

UNDERSTORY

THE NEWSLETTER OF IRVINE NATURE CENTER

CELEBRATING
40
years of
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION

Did you know? Irvine has spent four decades inspiring the community to explore, respect and protect nature.

You Made 40 Years Possible!

This year, Irvine turns 40! Here's a brief history of where we've come from.

Look for milestone celebrations all year long!

AT OUR START

In 1975, sisters Olivia Irvine Dodge and Clotilde "Coco" Irvine Moles made a substantial gift to St. Timothy's School in Stevenson, Md., for the express purpose of founding a nature center on their campus. Mrs. Dodge had been a graduate of St. Tim's, and imagined the nature center in two rustic old barns near a pond at St. Tim's.

The idea of Irvine Nature Center had been planted.

OUR EARLY YEARS

A small group of dedicated nature-enthusiasts formed a board and then hired its first Executive Director, "Bud" Ribero. He hailed from the Massachusetts Audubon Society. During this time, St. Tim's provided the barns rent-free and even paid Irvine's utilities.

In 1976, Irvine held its first birdseed sale, distributing 7 tons from the back of a trailer. Irvine also organized the first Jones Falls Cleanup, partnering with our longtime friends, the Greenspring Valley Garden Club. (This clean-up would later expand to become Project Clean Stream, now run by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and drawing 7,500 volunteers.) In 1977, Irvine offered its

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 **Irvine**
Explore • Respect • Protect Nature

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very first Summer Nature Camp, and the next year it began a bird banding research program.

After a few years, Bobby Johnson (now an Emeritus Board member) took over as executive director. “The annual budget at the time was something like \$40,000,” Bobby recalled. Those funds came primarily from donations and just covered the salaries for Bobby and three naturalists, who did everything from running educational programs to accounting to answering the phone to sweeping the floor.

In 1979, Irvine launched its formal education programs for the Baltimore City and County schools. And in 1980, staff conducted its first formal Volunteer Naturalist Training. Both of these programs have been known for their excellence from the start!



For more than 20 years, Irvine has provided environmental education opportunities for teachers and over 23,000 underserved Baltimore City students. Last year 2,800 students took part in our fun, interactive Nature in the Classroom sessions.

THE EIGHTIES AND NINETIES

Devoted birder, Mr. Dick Gibbs became Irvine’s Board president in 1983 and, in 1986, took on the job of executive director. He remained at the helm for 21 years. Dick could often be found out on the trail building bluebird houses, and he helped shape Irvine as a real gem.

Rob Mardiney, presently Irvine’s Director of Education, joined the staff in 1985 as a naturalist and has been responsible for Irvine’s creative and award-winning program development ever since.



Over the past 15 years, Irvine has grown from 13,000 VISITORS to be Maryland’s 28th most popular tourist attraction with 70,000 VISITORS a year.

Programming grew fast. In the ’80s, Irvine initiated an evening lecture series and a winter bird count. The newsletter, *Understory*, the first Maryland State Department of Education accredited Teacher Training Course and the tradition of PumpkinFest all started too.

During the ’90s, Irvine pioneered urban environmental education programs. The new programming and the additional personnel meant a higher budget, with accompanying needs for fundraising. In 1991, Irvine’s budget stood at just \$343,000, but it nearly doubled to \$636,000 by 2000. So Irvine hired some new professionals to bring their talents to memberships, fundraising and marketing.

Beginning in 2005, Irvine offered a summer fellowship program for Baltimore City high school students. This science education program was so highly regarded that the Howard Hughes Medical Institute gave Irvine the two largest grants in HHMI history to support it.

THE BIG MOVE

In 2007, Irvine began to outgrow the space provided by St. Tim’s and faced the daunting challenge of finding a new home. Thanks to amazing donors and friends, Irvine raised \$7.5 million to create a first-class green building and trails on a 116-acre parcel purchased

from Baltimore County. The move to Caves Valley, our current home, took place in August 2008.

Another big change for Irvine during this period of transition was Dick Gibbs’ retirement in 2007 and Peggy O’Neill’s appointment to executive director. Peggy arrived just before the 2008 financial crisis that devastated many non-profits. The recession hit hard, but Peggy deftly led Irvine through the times by diversifying Irvine’s revenue streams. She expanded the Summer Nature Camp dramatically and drew up the plans for The Nature Preschool at Irvine.

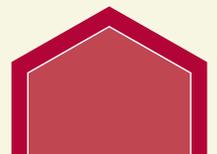
Mrs. Dodge remained committed to in her “little nature center,” and was able to see our amazing new home. She passed away in 2009.

RECENT YEARS

Peggy’s plans for The Nature Preschool helped Irvine craft an extraordinary program that is now licensed by the Maryland State Department of Education and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. In 2013, current Executive Director Brooks Paternotte took on the job, and he and the Board of Trustees are developing our next strategic plan that will continue Irvine’s story as a recognized leader in environmental education for all ages.

Here’s to another 40 years!

Irvine started in a tiny barn using 25 acres and is now housed debt free in a beautiful 17,200-square-foot green BUILDING ON 116 ACRES.



Ask the Naturalist

By Steven Mickletz, Irvine's Naturalist & Manager of Public Programs

QUESTION: When will I start seeing butterflies in the spring? Where have they been all winter?

ANSWER: The appearance of butterflies is one of the most welcome sights as the day light increases and the outdoor world warms up. When considering the diversity of moths and butterflies – over 12,000 species in North America alone – it is reasonable to expect a variety of winter survival methods and ETA for the spring season. Let's take a look at some of the species that excite me the most when I catch that first glimpse.

Tiger swallowtails are quite common at Irvine. This particular swallowtail is a generalist as a caterpillar. You may see the caterpillar in the summer months on black cherry, sweet bay magnolia or tuliptree munching leaves. By the end of the summer, the only swallowtails you will see are in the well-camouflaged pupal stage. In this form, they may look exactly like a piece of tree branch and are very difficult to find. By May, though, the conspicuous adults begin fluttering about flowerbeds.

I don't think I really need to introduce the monarch. Many people are already familiar with this animal's incredible migration to Mexico each fall. Over several generations, the butterfly returns to the north, laying eggs on milkweed. We can expect to see adults in Maryland in mid-May. This is a good time to check young milkweed plants for caterpillars!

But what if I told you, "You don't need to wait for May flowers to see butterflies!?" That's right! Head out on Irvine's trails on a warm winter day, particularly in March, and you

may see the mourning cloak, a personal favorite of mine. The mourning cloak rivals the monarch as the longest lived adult butterfly and will spend its entire winter in our woodlands! To survive, it seeks out dripping sap on the warmest winter days, and finds shelter amongst loose tree bark, evergreens or oak leaves on the coldest.



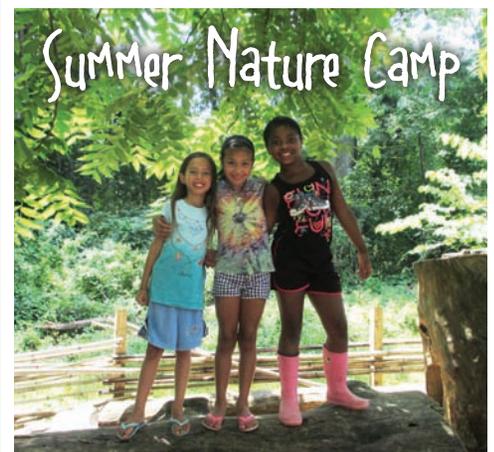
Irvine's upcoming Butterfly House will feature this local species, the tiger swallowtail.



BIRDIES ON THE GREEN!

May 5, 2015

For details, visit www.ExploreNature.org.



Outside experiences for children ages 2-15!

June 8 – August 21, 2015

Choose from more than 40 nature-based camp sessions with activities that include:

- Hiking
- Animals
- Water Activities
- Biking
- Camping
- Green Games
- Stream Studies
- Healthy Cooking
- And other hands-on activities outdoors!

Before and aftercare available with most sessions.

For info, contact Clare at 443-738-9220 or NgC@ExploreNature.org.



THE NATURE PRESCHOOL AT IRVINE:
Wild Things
in Spring



By Monica Wiedel-Lubinski, Irvine's Director of The Nature Preschool

When it comes to outdoor play, children at The Nature Preschool know how to dig in! And while every season offers magical encounters, spring brings her own energy bursting with new life.

If you are familiar with The Nature Preschool, you might already know about our emergent curriculum approach to learning. We cannot know the precise moment or day we will discover skunk cabbage, bloodroot or Jack-in-the-pulpit blossoms springing up. But we can seize these moments as they emerge, in real time, when children discover them. This mindful approach encourages children to share ideas and observations as they occur, not when a given activity or topic is scripted to learn about. When plants and animals awake in spring, discoveries of new life abounds.

Our early childhood educators are just as excited as students when mild weather finally breaks. On a typical day, the children spend half of their class time engaged in outdoor learning. But in spring, we bring the class rosters outside, load up our wagons and hold class outdoors from start to finish. It is a progression we look forward to all year!

If you're itching to get outside with your preschooler, here are things to try:

Go on a green walk. Take paint swatches in various shades of green and see how many growing green things you can find. If the search leads you to other discoveries, all the better!

Create a sit spot. Used by many naturalists but great for kids, too, a sit spot is a quiet place to simply sit and observe nature. After a few silent moments, discuss what you felt, saw or heard. You can even invent a story about the experience.

Petals and leaves. Invite your child to gather fallen petals or leaves, then experiment with ways to use them. If your child is interested in collecting the petals, see how many different kinds you can find, then sort them by color, shape and size.

For more info about early childhood education at Irvine, contact the director of The Nature Preschool at Monica@ExploreNature.org.



American Kestrel

By Laura Soder, Irvine's Naturalist & Animal/Exhibit Coordinator

While the winter landscape may be cold and dull, there is a new animal bringing color and excitement to Irvine! Earlier this fall Irvine received a young male American kestrel, a type of native falcon that usually inhabits fields and open meadows.

As the smallest falcon in North America, this bird is the same size as a dove and weighs around 100 grams – imagine the fierce predator abilities of a raptor packed into something as light as a bar of soap! They can even see ultraviolet light, helping them to track small mammals that leave trails along the ground.



North America's littlest falcon, the American kestrel, packs a predator's fierce intensity into a small body.

These birds are also well known for their brilliant plumage. In most raptors, both genders have the same coloration, making it difficult to tell them apart. But the male kestrel has slate blue wings while the female is more of a dull brown. Both have black vertical slashes on the side of their head, sometimes called "sideburns," as well as a black band near the end of the tail.

Due to a shoulder injury, Irvine's kestrel will remain in our care for the rest of its life. He currently resides indoors, but this spring he will be introduced into our aviary where he will have more space and a natural setting to enjoy!

NATURE TIP



TAKING IT TO GO

The great news about doggie bags is that they mean less food wasted from restaurants. The downside is all the packaging. When you ask for a to-go bag, request that the restaurant use as few packaging items as possible – for example, take the carton of leftover dinner, but not the plastic bag to carry it in. And be sure to thank restaurants that choose to provide compostable take away containers!

BIRD-a-THON

It's like a walk-a-thon with birds!

Help Irvine defeat DC!

4/22 – 5/25

www.ExploreNature.org
to sign up your team.





“Handyman” is Volunteer of the Year!

By Courtney Sagal, Irvine’s Director of Community Engagement

“Passionate, intelligent, devoted, hardworking, a great sense of humor...” these are just a few of the terms that have been used to describe Olav Nyseter, winner of Irvine’s 2014 Jeanne Baetjer Volunteer of the Year award.

The Jeanne Baetjer Volunteer Award honors those members of the community who have contributed an extraordinary amount of time to Irvine. Each year, the award is given to one volunteer who personifies the spirit of volunteerism found in Mrs. Baetjer, and honors her 30-plus years of volunteering.

Since Olav began in February 2014, he has contributed an astounding 450 volunteer hours.



Volunteer of the Year Olav Nyseter (left) with Irvine’s Courtney Sagal

Wally Vait, Irvine’s manager of grounds & maintenance, quickly acknowledged Olav’s dedication and determination to Irvine. “He has allowed us to complete many difficult tasks. We are so lucky to have him,” Wally said.

Olav has assisted with projects such as the building of the new tractor shed and fence, the building of the phenomenal loft in the downstairs classroom, constructing a new tree cookie table for the outdoor classroom and assembling the preschool cubbies in the upstairs classroom. The list could go on and on.

Thank you, Olav, for your commitment, dedication and unrelenting efforts on behalf of Irvine!

we need YOUR HELP!

SPECIAL EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers will assist Irvine staff with preparation and execution of Irvine’s annual events. Duties include setup, breakdown, food prep, decorating, etc.

Upcoming Event: Treehugger 5K, Saturday, May 2

VOLUNTEER NATURALISTS

Become a volunteer naturalist at Irvine! This 3-session course will teach you how to lead educational trips for school groups. We’ll cover field trip themes, trail activities and teaching techniques. No experience necessary – just bring enthusiasm for working with kids!

March 17, 19, 24 and 26, 9 a.m – noon.

NATURE STORE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers provide sales and stocking assistance to the store manager.

Monday through Friday, 4-hour shifts or longer. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. or 1 – 5 p.m.

If interested in volunteering, contact Courtney Sagal at CourtneySagal@ExploreNature.org.



PROJECT CLEAN STREAM April 1, 2015, 9 a.m. – noon

Get outside, volunteer for a stream cleanup and make a difference for your community!

Contact Courtney at CourtneySagal@ExploreNature.org to sign up for yourself or a group!

Astrum Solar Offers Solar Savings

Help the environment. Help Irvine. Save money.

You can do all three by tapping Astrum Solar to evaluate your home and create a custom proposal for a rooftop solar system. For every Irvine friend that signs up for a solar system evaluation, Astrum will donate \$100 to Irvine. For every evaluation that leads to a signed contract, Astrum will donate \$750.

To get started, and to qualify for a \$500 discount on the purchase of an Astrum solar system, visit www.tinyurl.com/IrvineAstrum. Most purchases qualify for a 30% federal tax credit and state tax credits of \$1,200 a year.

Astrum Solar, based in Annapolis Junction, is the largest full-service residential solar provider on the East Coast, growing quickly as more people cut their energy bills and reduce their environmental footprint by adding Astrum solar systems to their property. In fact, Astrum, founded in 2007, ranked second on Inc. magazine's 2012 list of fastest-growing private U.S. companies.

Our friends at Astrum Solar are helping the environment, helping Irvine and helping you.



A partnership with local business Astrum Solar helps members get solar arrays on their homes at a discount.



Looking for some wise-minded owls!
Recognition you deserve for the legacy you leave
www.irvinelegacy.org



Endowment is Not a Dirty Word

Interested in making a meaningful gift to Irvine? Consider supporting Irvine's Land & Trails Endowment Campaign. For a limited time, your gift or pledge will be matched 1:1 by the Middendorf Foundation.

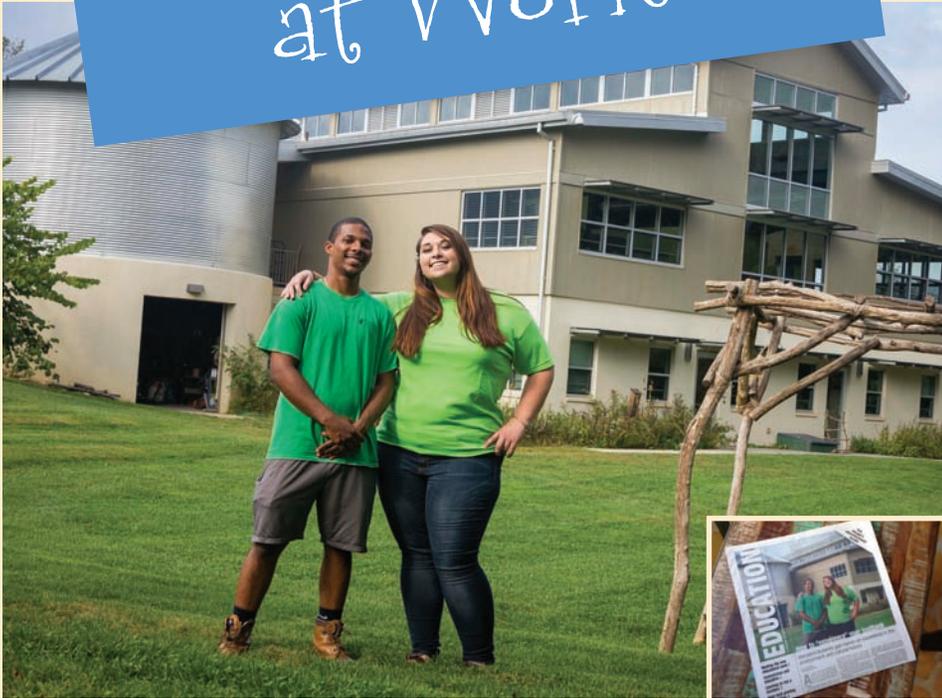
"A healthy endowment is the soil that nourishes and supports our vision." - W. Brooks Paternotte

Make your gift or pledge today to support Irvine's future and our 116 acres of protected property. Contact Anna Lincoln Whitehurst at WhitehurstAL@ExploreNature.org or 443-738-9236.

Your Irvine at Work



SEE WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS. THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING GOING ON AT IRVINE!



Stevenson students Charles Franklin (left) and Lauren Riedeman were featured on the cover of the education section in November 15th's *Baltimore Sun*. Charles and Lauren are part of our ongoing work-study partnership.



Ray Wilse, a participant of Itineris Baltimore which helps young adults with autism find volunteer opportunities, was named November's Volunteer of the Month. Ray is a 3-year volunteer who fills bird feeders for Irvine.



Over the holidays, Irvine's greenhouse-turned-gingerbread house received a lot of donations, which all went to our community food banks.



On the National Family Volunteer Day, lots of members and friends banded together at Irvine to craft stepping stones for the Outdoor Classroom.



Greg Pinkard (right) won the 2014 Bill Winstead Trustee Award for his commitment to Irvine's growth. Bill Winstead's son Ted (left) and Irvine Executive Director Brooks Paternotte (center) presented him with the honor.



Visitors spotted a juvenile bald eagle on a fence post at Irvine.



A terrific group of volunteers worked with staff to mark the anniversary of 9/11 with service to the community. This group repainted the raptor aviary.



Irvine's newest animal family member is a male kestrel. The kestrel is one of the most colorful of all raptors, and ours weighs in at only 92 grams!

PUMPKINS ON THE GREEN | OCTOBER 24, 2015



Former Board President Lynn Jordan and her husband Terral joined Executive Brooks Paternotte for Irvine's sixth annual fundraiser.



Guests were welcomed to Irvine's "un-gala" by its knowledgeable staff and a legion of native animals, including the opossum.



The weather was perfect for a truly great evening – and thanks to the NightLife Band, the dance floor was hoppin'!



It was a packed house for its popular jean-casual fundraiser. Nearly 800 people attended in 2014, including Ayanna Cooke-Chen and Willis Chen.



Irvine's Janet Harvey (left) and Julie Bennett prepared for the live auction, which featured as butterfly nets bidding signs and raised \$30,000.



Event chairs Danielle (right) and Laurence Oster met Ravens Wide Receiver Steve Smith, who was one of the surprise guests to the VIP pre-party.

PUMPKINFEST WEEKEND | OCTOBER 11-12, 2015



Naturalist Laura Soder introduced crowds to the black rat snake.



Pumpkin picking and painting were big hits. Messy, but fun!



And the winner is?! Pumpkin sack races were fast and furious.



Beautiful face painting, like this fire-breathing dragon, was everywhere.



The corn pit was perfect for kids big and small.

Signs of the Season

By Katie Roof, Irvine's Naturalist and Manager of School & Urban Education Programs

What's that I see? Is it a sign of spring?

This looks like something I have seen before...something I should stay away from. I remember the rhyme... "Leaves of three, let it be." Alas, this plant does not look exactly like what I have seen in the past, not the plant that will give me a rash, poison ivy.

It does have leaves of three, but it also has two stalks shooting out of a central stalk with groups of three leaves at the ends. In the middle of these stalks rests a beautiful modified leaf (or spathe)

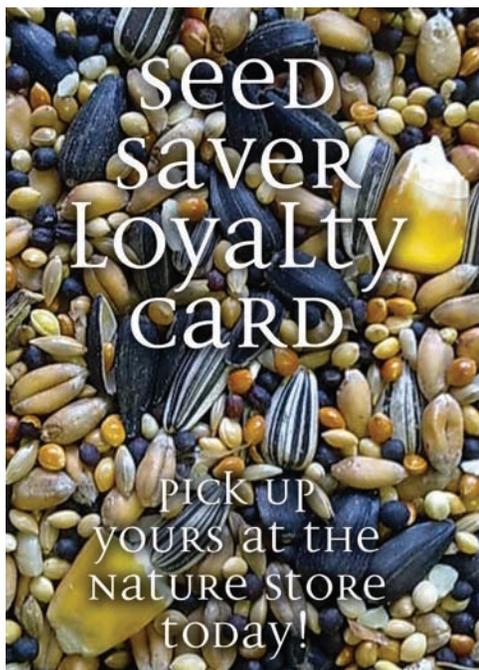
that folds over something held deep beneath, a flower (or spadix).

Of course! How silly of me, it is a Jack-in-the-pulpit plant greeting the changing weather and the arrival of spring. Flies are its most common pollinators because they are attracted to the flower's not so pleasant smell. As spring rolls through and the flower has been pollinated, the spathe starts to shrivel, and green berries can be seen. These berries are not ripe until late summer. Once they reach ripeness they are bright red and beautiful. The plant and berries contain calcium oxalate which causes a burning sensation if eaten, very different than poison ivy which has oils that make you very itchy.

The next time you go for a hike and see leaves of three, don't just assume the plant is poison ivy. Investigate further, as any naturalist would, and you may discover you have stumbled upon Jack-in-the-pulpit, an awesome native wildflower.



The large elliptical leaves of a Jack-in-the-pulpit are arranged atop a fibrous stem in groupings of three.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE NATURE STORE?

Did you know that Irvine members get an additional percentage off their purchase, just by shopping at the Nature Store on Wednesdays? As an added bonus, new this year, members will receive an additional 10% off their entire purchase on Wednesdays. No exclusions!

The Nature Store is getting new inventory daily. From eco-friendly and recycled board games to handmade lunch bags and backpacks to Irvine-branded bluebird boxes, Irvine has unique gifts for every nature enthusiast. Added bonus: most items are made in the USA!

When checking out, be sure to pick up a *Seed Saver Card*! As a thank you for shopping in the Nature Store, receive an Irvine loyalty card. Purchase 10 bags of bird seed (25+ pounds), then get 20% off your next purchase!

Happy Shopping!

WELCOME TO IRVINE, NEW MEMBERS!

WE'RE THRILLED TO HAVE A GREAT BUNCH OF NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED OVER THE FALL AND WINTER. MEMBERS HELP US CARE FOR OUR TRAILS, PROVIDE QUALITY ANIMAL CARE AND MAINTAIN THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM. THANKS SO MUCH!

Ms. Shana Alter
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Amey
Mrs. Emily Atkinson
Dr. Meredith Atkinson
Mr. Ezekiel Bailey and
Ms. Page Hinerman
Mrs. and Mr. Rafael Barrera
Mrs. Beadle
Mr. and Mrs. William Beck
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony R. Becker
Dr. Marina Bedny
Ms. Jaime Bishow
Mrs. Jillian Bright
Ms. Lyn Brooks
Ms. Katharine Burgin
Mrs. Kerry Calliste
Ms. Delma Cardona-Bosques
Ms. Teresa Carnell
Mr. Shaun Carrick
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Cassity
Mrs. Monika Chandra
Mr. and Mrs. Blake Cordish
Mr. Matthew Cornwell and
Ms. Stephanie Snyder
Ms. Ashley Cowall
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dagdigian
Mr. Lewis Dennen
Mrs. Marci DeVries
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel H. Ebert
Mrs. Dana Evans
Ms. Lynne Fadem-Olivas
Ms. Jen Friendlich
Shelbie and Luke Fry
Ms. Julie Gailus-Mooney and
Mr. Jim Mooney
Mr. and Mrs. Tyler George
Ms. Jackie Getschel
Mrs. Kathleen Gibbs
Mr. Dylan Goldberg
Ms. Monica B. Haines
Benkhedda
Mr. Vincent Halloran
Ms. Lauren Henry
Mr. and Mrs. James I. Herczeg
Ms. Mary M. Herndon and
Mr. Timothy S. Wang
Ms. Robin Holt
Mrs. Tiffany Houchins
Ms. Sienna Huang
Mr. and Mrs. David Hurwitz
Carrie and Nicole Immler
Mr. Peter Jang and Ms. Balapan
Ibrasheva

Ms. Alissa Jones
Mrs. Rena Juni
Ms. Jessica Kendall and
Mr. Salih Mahammed
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kercz
Mr. Leonard Kinland
Ms. Rachel Klein
Mr. and Mrs. Drew Krepp
Ms. Stefani LaBrecque and
Mr. Daniel Labrecque
Ms. Sandy Lee
Ms. Kathleen Levin
Mr. and Mrs. Haney Mallemat
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Ms. Laura Parkhurst and
Mr. Matthew Fitzsimmons
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Ms. Angela Quinn
Ms. Jenny Sayre Ramberg
Mrs. Erron Ramsey
Ms. Markita Reed
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Ristau
Dr. Tracy Rone
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Rosenzweig
Lauren and Adam Sampson
Dr. Mona Sawhney and
Mr. Sanjeev Sawhney
Ms. Barbara Schiner
Ms. Rebecca Schwantes-An
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Seidel
Ms. Fabia Sequeria
Mr. Evan Serpick
Ms. Shannon Sheetz
Mrs. Danielle Shuman

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Skidmore
Mr. and Mrs. Donnell M.
Smith, Jr.
Ms. Mariya Strauss and
Mr. Scot Vanderpool
Mr. Greg Strella and
Ms. Emily Trovato
Mr. and Mrs. Colin Sullivan
Ms. Stephanie Szewczyk
Ms. Joanna Tanner
Mrs. Roberta Taylor
Mrs. Suzan Taylor
Ms. Deepashri Thatte
Ms. Kimberly Thomas
Ms. Erin Turk
Ms. Amy Uddeme
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Vangeison
Ms. Sophia Walker
Mr. Timothy S. Wang and
Ms. Mary M. Herndon
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Warfield
Mr. Robert E. Wenk
Mr. and Mrs. Justin Wiggs
Mr. John Wilson and
Ms. Anne Dunigan
Ms. Karin Woodsmen
Mr. Mujtaba A. Zafar and
Ms. Sara Khan
Ms. Kelly Zellers

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Baltimore Ravens
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The Whit Harvey Group

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you notice any errors, please accept our apologies and contact us at 443-738-9227 or BeckerV@ExploreNature.org.

Spring 2015 Programs at Irvine Nature Center

MEMBERS ONLY

NATURE ART HOUR

How can we explore, respect and protect nature with art? Drop in for a bit and enjoy experimenting with both natural and conventional art materials. We'll provide materials and instructions for a wonderfully simple project each week. Bring your own smock! All ages.

*Sundays, April 12, 19 and 26
11 a.m. – noon
Members Only!
Free!*

WOODLAND GARDEN TOUR AND TEA

The Woodland Garden is a magical place at Irvine that comes to life in the spring. See and learn about the native flowers that make up Maryland's forests in this member-exclusive tour! A light catered lunch is provided. Space is limited! Ages 12 & up.

*Saturday, April 18
12:30 – 2 p.m.
Members Only!
\$10 per person*



BEHIND THE SCENES WITH BIRDS OF PREY

Have you ever wondered what it takes to manage some of the exhibit and education animals at Irvine? Meet the animal care coordinator and learn what our raptors need for food, care and training. Get a behind-the-scenes look at feeding time and an up-close encounter with one of our birds of prey!

Ages 5 & up.
*Sunday, May 3
1 – 1:30 p.m.
1:45 – 2:15 p.m. Or
2:30 – 3 p.m.
Members Only!
\$15 per family membership*

FOR CHILDREN

NATURAL EGG DYEING

Egg dyeing is a lot of fun, especially when playing with nature's ingredients. Discover how different spices, fruits and vegetables can be used to produce beautiful, natural colors! Just bring some boiled eggs (up to a dozen), and wear clothes that you don't mind getting colorful.

*Sunday, March 29
10 a.m. – noon
\$5 members, \$10 non-members*

KID'S NIGHT OUT!

Enjoy the evening out while your kids enjoy a fun-filled night of nature activities! Children participate in activities including arts and crafts, animal encounters, nature games and even a tasty pizza dinner! Ages 5-9.

*Fridays, March 27, April 17, May 22
6 – 9 p.m.
Each session: \$30 /child members
\$40/child non-members
All three sessions: \$75 /child members
\$105/child non-members*

SPRING BREAK CAMP!

A whole week off school? Spend it exploring our stream, discovering the hidden world beneath logs and learning about animal habitats. Kids love five days of fun-filled activities including trail walks, games, crafts and animal encounters. Ages 5-9.

*Monday, April 6 – Friday, April 10
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
\$315 members, \$385 non-members*

TALES AND TAILS!

Join Irvine for a few animal stories followed by an up close interaction with Irvine's animal friends! All ages (with adult).

*Every Friday, April 10 – June 19
(except June 5)
10 – 10:45 a.m.
Free! (\$2 donation suggested)*



HOW TO REGISTER

THERE ARE 4 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1. Call 443-738-9220.
2. Email Programs@ExploreNature.org.
3. Register on-site at Irvine.
4. Visit www.ExploreNature.org and look for online registration.

CANCELLATION POLICIES

Irvine may cancel programs due to bad weather. If Irvine cancels a program, fees will be refunded. If you cancel your reservation less than one week before the program, no refund will be given.

PAYMENT IS REQUIRED AT TIME OF REGISTRATION.

STREAM SEARCHIN'

Enjoy a fun hike to our stream and immerse in some aquatic exploration to find critters like crayfish, caddisflies and salamanders. Ages 6 & up.

Saturday, May 16 or Sunday, May 17

10:30 a.m. – noon

Free for members, \$10 non-members

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERIES

JUNIOR NATURALISTS

Is your child at home on our trails? Junior Naturalists is a great way for them to make friends with other nature nuts and spend time in the outdoors. We keep warm with hiking, arts and crafts, keeping a nature journal, and being part of citizen science projects. Junior Naturalists learn to work as a team to explore, respect and protect nature! Different age groups explore outdoors together and receive age appropriate nature journals. Snacks provided. Ages 5-6 and 7-9.

*Saturdays, April 11, April 25 and May 9
9:30 a.m. – noon*

	<i>Members</i>	<i>Non-Members</i>
<i>1 Session</i>	<i>\$15</i>	<i>\$25</i>
<i>3 Sessions</i>	<i>\$35*</i>	<i>\$55*</i>



SWOOPING SWALLOWS YOUTH BIRDERS

Are you interested in nature but need more than a kids program? This naturalist-led series introduces youth to competitive and scientific birding opportunities. Learn easy identification techniques and how to bird on a team, and then teach others all about birds. We make new friends, learn to bird and create many memorable moments! Ages 10 & up.

Saturday, April 18, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

(Spring Migrants)

Saturday, May 2, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

(Bird-a-Thon)

Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(Last Trip; Lunch party at noon – family invited!)

*\$10 members, \$20 non-members**

**One-time fee covers all local birding activities for the academic year. Some special field trips may require an additional fee.*

BABY LOVE INFANT & PARENT SERIES

Nature is magical for parents and infants discovering it together for the first time. Join us for slow sensory exploration during trail walks. Tactile experiences with fur, moss, feathers, leaves and flower petals introduce baby to nature while offering parents ways to connect with one another, too. Remember to bring a baby wrap! Ages birth to one year old (with parent).

Fridays, Apr. 10, 17, 24 or

Fridays, May 1, 8, 15

10 – 11 a.m.

\$45/session members

\$65/session non-members

FOR FAMILIES

FROGWATCH FRENZY

A chorus of frogs ushers in April showers! Join a naturalist for a dusk hike to our wetland to learn about some of our native amphibians. We look for tadpoles, adult amphibians and record frog call data for FrogWatch USA – a citizen science program. Bring a flashlight and prepare to get your feet wet! All ages (6 & up recommended).

Saturday, April 18

7 – 9 p.m.

*\$5 members, \$10 non-members ***



FAMILY CAMPOUT

Our family campout is back and better than ever for Earth Week! We'll start the evening off with hot dogs, bannock and other campfire treats. As the sun sets, we'll head out on a night hike and return to the campfire for s'mores and songs. An Irvine naturalist leads all activities and stays overnight. Includes light breakfast. Sign-up with your meal preference when registering. All ages.

Saturday, April 25 – Sunday, April 26

4 p.m. – 9 a.m.

\$75 members,

*\$95 non-members***

****All family prices are per family of 4.**

*Need a tent?
Rent one of ours
for only \$20.*



MORNING BIRD WALK

Beautiful sounds fill our ears and wonderful colors surround us as we search high and low for migratory birds during this 1.5-mile walk. Irvine's Youth Birding League helps lead the way! We leave promptly at 9 a.m. Stay as long as you'd like!

Saturday, May 16

9 a.m. – noon

Free!

FAMILY CAMPFIRE AND NIGHT HIKE

Meet at Irvine to gather around the campfire for food, stories and songs. At the end of the evening, we night hike back to the Exhibit Hall. All ages.

Friday, May 29

6:45 – 8:30 p.m.

*\$16 members, \$30 non-members***

FOR ADULTS

SPRING VOLUNTEER NATURALIST TRAINING

This 4-session course teaches you how to lead educational field trips for school groups. We'll cover field trip themes, natural history, trailside activities and teaching techniques. No experience necessary – just bring enthusiasm for nature and working with kids. Contact Courtney at 443-738-9224 for information.

Tuesday, March 17, Thursday, March 19,

Tuesday March 24 and Thursday,

March 26

9 a.m. – noon

Retired teacher?
Stay active and share
your passion!

FROG LUNCH & LEARN

Simple as they may seem, each different species of frog has developed a unique way to compete for food, space and, most of all, mates. Learn how frogs are teaching us about environmental health and the global race to keep amphibians afloat. Presentation by Irvine Naturalist Steven Mickletz. Lunch will be served. RSVP by March 27 to Valerie Becker at 443-738-9227.

Wednesday, April 1

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

\$15 members, \$20 non-members

WILDFLOWERS & WHISKEY SOURS

Maryland's native wildflowers have evolved amazing adaptations that help them survive in hazardous and competitive environments. Some plants seem eerily animal-like as they 'communicate' when under attack, reward or deceive animals, and employ a vast array of chemical weaponry. Discover the secret lives and ecology of our common flora. Catering by Irvine preferred caterer The Classic Catering People. Presentation by Rob Mardiney, Irvine's Director of Education.

Thursday, April 16

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

\$30 members, \$40 non-members

NATURE QUICK-TIPS

Naturalists know how to look at the world through a different lens. In these short sessions, learn the tricks of the trade so you can get closer to nature. Then, we step outside to put our skills into practice.

Tuesdays, April 28 (Migratory Birds),

May 5 (Photography),

May 12 (Butterflies)

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

\$5 members, \$10 non-members

TREEHUGGER 5K

Hug it out at the 3rd annual Treehugger 5K encouraging healthy lifestyles and a healthy environment. This fast, fun and green event provides a great opportunity to enjoy our earth's natural environment. Support our environmental education mission, enjoy the beautiful Caves Valley region and spread a little environmental love for the earth! Runners who sign up before April 15 get a free T-shirt! Families and walkers welcome!

Saturday, May 2

8 – 10 a.m.

\$35 per entrant

The last
Eat, Drink & Learn
of the season!

PONDLIFE & PINOT

Renowned local a photographer and author Middleton Evan's newest book, *The Miracle Pond*, tells the vivid story of nature's abundance in Baltimore's Patterson Park. Get a fascinating look at the stories behind Baltimore's restored city jewel and hear about birds, insects, sapsuckers and the wood ducks that call it home. Catering by Irvine preferred caterer Table Field Catering. Presentation by Middleton Evans, Professional Photographer.

Thursday, May 21

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

\$30 members, \$40 non-members



****All family prices are per family of 4.**

New Irvine After-school Program

By Courtney Sagal, Irvine's Director of Community Engagement



One of Irvine's newest initiatives brings nature to schools after the school day ends.

Irvine just started its newest program: a weekly after-school nature club held at local elementary schools. Irvine's Eco-Explorer Club offers an enriching opportunity for kids to be active outdoors, discover nature and continue learning long after the school bell rings. With activities – both indoors and out – like live animal encounters, science experiments, recycled crafts and nature exploration, students engage all of their senses and establish a valuable connection with the natural world.

Nature enthusiasts at area schools, including Sparks, Reisterstown and Pot Spring, have already started participating in this hands-on nature program. Pam Oliver Jones, principal at Sparks Elementary School said, "Sparks has been extremely fortunate that Irvine brought this program to our students. Students who participated in the fall loved the experience. What a wonderful and fun way to bring science and nature to life for kids!"

Interested in having the Eco-Explorers program at your school? Contact Courtney at CourtneySagal@ExploreNature.org



Spring Break Day Off Camp

Don't spend spring break at home being bored! Instead, join Irvine for a week you won't forget!

Perfect for working parents!
www.ExploreNature.org



4TH ANNUAL

Nature Preschool Conference

Preschool educators and administrators will connect to discover and share activities, insight and best practices.

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY
JUNE 5-7, 2015**

Register Online!

Spring 2015 Programs



Irvine Nature Center

Established as a non-profit environmental education organization in 1975, Irvine Nature Center educates and inspires current and future generations to explore, respect and protect nature. Irvine fulfills its mission through outdoor environmental education programs and events. Program offerings include public nature programs, Summer Nature Camp, school field trips, The Nature Preschool, Nature in the Classroom, teacher professional development, group programs and special events. Irvine features a green building, a trail system with 6 miles of trails, native plant gardens, live animals, interactive exhibits, a kid's corner and the Nature Store. Irvine also serves as a community resource for natural history information.

We are supported by our members and generous donors.



HOURS

Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

NATURE STORE HOURS

Daily, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Members save
even more on
Wednesdays!

ADMISSION

Our trails, gardens and exhibits are open to the public free of charge. We encourage you to sign the guest book and consider a donation or membership, as these gifts keep Irvine green and free. Programs and special events often require a fee.

NATURE STORE

The Nature Store at Irvine has something for everyone: handmade lunch bags, Scrabble tile necklaces, and Irvine shirts and hoodies. We also offer our own special mix of birdseed custom blended based on studies by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

DIRECTIONS

Irvine Nature Center is located in Owings Mills, Maryland at 11201 Garrison Forest Road. From the Baltimore Beltway, take exit 20 (Reisterstown Rd.) headed north toward Garrison. Turn right onto Greenspring Valley Road. At the first stop sign, turn left onto Garrison Forest Road. Go approximately 2 miles to Irvine Nature Center's entrance on the right.

**To find out more, visit
WWW.EXPLORENATURE.ORG**