



Programs at Blue Jay Point County Park

Pre-registration is required for all programs. Spaces are limited and classes fill quickly. Please register soon for guaranteed fun. (919) 870-4330

Want to learn about programs and volunteer opportunities at Blue Jay Point on a monthly basis? Call (919)870-4330 and ask to be added to the e-newsletter list!

Family Wildlife Series - for truly "wild" families

Family Wildlife Series programs are open to all ages, although information and activities are most appropriate for ages 5 and up. \$5/family or \$3/person. (Don't forget—"kids not required"—unaccompanied adults are welcome in our family programs!)



For more family fun in April, check out **Songbird Celebration!**

Saturday, April 28; 11am-3 pm

A free family festival for all ages! See the special "Songbird Celebration" page for details

Bluebird Bonanza

Saturday, May 26; 2-3:30 pm

Go on a hike to learn about the special connection between these cheerful-looking birds and the Bluebirds Trails that brought bluebird population numbers back from the brink. \$5/family

June Bugs, Japanese Beetles and Just Plain Bugs!

Saturday, June 23; 9:30-11 am

Munching machines or tiny predators from paradise? Learn about backyard insects, both native and exotic, and how they can work for you and against you. \$5/family



Playground Update!

Blue Jay's playground is expected to be closed at least through the **end of April (check our website for updates)** for replacement of the retaining wall, pavement and seating (the Comfort Station Restrooms remain open). BUT check out our newly fledged

Natural Play Area

just off the asphalt path next to the picnic area. Visit "Sandy Hollow", Stump Jump", Creative Corner" and "Castle Blue Jay". Tell us what you think about the **NPA**—we are thinking about expanding it!



Check out information about **SCOUT SATURDAYS**

online at www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay/scoutsaturday.htm

Summer Eco-Kids

A 3-day mini-camp for youngsters ages 4-5 years in which they learn about a variety of topics through crafts, hikes, stories, snacks and other activities. \$25/child.

Animal Babies

June 11, 13, and 15; 9-11 am OR 1-3 pm

Animal babies come in many forms, from the cute fox kit to the interesting larvae of the Predacious Diving Beetle. Learn about the similarities and differences of different animal babies.

Aquatic Adventures

July 9, 11, & 13; 9-11 am OR 1-3 pm

Meet many kinds of aquatic critters as we explore Blue Jay Point's pond, streams, and Falls Lake. We'll also spend time learning about all things aquatic through crafts, stories, snacks, and more! Bring extra shoes that can get wet!

Incredible Insects

August 13, 15, & 17; 1-3 pm

Ladybugs, butterflies, and dragonflies are just some of the amazing insects that live around us. Explore Blue Jay Point habitats as we seek them out. Listen to creepy-crawly stories; make some critter crafts; and enjoy yummy buggy snacks.

2012 Summer Mini-Camps

Terrific Trees

June 18, 20, and 22; 9 am-12 pm OR 1-4 pm

Join other junior foresters as we delve into the world of trees from roots to canopy, make recycled paper, print leafy bandanas, and explore the surrounding forest.

For 6-8 year olds. \$36/child. Includes staff supervision, daily snacks, crafts and activities.

Wild About Water

July 16, 18, and 20; 9 am-12 pm

Cool off and drink the same water that dinosaurs drank! Water captures our fancy this week as we explore the water cycle through land-based water games, get acquainted with the Blue Jay pond and the pretty slick critters that live there, focus on fish and our local aquatic food webs, and conduct fun water experiments with this all-important liquid. For 6-8 year olds.

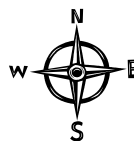
\$36/child. Includes staff supervision, daily snacks, and crafts and activities.

Blue Jay Explorers

June 25, 27, and 29; 9 am-3 pm

From the sun and stars to Global Positioning Systems (GPS's) join us as we progress through time to learn how explorers have used tools to find their way through our world. We will use these tools to become skilled in such activities as letterboxing and geocaching while we explore the wilds of Blue Jay Point County Park.

For 9-12 year olds \$72/child



Programs at Blue Jay Point County Park



continued

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Nature Stories

Theme related stories and activities for parent and child aged 3 - 5 years.

All children present must be in the correct age range for the class.

\$4/child/program

For more pre-school family fun in April, check out

Songbird Celebration!

Saturday, April 28; 11am-3 pm

A free family festival for all ages! See the special "Songbird Celebration" page for details about special programs for pre-schoolers

Feeling Froggy

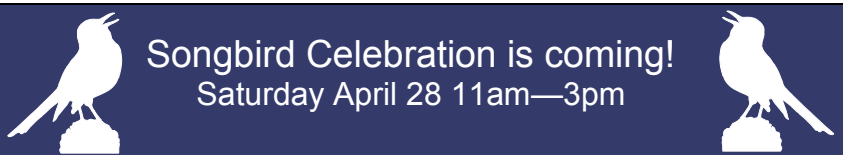
Wednesday, May 2; 1-2 pm or Saturday, May 5; 10-11 am

May is absolutely hopping at Blue Jay Point! Learn about frogs and toads while investigating real live tadpoles.

Marvelous Mud

Wednesday, June 6; 1-2 pm or Saturday, June 9; 10-11 am

Get down and dirty while we learn about the components of soil and what happens when you add water—mud!



Nature Crafts

This craft series for 6-8 year olds focuses on seasonal nature themes and related crafts. \$8/participant/program.

For more 6-8 year-old fun in April, check out

Songbird Celebration!

Saturday, April 28; 11am-3 pm

A free family festival for all ages! See the special "Songbird Celebration" page for details about special programs for elementary aged kids.

Fantastic Frogs

Saturday, May 5; 1-3 pm

Hands-on frogs (or tadpoles at least!) will star in this day's activities.

We'll learn what makes amphibians great environmental indicators

While we make a Frog Bank to take home.

Squirmy Worms

Saturday, June 16; 1-3 pm

Compost is black gold! Learn what compost is and why it's so valuable while you get up close and personal with worms and create a mini worm composting bin to take home.

ADULT WORKSHOPS

NatureARTS - Coffee Bag Totes

Saturday May 12

2-3:30 pm

Join D'Nise Hefner from Blue Jay Point to learn how to transform empty mylar-lined coffee bags into an attractive and useful small tote/lunchbag. Add a "green" element to your wardrobe while you think about the environmental ins and outs of coffee drinking! FREE Teen and Adult program.

Note: all supplies for a single tote will be provided, but you may bring your favorite 2 coffee bags and roll of duct tape to use! To see a picture of the finished recycled Coffee Bag Tote, go to <http://www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay/publicprograms> and follow the "NatureARTS" link. Pre-registration is required by calling 870-4330.

NatureARTS - Plastic Bag Recycled Totes

is going on the road!

Friday, May 18 1-4pm

Join D'Nise Hefner from Blue Jay Point at the NC FiberFest (part of the Got to be NC Festival that takes place May 18-20 at the NC State Fairgrounds, <http://gottobenfestival.com>) D'Nise will be knitting and crocheting with plastic grocery bags—demonstrating a new small project that is just the right size to hold your iPod or iPhone! The FiberFest is free, and so is the demo. Stop by and say hi! If you want to sit and knit or crochet along, bring a size J crochet hook and/or size 9 or 10 knitting needles.

GO GREEN!





Blue Jay Point County Park's Songbird Celebration

Saturday, April 28, 2012 11 am-3 pm (new times!)

part of the 2012



Bring your family to a FREE **Songbird Celebration** at Blue Jay Point County Park in recognition of International Migratory Bird Day 2012. This year's International Migratory Bird Day theme is "**Connecting People to Bird Conservation**", highlighting ways people can help birds every day. A great outing for individual, families, scouts and other youth groups, celebrate the return of our migratory songbirds while you enjoy bird-related activities throughout the park. Food concessions will be available on site, or you can pack a picnic lunch!

For more information about how the day works or to **volunteer**—this is an excellent opportunity for scout groups or teens needing community service hours—contact the Blue Jay Center for Environmental Education at (919) 870-4330 or e-mail bluejaypoint@wakegov.com
All volunteers must register in advance!

All Songbird Celebration events are free!

Pre-register for the following free bird classes and hikes by calling (919) 870-4330. Limited registration will be available at the Information Tent when you arrive:

For adults and teens only—

Adult Bird Hike: 9-10 am

Join NC State Park I & E Specialist Brian Bockhahn on a hike to locate spring migrants through bird song and observation. Enjoy a cup of shade-grown coffee when you get back!

For preteens and teens (ages 11-15)—

Blue Jay Jenga: 1:15-2 pm

Play a bird-themed version of the classic tumbling tower game while simultaneously learning bird calls, using field guides, discussing ethical dilemmas, working as a team to solve puzzles and more!

For kids (ages 6-12) —

EGGstravaganza 11:30-Noon or 12:30-1pm

Learn about egg sizes, colors, and shapes before designing your own egg "protective packaging" and participating in an "Egg Drop"! Will you win the "Scrambled Egg Award"?

For preschoolers (and parent)—

Nature Stories "The Bird Watchers": 11-11:30am or 11:30am-noon

Join Blue Jay's Miss Sue and Diana Gawron from the North Regional Library and listen to a story about a little girl and her granddad as they wander through the woods looking for birds. Start your own very simple bird journal to help you learn how to identify some common local birds.

Nature Stories "Outside the Window": Noon-12:30pm or 12:30-1pm

Join Blue Jay's Miss Sue and Diana Gawron from the North Regional Library for "Outside the Window" about a family of baby birds that are curious about how they are the same or different than the little boy they observe through his window. Make your own "window" to take home.

For families of all ages—

Family Bird Hike: 10-10:45 am or 11-11:45am

Birdwatching is cross-generational—ask avid birders today where they got their start and you'll almost always find that it was through the birding interest of a parent or grandparent. Start your family on the track of a lifetime hobby by taking a trek around Blue Jay with NC State Park Ranger Brian Bockhahn in search of our springtime bird residents!

Osprey Hike: 11am-Noon or 1-2pm or 2-3pm

Join a park ranger from the US Army Corps of Engineers for a short hike down the Sandy Point Trail to observe a man-made osprey nesting platform and this year's avian inhabitants. Learn about the osprey's special adaptations that give it the alternate name of "fish hawk".

Wake Audubon Family Bird Hikes: Noon-12:45pm or 1-1:45pm

Join members of Wake Audubon for a family bird hike around Blue Jay. Be sure to stop by the Wake Audubon booth for great information and a peek at their bird related merchandise!

Wake Audubon Bluebird Hike: 2-2:45 pm

Learn about how the Eastern Bluebird populations have been brought back from the brink by Citizen Science efforts like those at Blue Jay as you scope out the Bluebird Trail and take a peek into a nest box or two.

The following Songbird Celebration activities are drop-in - come and go as you please, and join the fun!

10 am-1 pm--- Shade-grown Coffee Hour on the EE Center porch
Drop by and enjoy a cup of coffee on us - find out why "shade-grown" makes a difference to birds.

11 am-3 pm --- Bird-themed displays, games, and activities for all ages in the Blue Jay Garden

11 am-1 pm --- Raptor Presentation

Come by for a close-up look at one of Master Falconer Bill Davis's big beautiful birds of prey and learn about how raptors "earn a living"!

Noon-12:30 and 2-2:30 pm --- Birdhouse Walk

Like a cakewalk, except for birdhouses and bird-themed prizes!
Everyone welcome!

11:30 am--Noon and 2:30-3 pm --- Bird Olympics

Try out some familiar field day type games with a bird twist—egg tosses, egg-and-spoon races and the ever popular shade-grown coffee sack race!

Special Challenge for 2012!

In keeping with this year's theme

"Connecting People with Bird Conservation"
(and in honor of International Migratory Bird Day's 20th Anniversary!)

we have a special challenge for Songbird participants! Pick up a *Songbird Celebration* brochure at the **Information Tent** on the front walk to the Education Center. Travel through the festival and gather clues to discover the secret message of the day, while enjoying all the fun and educational things the Celebration has to offer. Turn in your completed challenge at the Information Tent to receive an official *Songbird Celebration* embroidered patch, or other small prize of your choice.

Scout Leaders, Y-Dads and Families take note!



This flyer is available for download on our website—

www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay/whats happening