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Bringing Back Bluebirds

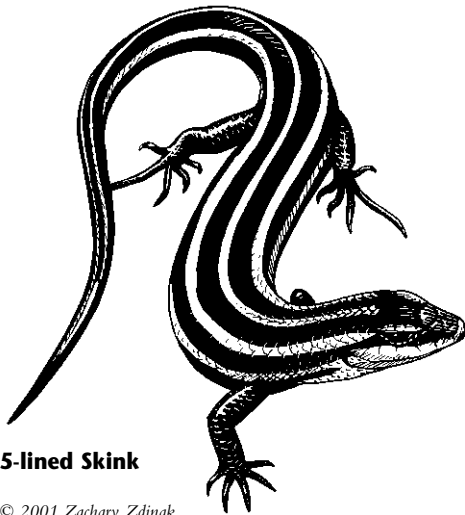
Sunday, April 6; 1:00-4:00 pm

Come learn about bluebirds and how they live. Each participant will assemble a nest box to take home and put up, hopefully to welcome bluebirds into your yard. We'll provide all the materials. Bring hammers and rechargeable drills and screwdrivers, if you have them. To reserve a space, mail the program fee of \$10.00 per box (including FOJB members), in advance, to the Sanctuary. All ages welcome.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Saturday, April 26; 1:00-3:00 pm

Snakes, turtles, lizards, frogs, toads and salamanders will be the stars of this program. We'll explore the forest and ponds to learn more about the similarities and differences between reptiles and amphibians. Wear waterproof boots or shoes that can get wet. All ages welcome.



5-lined Skink

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Water Quality In-Field Training

Saturday, December 8; 9:00-11:30 am

Since the Sanctuary's founding in 1985 we have been tracking the conditions of the water coursing along the river and through our wetlands. This year-round study gives volunteers a chance to experience our wetland habitats through all seasons, record data, conduct fieldwork and perform lab analysis. Brush up on your water quality skills, or come learn about the study for the first time. This in-field training session will walk volunteers through a monitoring session to see the ins and outs of the study. For teens and adults.

Behind the Scenes Volunteer Training Workshops

Saturday, January 5; 1:00-4:00 pm

1-2 pm Office/Administrative Workshop

With an office staff of one we can always use a hand around the Wetland Center! This workshop teaches volunteers how to welcome visitors, answer phone calls, collect entrance fees, and a whole host of other useful tidbits to keep our facility running smoothly. For teens and adults.

2-3 pm Animal Care Workshop

Fish, and turtles, and birds, oh my! Volunteers will learn how to feed and take care of our tank fish, painted turtle, and box turtles. You'll also learn about our different bird feeders and the feathered friends they attract. For teens, adults, and families with children at least 7 years old.

3-4 pm Artwork, Photography, Writing

Fun projects pop up often for artistic volunteers. Come learn about some upcoming drawing, photographing, and writing opportunities, as well as recurring opportunities to stretch that left brain. For teens and adults.

Stream Monitoring

Friday, January 11; 12:30-4:00 pm

Volunteers are needed to help collect, identify, and count stream invertebrates that are used to evaluate stream health. Wear shoes and clothes that can get wet and muddy. Bring a change of clothes and a towel. For adults and children over 12 years old.

Habitat Survey Party

Wednesday, January 16; 1:00-4:00 pm

It's time to evaluate what we discovered about the Virginia Pine forests of the Glendening Preserve. Join us for this social event to reminisce about our favorite plot, observations about tree species distribution, and how to improve the study. We'll discuss our plans for exploring the Riggelman Preserve. In addition, volunteers can suggest questions to investigate using our data. This party is open to everyone who has helped with this study, as well as anyone who would like to learn about what we accomplished, and those interested in helping next year. Drinks and refreshments provided.

Become a Volunteer Workshop

Saturday, January 26; 2:00-3:00 pm

From conducting ecological field research, to leading education programs, analyzing data, and being a steward of the forests, meadows and wetlands, the volunteer opportunities at Jug Bay are nearly endless! Join us for an overview of the volunteer program and how you can get involved. For first time volunteers, as well as existing volunteers who want to learn more. For teens, adults, and families with children at least 7 years old.

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Parris N. Glendening Nature Preserve at Jug Bay

The Glendening Preserve encompasses over 620 acres of tidal marshes, upland forests, stream valleys and open meadows. Come explore these habitats and search for a diversity of plants and animals. Parking is available daily at the Wrighton Road entrance (closed on Sundays during the winter and on holidays.) The Plummer House will be open to the public; call or check web site for specific dates and times. No entrance fee.

Glendening Preserve programs meet at the Plummer House (Plummer Lane entrance).



Beavers Celebrate Groundhog Day

Saturday, February 2; 3:30-5:30 pm

We will learn how these two mammals have different adaptations for living in two very different habitats. We will hike to the beaver ponds and the meadows in hopes of catching a glimpse of these secretive animals. Dress warmly, and wear footwear that can get muddy. All ages.

Mystery Hike

Saturday, March 1; 1:00-3:00 pm

Join a volunteer naturalist on a difficult hike through never-before-visited sections of the Sanctuary. You will see a beaver dam and lodge "up close and personal" and visit four of our largest trees. Learn how proposed developments adjacent to the Sanctuary could harm our natural resources. The route will require traversing rough terrain, steep hillsides, a flood plain and small streams. Bring your binoculars, cameras, and walking sticks. Sturdy, preferably waterproof footwear recommended. For adults and teens.

Vernal Equinox Hike

Saturday, March 15; 4:30-6:30 pm

The Vernal Equinox marks the first day of spring. We'll take a hike to look for signs of the new season. We'll end with at sunset with a light snack. No entrance fee. All ages welcome.

Trail Maintenance Workshop

Saturday, February 23; 1:00-3:00 pm

With 12 miles of trails to maintain, we can use all the help we can get! This workshop is for existing Trail Monitors and new volunteers. Existing Trail Monitors will have a chance to share their experiences and renew their adopted trail for another year. New volunteers will have a chance to learn about the program and adopt available trails of their own. For adults.

Naturalist Training: Tips & Tricks

Saturday, March 8; 1:00-4:00 pm

Volunteers are needed to lead weekend programs for families. This workshop will focus on the "fun"-damentals of creating programs that introduce families to the wonders of nature. Educational and engaging activities along with tips for creating successful trips will enable volunteers to lead a variety of hands-on programs. Some natural history knowledge is useful. For adults or older teens.

Water Quality In-Field Training

Saturday, March 15; noon-3:00 pm

Since the Sanctuary's founding in 1985 we have been tracking the conditions of the water coursing along the river and through our wetlands. This year-round study gives volunteers a chance to encounter our wetland habitats through all seasons, record data, conduct field work and lab analysis. Brush up on your water quality skills, or come learn about the study for the first time. This in-field training session will walk volunteers through a monitoring session to see the ins and outs of the study. For teens and adults.

Patuxent River Clean Up

Saturday, March 22; 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Saturday, April 5; 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Volunteers will pick up trash that has floated into the marsh, fallen into stream beds, and littered our roadsides. We'll also remove non-native invasive plants in the afternoon. Please dress in work clothes (long sleeved shirts and pants), including boots or shoes that can get wet, and bring work gloves, a bag lunch, a change of clothes and a towel. Children should be at least 6 years old. Scout troops and community groups are welcome.

Non-native Invasive Plant Removal

Saturday, April 5; 1:00-4:00 pm

Join our team to remove the non-native invasive plants from our forests before they threaten the Sanctuary's habitats. You can also adopt your own plot to manage the invasives. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and sturdy work shoes. Bring water, and if you have them, work gloves and hand pruners. Children should be at least 8 years old.

Scout Projects Enhance the Sanctuary By Lindsay Hollister

Scorching Heat for a Stellar Garden

Diligently beginning his preparation in last winter, Eagle candidate Ryan Pater intended to install for us a native butterfly garden in the spring, when rains would help nurture the plants, and mild temperatures would make for easy installation. Fast-forward to August, when approval came down through the ranks of the Boy Scout Council, and installation was headed for the dog days of summer.

Not to be discouraged, Ryan scheduled a weekend to install the much-anticipated garden. As the date approached, the forecast was grim. Installation Saturday arrived, and Ryan appeared with many helpers to get to work. As the morning ticked away to the afternoon they worked steadily. As the scouts planted each section, someone was right on their heels to water our new arrivals, and by 4 p.m. they were packing up the shovels and rakes and patting themselves on the back. Visitors began commenting on the new addition right away, as it is a very eye-catching display.



Ryan Pater installed a native butterfly garden for his Eagle Scout project.

Ryan knew that the work was not finished. His mother works at a nursery so he was well aware that new gardens need special care. For the next two months Ryan regularly appeared several times a week to soak the freshly planted garden, and was pleased to see that bees and monarch butterflies were already seeking food there. The added care has paid off and not one plant was lost during the drought. Though the garden has gone dormant for winter, the insects will find it again, and we look forward to using it as a focal point during future programs.

Solid Gold—New Visitors Overview Guide

As the Scout Program here at Jug Bay slowly grows, I am pleased to report the completion of our first Girl Scout Gold Award, by Arin Shortz. Roughly equivalent to a Boy Scout earning Eagle, it is the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve. Arin first came to Jug Bay as an elementary student on a field trip, then again during Teen Adventure. She enjoyed it so much that she decided this was the place to earn her Gold Award. After meeting to discuss the options and warn Arin that this was the first Gold Award I'd been part of, we plunged into the unknown together.

This was an intellectual and solo project—a different beast than the group construction-type projects of Eagle candidates. Arin decided to create a Visitors Guide binder summarizing what we are about in a colorful, and easy-to-read, one-page format. The impetus behind this project was two-

fold. Mainly, if no one is available to discuss nature sightings or answer questions in the office, visitors can look up their queries in the binder, but secondly it makes for a handy overview to newcomers. Arin visited often to study the Exhibit Displays, attend education programs, and read the available literature on the history of the grounds.

As the final product began to unfold, I was very pleased to see Arin's own creative input that went into the layout of the binder. One of the best things she included was a stack of comment cards stuck into the front pocket, so that she can continue to improve upon her work. I hope that you will take a minute the next time you visit to see her fine work and give your two cents.

