

Summer 2011 - June, July, August



The Snag

Programs and Events
in Natural and Cultural History

from Arlington's Conservation & Interpretation Section

In the News: Arlington Invaded!

A century and a half ago, Arlington, part of the Confederate state of Virginia, then known as Alexandria County, was occupied territory! In late May of 1861, Union troops crossed the bridges from Washington and occupied Arlington. They built their first fortifications to protect Washington and its bridges from the rebels and established camps throughout the county, while training for battle. In July, the Union soldiers headed west to defeat the Confederate army and end the war. Instead, after losing the 1st Battle of Bull Run, they retreated back to Arlington to build new forts and resume their training.

In late summer 1861, the front line between the two armies lay along Arlington's western boundaries. Confederates were in Falls Church defending Upton's and Minor's Hills. Minor skirmishes were fought near Ball's Crossroads (Ballston) and Bailey's Crossroads and a balloon sent up near Roslyn directed artillery fire from Fort Ethan Allen toward rebels at Falls Church. Finally in late September as the Union troops advanced, the Confederates pulled back to winter quarters near Manassas.

Although the 1861 events in Arlington became minor notes in the history books as the war dragged on, the county was an important point in the beginning of the war and the place where thousands of Union soldiers learned how to fight. Today most remnants of the war are gone; however signs of war remain at Forts C.F. Smith, Ethan Allen and Scott.

For the next four years the Arlington Sesquicentennial Commission and PRCR will hold commemorative events throughout the County. Look for details in The Snag and on the Commission's website www.arlcivwar.net.

Another anniversary will be celebrated this summer. Gulf Branch Nature Center is 45 years old! Come join the party as we cut the ribbon on Mr. Owl's new home, meet other live owl guests, and more. See page 6 for details.

Inside this edition:

- How to Register.....pg 2
- Volunteer.....pg 3
- Adult Programs
 - Nature.....pg 4
 - Book Club.....pg 5
 - Birding.....pg 5
 - Happy Hour Hikes....pg 5
- History Programs.....pg 6
- Gulf Branch Party.....pg 6
- Nature Programs
 - for Kids.....pg 7-9
 - for Families.....pg 7-9
- Firefly Festival.....pg 7
- Archery.....pg 9
- Bat-Fest.....pg 9
- Library Programs.....pg 10
- Campfires.....pg 10
- Gemstone Clubs.....pg 11



**Park Rangers
(PRs)**
601 N. Manchester St.
Arlington, VA 22203
703-525-0168

**Long Branch Nature Center
(LBNC)**
625 S. Carlin Springs Rd.
Arlington, VA 22204
703-228-6535



**Gulf Branch Nature Center
(GBNC)**
3608 Military Rd.
Arlington, VA 22207
703-228-3403

**Fort C.F. Smith Park
(FCFS)**
2411 N. 24th St.
Arlington, VA 22207
703-243-4342

How do I Register?

REGISTRATION BEGINS:

Arlington residents - Tuesday, May 17

Non-residents - Thursday, May 19

Registration deadline: Participants must register by 5 PM the day before the program. **If you wish to register the day of the program, please call the program site.**

REGISTRATION: Unless otherwise stated, registration is handled by the central Registration Office.

On-line: Go to <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>. You can browse our offerings as a Guest, but you must login in order to register for a program. If you do not have an account with us, you can create one online or contact us at 703-228-4747.

By phone: Call 703-228-4747, Monday to Friday, between 8 AM and 5 PM.

In person: The registration office is located at 3700 S. Four Mile Run Dr., Arlington, VA 22206.

CANCELLATIONS: Notify Registration as soon as possible so we may contact someone from the waiting list. **Cancellations on the day of the program should be made directly with the program site.**

FEES: The listed fee is per participant unless otherwise stated. Most program fees are charged upon registration (web and phone - credit card only; in person - checks or cash). Some program fees will be charged at the program (in cash or by check). See program write-up for details.

REFUNDS: A household credit to your PRCR account will be processed automatically for any program cancelled by Arlington County. For further refunding, or for other refund requests, call the Registration Office.

FEE REDUCTION: We do not want our fees to be a barrier to participation. Call 703-228-4747 for information on the County's fee reduction policy.

TTY: 703-228-4743. We are happy to make accommodations for individuals with disabilities, upon request.

WEATHER: Programs are cancelled in conjunction with the Arlington County's school closings policy.

FAMILY PROGRAMS: Normally everyone attending must register - both children and adults. **Children will not be allowed to attend without an accompanying registered adult, unless otherwise noted.**

How can I receive 'The Snag'?

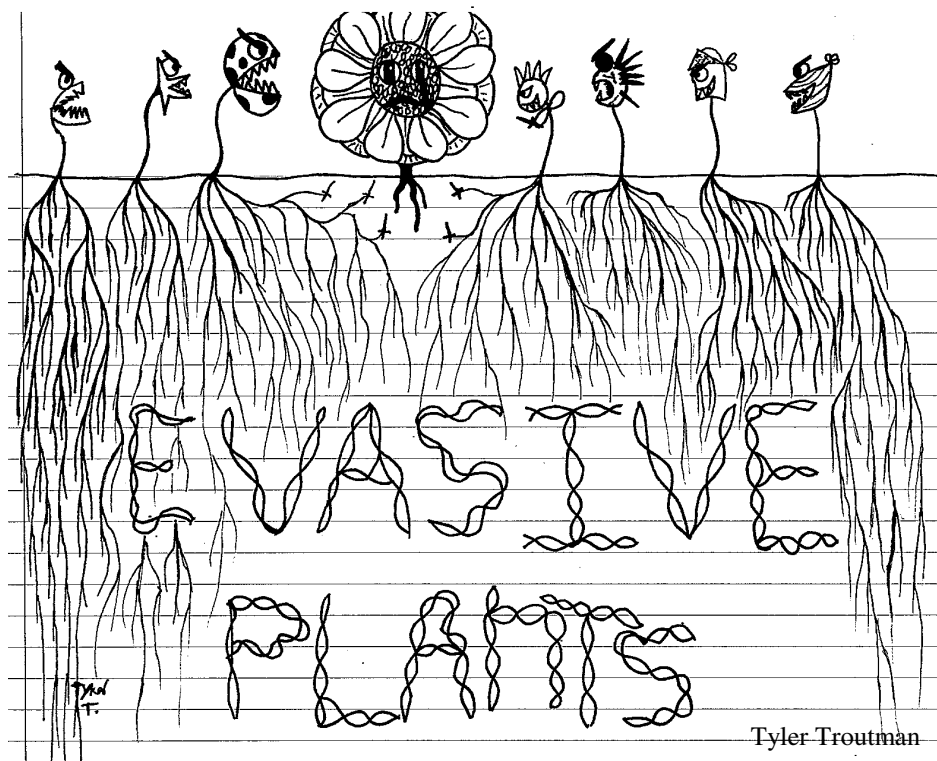
There are two ways to receive our publications, 'The Snag' and 'The Snag for Wee Ones':

1. As a quarterly e-mail with a link to a PDF or text-only version. Free.
2. As a paper copy delivered quarterly to your mailbox. Five dollars/year.

To receive either e-mail version, please go to www.arlingtonva.us. Select 'Online Services' from the blue bar at the top, then select 'Subscribe to E-Newsletters' to view the list of all available County E-Mail subscriptions. Scroll down and select 'The Snag'. To receive a paper copy, please call 703-228-6535 and request a Snag subscription form.

Change of address? Want to be removed from our mailing list? Questions? Please call 703-228-6535. To see The Snag online, go to <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/nature/TheSnag.aspx>

Volunteer - Make a Difference!



Recovering Long Branch From Invasive Plants

Sat., June 4, 2 - 3:30 PM

Adults and teens. Twenty years ago, Arlington's Long Branch Nature Center was suffering from an onslaught of non-native, invasive plants. Even the native plant gardens next to the building were being overrun by invasives like English Ivy. Steve Young, Invasives Volunteer, will discuss how staff and volunteer efforts have been "taking back the park" from the invasives, including problems, solutions, and why we should be hopeful that stewardship can turn back the non-native invasion in our parks. Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **Free. Program #642941-A.** Registration required.

Stream Clean Up at Long Branch

Sat., June 18, 2 - 3:30 PM

Families with children 7 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Help us clean up the stream starting at Long Branch and heading down to Four Mile Run. Come dressed to get wet and messy. We'll provide gloves, trash bags, and well-deserved refreshments afterwards. Meet at LBNC. **Free. Program #642951-A.** Register children and adults.

ACE Summer Solstice Celebration

Tues., June 21, 7 - 9 PM

Join Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment for an evening to enjoy our long daylight hours with service projects and refreshments. Meet at Bluemont Park (Wilson Blvd. & N. Manchester St., Arlington). Information and registration: volunteer@arlingtonenvironment.org or 703-228-6406. **Free.**

Pollinator Garden Work Day

Sun., July 17, 3 - 4 PM.

Want to know more about native plants? Get hands-on among some of our native wildflowers at our midsummer work day. Come early for the talk & tour - see pg 4. Information: 703-228-3403. Meet at GBNC. **Free.** No registration required.

Remove Invasive Plants!

Adults, families and teens. Not all plants are good for the environment. Kids and adults will learn what these troublesome beasts look like and can help rescue the park from destructive invasive plants. Work parties are held every month, and are making a real difference. Come join us! **Free.** No registration required. Location and dates below.

Second Sundays at Gulf Branch:

Sunday, June 12, 2 - 5 PM
Sunday, July 10, 2 - 5 PM
Sunday, August 14, 2 - 5 PM
Information: 703-228-3403

Third Sundays at Long Branch:

Sunday, June 19, 2 - 5 PM
Sunday, July 17, 2 - 5 PM
Sunday, August 21, 2 - 5 PM
Information: 703-228-6535

Become a Master Naturalist!

The Virginia Master Naturalist program trains volunteers to provide education, citizen science and outreach to conserve and manage natural resources and public lands. Master Naturalist volunteers gain certification through state-approved natural history courses and a commitment to volunteer service. Check out the Arlington Regional Master Naturalist website - armn.org - for more information about upcoming classes and application deadlines.

Programs for Nature Loving Adults & Teens

Green Home and Gardens Tour Sun., June 5, 1 - 5 PM

Need some ideas about how to go green at home? The tour will include a mixture of new homes, green renovations, and watershed-friendly gardens. Visit homes with energy efficient technologies, solar elements, water saving technologies, native plants, rain-gardens, rain barrels, wildlife habitat, and other environmentally friendly elements. For more information and the brochure with tour locations, go to www.arlingtonenvironment.org.

Pollinator Garden Talk & Tour Sun., July 17, 2 - 3 PM

Ages 14 and up. Come learn how to create a beautiful garden the bees and butterflies would love! We'll talk about which native plants to choose, the benefits they provide, and how (easy it is) to keep them happy. Then we'll stroll over to take a tour of our garden and meet some pollinators in person. Afterwards, feel free to stay and get hands on at our mid-summer workday, from 3-4PM. Information: 703-228-3403. Meet at GBNC. **\$3 fee - free for workers! Program #642841-A.** Registration required.

Reptiles of Arlington Sat., July 30, 2 - 3:30 PM

Ages 14 and up. Where can you spot a snake? Track a turtle? Meet ten of the most common reptiles in Arlington. Learn to identify them, and about their habits - and habitats as well. Participants will receive a copy of 'A Guide to the Snakes of Virginia', too! Information: 703-228-3403. **\$8 fee. Program #642841-B.** Registration required.

M



Piedmont to the Rockies Fri., August 12, 7 - 8 PM

Ages 16 and up. Much of the wildlife in the Piedmont and Coastal regions of Virginia have counterparts in the Rockies and Great Plains regions of Colorado. Join us for a talk that highlights the similarities and differences between habitats, keystone species, and niches. This talk will include a PowerPoint presentation and live animals. Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **Free. Program #642941-B.** Registration required.

Project Learning Tree Sat., August 20, 10 AM - 4 PM

Ages 18 and up. Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an interdisciplinary, award winning environmental education program designed by educators for educators. PLT's mission is to increase understanding of our environment, and to stimulate critical and creative thinking as well as develop the ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues. PLT activities help students connect classroom concepts to the real world through a variety of hands-on activities. Participants will

receive a copy of the PLT PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide packed with multidisciplinary activities - each tailored to specific grade levels and learning objectives. All include up-to-date student resources, background information for educators, and easy-to-follow instructions. Please bring a bag lunch and drink. The facilitator is environmental educator and Fairfax Master Naturalist Elizabeth Burke. For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **Free. Program #642941-C.** Registration required.

Astronomy Quest Sat., August 20, 6 - 10:30 PM

Adults and families, ages 10 and up. Travel to the darker skies of the Shenandoah Mountains to study the summer skies. We'll join other space cadets as astronomy enthusiasts and experts share their knowledge and telescopes with the public. This is a great chance to see the universe! Information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Lubber Run Center parking lot, 300 N. Park Dr., Arlington, VA 22203. **\$15 fee. Program #642941-L.** Registration required.

Monarch Watch & Banding Sun., August 28, 2:30 - 3:30 PM

Ages 13 and up. Where do our monarchs come from? When do the first of these gorgeous butterflies arrive? Participate in project Monarch Watch (www.Monarchwatch.org) as we capture and band the Monarchs visiting our milkweed. This citizen science project helps scientists learn about monarch migration patterns and routes. Information: 703-228-3403. Meet at GBNC. **\$5 fee. Program #642841-C.** Registration required.

Programs for Nature Loving Adults & Teens

Nature Lover's Book Club

Meet for fun, friendly discussions of books and essays about the natural world. We'll enjoy cool drinks on hot summer evenings. Often there's an animal to meet or object from the center's collection to examine, inspired by our reading, too. Essays will be mailed to registered participants in advance of program. Information: 703-228-3403. Meet at GBNC. Free. Registration required.

One Day on Beetle Rock

by Sally Carrighar
Th., June 23, 7:30 PM
Program #642841-D

Four Essays on Crows

by various authors
Th., July 28, 7:30 PM
Program #642841-E

Wesley: The Remarkable Love Story of an Owl and His Girl

by Stacey O'Brien
Th., August 25, 7:30 PM
Program #642841-F



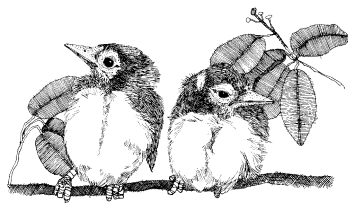
Local Bird Walk

Wed., June 1,
8:30 - 11 AM
Adults, 14 and up.
Join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for an informal walk through Long Branch and Glencarlyn Parks in search of resident birds. Experienced and

beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars and field guides. Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. Free. Program #642941-D. Registration required.

Birding Adventures

Adults, 18 and up. Come view the great variety of bird life in our region. Participants should dress for the weather and bring binoculars, a drink, bag lunch, and snacks for the day. Trips often include some walking over uneven terrain or gentle slopes. Meet our at Lubber Run Recreation Center, 300 N. Park Dr., Arlington, VA 22203.



Birding Flag Ponds & Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Tues., June 7, 7 AM - 4 PM

Look for nesting summer residents such as summer and scarlet tanagers and hooded and Kentucky warblers. Information: 703-243-4342. \$35 fee. Program #642841-J. Registration required.

Birding Shenandoah National Park Tues., June 21, 7 AM - 4 PM

Explore for the sights and sounds of nesting songbirds at Shenandoah National Park. Information: 703-228-6535. \$35 fee. Program #642941-E. Registration required.

Birding the Delaware Bay Tues., August 23, 7 AM - 4 PM

Come search the eastern shore for migrating shorebirds along the Delaware Bay, as well as tidal and freshwater marshes. Information: 703-243-4342. \$35 fee. Program #642841-K. Registration required.

Happy Hour Hikes

Adults, ages 21 and up. If you love a great beer as much as a great hike, this one's for you! So why not leave work a little early? On the first Friday of each month we'll meet beginning at 4:30 at a Clarendon bar for a caffeine charge or cooling cocktail. Then at 5:15 we'll load up into the nature center's van for a short trip to a nearby hiking spot. We'll hit the trail from ~5:30-7:00 and enjoy the mellow evening light, while keeping an eye out for wildlife, tracks, and more. Return by 7:30 in time to meet friends for dinner! Quit gazing out the window and get out there! Information: 703-228-3403. Participants will be sent more info about the hike and the meeting location. \$5 fee. Registration required.

Fri., June 3
Program #642841-G

Fri., July 1
Program #642841-H

Fri., August 5
Program #642841-I



Great Blue Heron
Zach Kahn

History Programs



Civil War Battlefields:

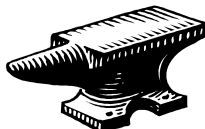
Wilderness and Spotsylvania

Sat., June 18, 8 AM - 5 PM

Adults, and families ages 12 and up. Join us on this fun and informative trip. In 1864, General Grant became commander of the Union armies. In May 1864, he began his Overland Campaign to defeat the Confederate army under Lee. Wilderness and Spotsylvania were the first two of several bloody battles that eventually led to the final Union victory at Appomattox in 1865. Our van will leave from the Lubber Run Center parking lot, 300 N. Park Dr., Arlington, VA 22203. Dress for the weather and bring snacks and a bag lunch. Information: 703-243-4342. **\$35 fee. Program #642741-A.** Registration required, children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

Blacksmith Guild of the Potomac

The Guild invites you to join them at the Gulf Branch Forge. Meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the first and third Fridays of each month, and are free and open to the public. For more info visit www.BGOP.org.



Civil War Discovery:

Hands-on history for kids! Join us for some or all of this series. Information: 703-243-4342. Meet at Fort C.F. Smith Park. **\$5 fee.** Register children only.

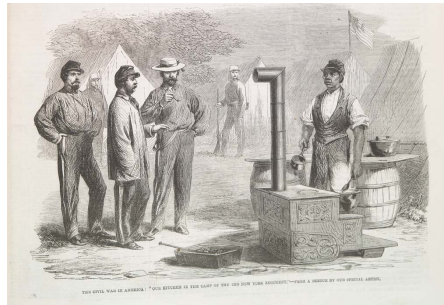
Civil War Discovery: You're in the Army Now!

Wed., June 15, 6 - 7 PM

Ages 7-11. Enlist in our Civil War army and use replica wood rifles to learn to "load in nine times", and how to march as a well drilled unit. We'll also conduct a skirmish drill. **Program #642721-A.**

Civil War Discovery: Artillery

Sun., July 10, 12 - 1 PM
Ages 7-11. Learn to work as a team to load and aim a replica Civil War cannon. We'll discuss the various artillery pieces used in the Civil War and "bombard" a replica fortification. **Program #642721-B.**



Civil War Discovery: Camp Life

Wed., August 10, 10 - 11 AM
Ages 7-12. Most of a soldier's life in the army was spent in camp rather than in battle. We'll set up camp, learn about the items soldiers carried with them and how they occupied their time. We'll also make and taste hardtack. **Program #642721-C.**

Hanssen Spy Talk

Sat., August 13, 4 - 5 PM

Adults, 14 and up. The infamous spy and traitor Robert Hanssen worked in secrecy all around the nation's capital for years before being discovered. Some of those clandestine affairs were conducted right here in the woods of Long Branch Nature Center. Join us as we unfold the dramatic story of this notorious spy, the damage he caused our nation, and his eventual downfall and arrest, including the FBI's nature center operations. You may have read the books or seen the movies, but hear the untold story of what has now become part of Long Branch history. Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **\$5 fee. Program #642841-F.** Registration required.

Gulf Branch's 45th Birthday!

**Saturday, June 11
1 - 4 PM**

Meet live Owls from
the Raptor Conservancy!

&
we'll cut the ribbon on
'Mr. Owl's New Home'!

&
Open Forge, Birthday Cake,
Crafts, Games, Music & More!

Come one and all to celebrate
as we gather to remember our past,
enjoy our present and
dedicate ourselves to a great future!

Sponsored by the Friends of Gulf
Branch Nature Center

Free

For Nature Loving Families & Children

See, Hear, Sketch: Forest of Fawns Sun., June 5, 3 - 4:15 PM

Ages 5-7. By early summer, white-tailed deer mothers are moving through the woods with their spring fawns. We'll hear a fawn tale or two and learn how to make a fawn sketch with just the right number of white spots! Drawing materials provided, but your own sketchbooks are welcome, too. Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **\$3 fee. Program #642941-A.** Register children only.

Wild Ones: Hike Long Branch Wed., June 8, 3:30 - 4:30 PM

Ages 6-10. Join us for a hike through the park to spot some local wildlife. We'll sniff out some spicebush, too! For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **\$3 fee. Program #642921-B.** Register children only.



Gulf Branch's 45th Birthday!
Sat., June 11, 1- 4 PM - see pg 6

Campfire Cooking Sat., June 11th, 6 - 8 PM

Families, ages 7 and up. Everything tastes better cooked over a campfire! Come learn how to cook some easy and tasty treats - dinners, snacks, and different desserts. We'll supply all the food and firewood, you supply the helping hands - and hungry bellies! Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **\$8 fee. Program #642951-B.** Register children and adults.

Turkey Run and River Hike Sat., June 19, 10:30 AM -1:30 PM

Families, ages 8 and up. Celebrate Father's Day with a great hike along the Potomac River to some of the cleanest streams in the area. We'll search for critters; eat lunch; discover waterfalls, toad tadpoles, and more. Bring water, a snack, and lunch. For more information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Turkey Run - participants will receive directions. **\$3 fee. Program #642851-A.** Register children and adults.

Archery - see pg 9
Sun., June 19, 2:30 - 4 PM

See, Hear, Sketch: Owl Feathers Sun., June 19, 3 - 4:15 PM

Ages 5-7. Gather around for an old owl tale, learn about night calls and daytime dangers for our local owls, and find out how to draw an owl. Drawing materials provided, but your own sketchbooks are welcome, too. Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **\$3 fee. Program #642921-C.** Register children only.

Wild Ones: Caring for our Critters Wed., June 22, 3:30 - 4:30 PM

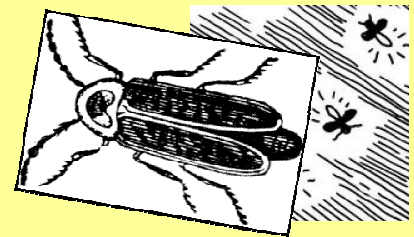
Ages 6-10. Help us take care of our animals at the center. Make lunch for a turtle, dinner for an owl, and tasty worm snacks for the toad! Which ones are picky eaters? Find out! Information: 703-228-3403. Meet at GBNC. **\$3 fee. Program #642821-A.** Register children only.

Snakes Alive! Sat., June 25, 4 - 5 PM

Families, ages 5 and up. Here's your chance to learn all you ever wanted to about snakes and even get to meet some up close and personal! Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **\$5 fee, \$20 max per immediate family. Program #642951-C.** Register children and adults.

THE 3RD ANNUAL FIREFLY FESTIVAL

Sunday, July 10 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Fort C.F. Smith Park



Celebrate summer's natural night lights with us! Enjoy tons of activities all about the critters that light up the night. Events include bug hunts, games, crafts, walks, contests, talks about fireflies, and much more. Bring your picnic blanket and dinner to enjoy as we wait for the sun to go down and the lights to come out. All ages.

Information: 703-228-6535. \$5 fee per person, \$20 max per immediate family, paid at the gate.

Please pre-register through Long Branch at 703-228-6535.

Cancelled if raining, no rain date.

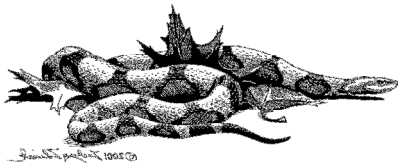
To register, call 703-228-4747 or visit <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>

For Nature Loving Families & Children

Archery - see pg 9
Sat., July 2, 10 - 11:30 AM

Hunting Herons Hike
Sat., July 2, 4 - 6 PM. Families, ages 8 and up. Search out these amazing birds and other denizens of the Potomac's floodplain, as the heat of the day passes. Bring a water and a snack and dress to get muddy as we've planned some off-trail exploring! Participants will receive directions to the Chain Bridge meeting area. Information: 703-228-3403. **\$3 fee. Program #642851-B.** Register children and adults.

Who Dwells in Seashells?
Sat., July 9, 10:30 - 11:45 AM
Ages 8-12. Learn about seashells and the animals (called mollusks) that live in them and get to know their common - and scientific - names. Then make your own Atlantic seashell identification guide. Bring along your shells to be identified if you like! Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **\$5 fee. Program #642921-E.** Register children only.

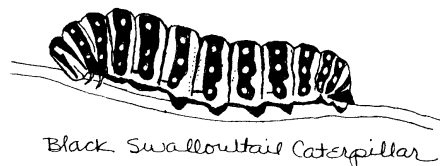


Falconry
Sat., July 9, 1:30 - 2:30 PM
Families, ages 10 and up. Members of the Raptor Conservancy of VA spotlight the 4,000 year old hunting sport of falconry. They'll show several live falcons to help you learn about the unique partnership between man and bird of prey and how falconry survives today. Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **Free**, but a donation to the Raptor Conservancy at the program is appreciated. **Program #642951-D.** Register children and adults.

Wild Ones: Lil' Critters in Leaf Litter
Sat., July 9, 3:30 - 4:30 PM
Ages 6-10. Ever wonder who lives under leaves in the forest? Come join us as we learn how to make an invertebrate trap and how to safely treat these creatures and return them back to their habitat. Everyone will get one trap to take home. Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **\$5 fee. Program #642921-F.** Register children only.

Wild Ones: Ssslithering Sssnakes
Wed., July 13, 3:30 - 4:30 PM
Ages 6-10. Practice your parseltongue and slither on over as we learn where to find our local snakes, make snake pizza, and try shedding our skins (well, socks). We'll meet a few live snakes, too! Information: 703-228-3403. Meet at GBNC. **\$3 fee. Program #642821-B.** Register children only.

Insect Safari
Sat., July 16, 4 - 5 PM
Families, ages 5 and up. Join us in an old fashioned insect safari to see what neat critters we can discover in the wilds of Long Branch. A naturalist will lead you in capturing insects and other small creatures to investigate before we release them back into the wilds. We'll be sure to make some interesting discoveries. Wear long pants and closed toe shoes. For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **\$4 fee. Program #642951-E.** Register children and adults.



Black Swallowtail Caterpillar

See, Hear, Sketch: Coyote Caller
Sun., July 17, 3 - 4:15 PM
Ages 5-7. Coyote the Trickster may be new to Northern Virginia, but there are many stories about him to tell. Come hear a few of them, learn to make a coyote call, and finish up with a drawing that helps children remember how to tell a coyote from a fox or a dog. Drawing materials provided but your own sketchbooks are welcome, too. For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **\$3 fee. Program #642921-D.** Register children only.

Tales from the Deep Dark Woods
Fri., July 29, 7:30 - 8:30 PM
Families. Join us at the Long Branch amphitheater for lots of old-fashioned fun. Who knows what might lurk in the shadows of ancient trees? Margaret Chatham tells stories from forests in Africa, Sweden, and Japan. A founding member of the Washington area storytelling guild and Winner (with her husband) of the 2003 National Storytelling Network Oracle Award, has she got some stories to tell you!! Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **Free. Program #642951-F.** Register children and adults.

Archery - see pg 9
Sat., July 30, 4 - 5:30 PM

Naturally Great Art
Sat., July 30, 2 - 4 PM
Ages 8 and up. Join an Arlington Regional Master Naturalist and let your creative juices flow as we use objects found in nature to make prints and rubbings on paper. Let nature guide your creative instincts in making one of a kind works of art. Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **Free. Program # 642921-G.** Register children only but an accompanying adult must be present the day of the program.

To register, call 703-228-4747 or visit <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>

For Nature Loving Families & Children

Butterflies and their Host Plants

Sun., July 31, 2 - 3 PM

Families, ages 6 and up. Everyone knows Monarchs have to have milkweeds, but what about Tiger Swallowtails? Mourning Cloaks? Red Admirals? Join a Master Naturalist as we learn about some of our showiest butterflies. Follow the soap opera of who eats whom & how the eaten fight back, and go outside to see what you can see for yourself. Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at LBNC. **Free. Program #642951-G.** Register children and adults.

Early Bird Hike

Sun., August 14, 7:30 - 9 AM

Families, ages 6 and up. Do early birds really get the worms? Find out as we hike Teddy Roosevelt Island before the heat of the day. Look for skinks basking in the sun, raccoon tracks in the shallows, and those early birds, too! Bring your own worms - or whatever *you* eat for breakfast. Information: 703-228-3403. Meet at the Teddy Roosevelt Island parking lot. **\$3 fee. Program #642851-C.** Register children and adults.

Cool Creek Critters

Sat., August 20, 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Families, ages 4 and up. Dress to get wet as we spend some searching for snails, trying to catch water striders, and taking a closer look at some creek critters. What do they have to tell us? Be prepared for your kids to want to keep playing in the creek after the program ends! So why not bring a lunch, and stay longer? C'mon, its summer! Information: 703-228-3403. Meet at GBNC. **\$3 fee. Program #642851-D.** Register children and adults.

Wild Ones: Marvelous Monarchs

Wed., August 24, 3:30 - 4:30 PM

Ages 6-10. Flit and flap as we migrate in search of milkweeds. We'll see who can find the most caterpillars (last year someone found 17!), who can find the first chrysalis, and learn to tell the males from females, too! Information: 703-228-3403. Meet at GBNC. **\$3 fee. Program #642821-C.** Register children only.

Archery!

Ages 6 and up, under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Bows and arrows and fun! Are you Robin Hood hunting the king's deer? Or an Algonquian stalking a black bear for food and a warm winter blanket? Stop by within the listed times, rent a bow for 30 minutes, and enjoy some archery practice in the shady woods! Nature center staff will supervise for safety, and provide a little guidance if needed. For more information: 703-228-3403. Meet at GBNC. **\$5 per half hour bow rental.** Reservations suggested.

Sun., June 19, 2:30 - 4 PM

Program #642821-F

Sat., July 2, 10 - 11:30 AM

Program #642821-G

Sat., July 30, 4 - 5:30 PM

Program #642821-H

Sun., August 28, 11 AM - 1:30 PM

Program #642821-I



BAT FEST ARLINGTON

Saturday, August 27 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Gulf Branch Nature Center

Enjoy a thoroughly batty evening and add to your knowledge of local night life. See a presentation with live bats, go on a walk to see bats flying and to hear their echolocation calls, and learn about foods that are pollinated by bats. We'll also have games, bat crafts, and lots of info on our local furry bug zappers. Live bat shows will be presented by Leslie Sturges, Director of Bat World NOVA, established in 2001 to protect and conserve bats in this region.

Information: 703-228-3403. Children under 14 must register with an accompanying adult. \$10 fee per adult, \$7 fee under age 12, babies in backpacks are free. Register for one of the three bat talks below. All other activities ongoing.

6:30 - 7 PM - For families with young children (under 5) - Program #642851-L

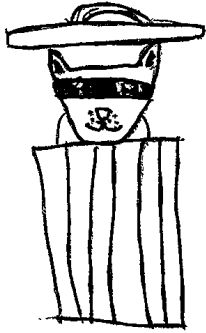
7:15 - 8 PM - Program #642851-M

8:15 - 9 PM - Program #642851-N

To register, call 703-228-4747 or visit <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>

A Tale of Tails: Library Programs

Families with children ages 4 and up. Long Branch once again takes its show on the road for the Arlington County Libraries' Summer Reading Quest. This year's theme is "One World, Many Stories." We'll concentrate on the many tales around the world about animal's tails. Hear some of these stories and even get a chance to meet some animals with some interesting tails to be told about! Free. Registration required. Call the sponsoring library to register.



Wed., June 29, 4 PM - 4:45 PM, **Westover Library**, 703-228-5260

Wed., June 29, 7 PM - 7:45 PM, **Columbia Pike Library**, 703-228-5710

Thurs., July 14, 4 PM - 4:45 PM, **Aurora Hills Library**, 703-228-5715

Mon., July 25, 1:30 PM - 2:15 PM, **Glencarlyn Library**, 703-228-6548

Mon., July 25, 4:30 PM - 5:15 PM, **Cherrydale Library**, 703-228-6330

Tues., August 9, 1:30 PM - 2:15 PM, **Shirlington Library**, 703-228-6545

Tues., August 9, 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM, **Central Library**, 703-228-5946



by Max Golkin

Family Fun: Campfires!

The whole family is invited to join us for lots of old fashioned fun. Our campfire programs may include stories, songs, games, special animal guests, and of course, S'mores! For more information call the campfire location. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$5 fee per person, \$20 maximum per immediate family. Family discount with phone registration only.

At the Gulf Branch Campfire Ring:

Fabulous Foxes Campfire

Fri., June 10, 7:00 - 8:15 PM #642851-E

Whooo's Awake? Campfire

Fri., June 24, 7:30 - 8:45 PM #642851-F

Bald Eagles Campfire

Sat., July 2, 7:30 - 8:45 PM #642851-G

Turtle-time Campfire

Fri., July 8, 7 - 8:15 PM #642851-H

Snakes in Summer Campfire

Sat., July 30, 7 - 8:15 PM #642851-I

Milkweed Safari Campfires

Sat., August 6, 7 - 8:15 PM #642851-J

Fri., August 19, 6:30 - 7:45 PM #642851-K

Astronomy Quest

Sat, Aug 20, see pg 4

Bat Fest, Sat., Aug 27 - , pg 9

At the Long Branch Amphitheatre:

Sat, June 11 = Campfire Cooking, pg 7

Noisy Nature Campfire

Sat., June 18, 7 - 8:15 PM #642951-H

Native Americans Campfire

Sat., June 25, 6:30 - 7:45 PM #642951-I

Nocturnal Insects Campfire

Sat., July 9, 7:30 - 8:45 PM #642951-J

Sun, July 10 = Firefly Fest, pg 7

Hop to It Campfire

Sat., July 16, 6:30 - 7:45 PM #642951-K

Stories 'round the Campfire

Sat., July 23, 7 - 8:15 PM #642951-L

Fri., July 29 = Tales from the Woods, pg 8

Spider Campfire

Sat., August 13, 7 - 8:15 PM #642951-M

To register, call 703-228-4747 or visit <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>

Drawing from Nature Mini-Camp

Monday, August 15 through Friday, August 19; 9 AM - 11 AM

Ages 9-11. Children can improve their drawing ability and learn about nature all at once! Art teacher Karen Elliott and Gulf Branch naturalists help children combine their love of nature with their delight in self-expression. Kids will learn to sketch live animals, and the rocks, leaves, logs and other elements that form their habitats. We'll begin with a nature walk, making observations and collecting materials to draw. Next we'll have a natural history session, break for snack, and the art lesson will begin. Children should bring a snack each day. Drawing materials provided, but your own sketchbooks are welcome, too. For more information: 703-228-3403. Meet at GBNC. **\$120 fee. Program #642821-D**

Extended Hours: 11 AM - Noon

Time to read, watch a short nature movie - or just play outside. **\$50 fee. Program #642821-E**

Gemstone Club

Budding geologists and gem lovers ages 7-11 are invited to join us for a month - or a year - of fun and collecting. This is so popular we've added a Saturday session! Examine polished gems and uncut crystals. Learn about geology, mining, legends, and literature for each gem. Take home each month's birthstone in a protective display box and an attractive color card. Information: 703-228-3403. Meet at GBNC. **\$8 fee.** Registration required.

PEARL

Wed., June 1

2:30 - 3:30 PM

#642821-J

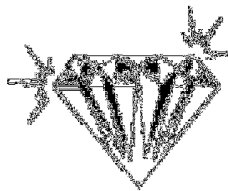
4:15 - 5:15 PM

#642821-K

Sat., June 4

10:30 - 11:30 AM

#642821-L



RUBY

Wed., July 6

2:30 - 3:30 PM

#642821-M

4:15 - 5:15 PM

#642821-N

Sat., July 9

10:30 - 11:30 AM

#642821-O

PERIDOT

Wed., August 3

2:30 - 3:30 PM

#642821-P

4:15 - 5:15 PM

#642821-Q

Sat., August 6

10:30 - 11:30 AM

#642821-R

Graduate Gemologists Club

Kids ages 8-12 who have completed 12 months of Gemstone Club may continue their studies and increase their collections at this monthly program. Meet at GBNC. **Registration required with Gulf Branch Nature Center at 703-228-3403. \$8 fee per session due at the program.**

The Quartz Family

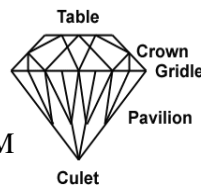
Wed., June 15, 4:15 - 5:15 PM

Agates, carnelians, and apple-green chrysoprase are only some of the quartz ornamental gemstones. Get to know them all!

Spinel

Wed., July 27, 4:15 - 5:15 PM

This "Daughter of the Ruby" is found in vivid red colors, as well as pinks and lavenders. A famous one is among the crown jewels of Great Britain.



Chrome Diopside

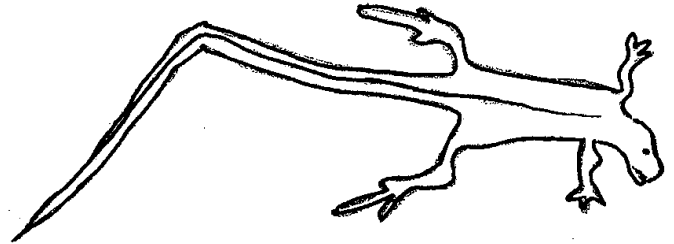
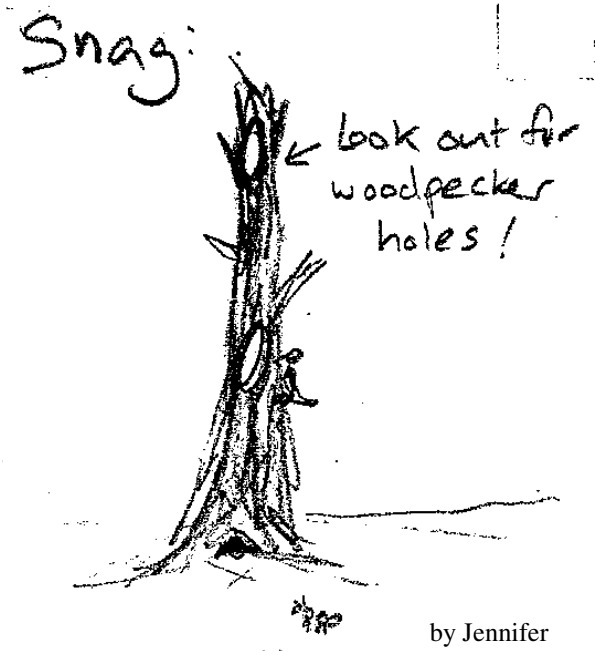
Wed., August 17, 4:15 - 5:15 PM

This little-known gem can be hard to find. The uncut crystals are beautiful as well. Students will practice using a jewelers loupe to look for gem inclusions.

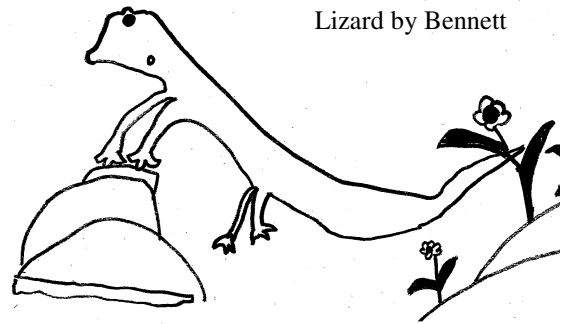
Whooo needs your Art?

We do! We're looking for original artwork to feature in the Snag. Work should be hand-drawn and look good in black and white. Sorry, no photos. You must be an Arlington resident. We will feature the work of both kids and adults (18+). Send a PDF to jsoles@arlingtonva.us or drop it off at GBNC, along with your contact info.

Lizard by Bess



Lizard by Bennett



The Snag

Arlington County
Conservation & Interpretation Section
625 S. Carlin Spring Road
Arlington, VA 22204

- SNAG (snag) n 1.** A standing dead tree which provides homes and shelter for a diversity of wildlife.
2. A quarterly calendar of events offered by Arlington's Conservation and Interpretation Section.