

December 2024

Patapsco Valley State Park Soldiers Delight NEA

Register [here](#) or by contacting us at 410-461-5005. patapsco.statepark@maryland.gov

Accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Two weeks advance notice is requested.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 1- Welcome Winter-Avalon	5	6	7 1- Welcome Winter Hike- Hollofield
8 9- SERP Restoration Volunteer Event	9	10	11 1- Staying Warm in Winter	12	13	14
15 12- Reptile Rendering	16	17	18	19	20	21 1- Invasive Wreath Making
22 9- SERP Restoration Volunteer Event 1- Tree Cookie Ornaments	23	24	25 Christmas Maryland State Parks are closed	26 11- Visitor Center open 1- Reptile Wrap Up	27 11- Visitor Center open	28 10- Visitor Center open 10- Feeding Frenzy
29 1- Festive Birdfeeders and Winter Birds	30 11- Visitor Center open	31 11- Visitor Center open 4- Kids Countdown Hike	Unless otherwise noted, events are held rain or shine, free and fun for all ages; donations are always welcome. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather/activity, wear sunscreen and insect repellent, bring plenty of water and snacks, and remember to check for ticks.			

Centers of SDNEA & PVSP Hours of Operation

Soldiers Delight NEA Visitor Center: Weekends, 11-3 p.m.

December 26-January 1: Open 11-3 p.m.

5100 Deer Park Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

William Offutt Johnson History Center: Open by appointment.

William Offutt Johnson History Center: 5120 South Street, Halethorpe, MD 21227

Nature Center: Open by appointment.

Nature Center: 1101 Hilton Avenue, Catonsville, MD 21228

December 4: Welcome Winter - Avalon

1-2:30 p.m. at Avalon Area, River Road Trailhead

5120 South St, Halethorpe, MD 21227

Join us to bid goodbye to fall and welcome winter! Meet at the River Road Trailhead before we head out. Observe the changing of the seasons and enjoy the beauty nature has to offer! Shine only. Be prepared for a moderate hike with changing elevations and uneven trail surface at times. Limited to 20 participants. [Signup encouraged](#). Shine only.

December 7: Welcome Winter Hike - Hollofield

1-2:30 p.m. at Hollofield Area, Union Dam Trailhead

8020 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Join us to bid goodbye to fall and welcome winter! Meet at the Union Dam Trailhead to observe the changing of the seasons. Shine only. Be prepared for a difficult hike with changing elevations and uneven trail surface at times. Limited to 20 participants. [Signup encouraged](#). Shine only.

December 8 and 22: SERP Restoration Volunteer Event

9-2:30p.m. at Soldiers Delight NEA

5100 Deer Park Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

The Maryland Natural Heritage Program is holding several Serpentine Ecosystem Restoration Project work days this winter at Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area. Volunteers will assist by removing non-native Virginia pine and other invasive plants, allowing grasses to re-colonize the area. A variety of methods will be used, including hand pulling, chipping and use of hand tools. Bring a lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. Pack light, with layered clothing, a hat, sturdy shoes, and work gloves. Call 410-260-8568 after 7 p.m. the night before the event to check for inclement weather schedule changes. Space is limited, so registration is required! Email paula.becker@maryland.gov to register.

December 11: Staying Warm in Winter

1-2:30 p.m. at the Soldiers Delight Visitor Center

5100 Deer Park Rd, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Join a warm fireside talk in Red Dog Lodge about how people and animals have adapted to cold climates throughout history. Learn how to start a campfire, and fire safety related to it. [Signup encouraged](#). Open for the whole family. Rain or Shine.

December 15: Reptile Rendering

12-2 p.m. at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center

5100 Deer Park Rd, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Join a Park Naturalist for a paint night , and to meet one of our residential Scales & Tales turtles! All materials provided, beginners encouraged. Limited to 20 participants. \$10 per painter for materials. Rain or shine. [Signup required](#).

December 21: Invasive Wreath Making

1-3 p.m. at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center

5100 Deer Park Rd, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Join us for a cozy afternoon of natural wreath-making using invasive species harvested from the serpentine grasslands of Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area. Rain or shine. [Signup required](#). Limited to 10 participants.

December 22: Tree Cookie Ornaments

1-3 p.m. at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center

5100 Deer Park Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Get creative and paint your own holiday decorations made of sliced tree branches. Paint and markers will be available, come dressed to get messy! Limited to 25 participants. [Signup required](#). Rain or shine.

December 26: Reptile Wrap Up

1-1:45 p.m. at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center

5100 Deer Park Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Join us at the Soldiers Delight Visitor Center for an educational evening on several of our reptile ambassadors. You will meet our reptiles while also learning about their habitats in the wild. [Signup is encouraged](#). Limited to 15 participants. Rain or shine.

December 27: Turtles for Toddlers

1-2 p.m. at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center
5100 Deer Park Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Teach your toddlers about turtles! Learn what makes a turtle a turtle, meet the testudine ambassadors and learn why these creatures are tur-tally awesome. Limited to 10 children. [Signup required](#). Rain or shine.

December 28: Feeding Frenzy

10-11:30 a.m. at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center
5100 Deer Park Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Learn more about the diets and eating habits of reptiles at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center. Our Naturalists will demonstrate a feeding routine for our turtle and snake ambassadors. [Signup required](#). Limited to 15 participants. Rain or shine.

December 29: Festive Bird Feeders and Winter Birds

1-3 p.m. at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center
5100 Deer Park Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Spread the hospitality to the local birds and create natural birdfeeders with a park naturalist! We will learn how birds survive the winter, make tasty feeders to help them, and take a short walk to search for our overwintering friends. Limited to 15 participants. Shine only, temperature must be above freezing. \$2 per participant. [Signup required](#).

December 31: Kids Countdown Hike

4-5 p.m. at Hilton Area, Shelter 201
1101 Hilton Avenue, Catonsville, MD 21228

Join us for an alternative New Year's Eve! Does your young one feel left out by the late night party? Bring a flashlight and countdown to sunset after the hike! Limited to 20 participants. [Signup required](#). The program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.