stroll at Huntley Meadows Park

Tour the woods and wetland from 4 to 6 p.m. Look for wildlife. The cost is \$6. Register online. For information, call 703-768-2525.

Saturday, January 24

Sketch Hike: Winter Trees and Landscapes

Join Huntley Meadows Park naturalist and artist Margaret Wohler for a hike and learn sketching techniques to enhance your observation skills from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$6. Register online. For information, call 703-768-2525.

Dive into Dragonflies

From 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, discover the diverse world of dragonflies. Leave with a list of the top ten parks to spot them as well as information on how to create the perfect dragonfly pond. The cost is \$6. Register online. For information, call 703-768-2525.

All Scout Astronomy Festival

View outer space through a telescope, listen to ancient stories about the constellations around the campfire, take a guided tour of the night sky and participate in hands-on activities at Riverbend Park from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Complete aspects of badges for many Boy Scout, Cub Scout and Girl Scout levels or make your own. The cost is \$7.50 per scout and sibling; \$4 per adult. To make a reservation, call 703-759-9018.

Secret Forest

Learn the winter secrets of our lovely evergreen forest and the surprises held within the hardwood forest at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Discover how helping the land to heal helps your community. The cost is \$5. Register online. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Garden Design Lecture: Garden Site Biology

Learn how to assess your garden for soil type, climatic zone and sun quality at Green Spring Gardens from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Discover how these elements interact and support beautiful plants. The cost is \$36 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.

Garden Tour: Beautiful Bones

Walk with a Master Gardener docent and view the unchanging structure of Green Spring Gardens' landscape from 10 to 11:30 a.m. An interesting winter display with good bones supports your garden's appeal all year. Warm up with refreshments at the Historic House. The cost is \$15 per person. Register online. For information, call 703-642-5173.

LET IT MOVE – Hanging Kinetic Art

Show Reception with Juror's Talk

Come and see Green Spring Gardens' juried art show, *Let It Move*, a hanging kinetic art exhibit. The show begins on Jan. 24 and ends on March 22. The juror will speak at the reception scheduled from 3 to 4:30 p.m. For information, call 703-642-5173.