

UNDERSTORY

THE NEWSLETTER OF IRVINE NATURE CENTER



New! Camping at Irvine is a chance to gain an understanding and appreciation of the environment beyond Baltimore's suburbs and streets.

Learning, Overnight

By Beth Lacey Gill, Irvine's Director of Marketing

In fourth grade, my classmates and I hopped out of our school bus, grabbed several wee sleeping bags and headed into the woods for an overnight on Assateague Island.

Most of us had understandable fears – ghost stories. Non-existent grizzly bears. Running out of s'mores... But after a night listening to spring peepers and muffled pony sounds, we all left with a true appreciation of and excitement for being outside. The whole lot of us nearly had to be cattle-prodded back onto the bus, since not one of us wanted to leave such a fun place as "nature."

CHILDREN & CAMPING

Research supports exactly what I found as a nine-year-old: Camping is a great way for youngsters to get in touch with nature, and for them to get back to basics. In the great outdoors, kids can revel in the simplicity of just being kids. And they love it!

Adult nature enthusiasts report that they learned some of the most important life skills while camping as young children. Most noted patience, respect, and the ability to function alone or in groups. And all agreed that camping can amplify a child's awareness of her surroundings and increase her appreciation for natural things that go unnoticed.

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 **Irvine**
Explore • Respect • Protect Nature



Irvine's 3-sided barn functions as a camp shelter with picnic tables and benches.

Continued from front

Building on this knowledge, Irvine improved its 116-acre site by designating a place for families and children to camp, putting them on the path to a lifetime of outdoor adventures.

THE BARN, THE SITE... THE BATHROOM?

Last August, a giant truck arrived. On it, was Irvine's new 3-sided barn.

The barn, located at the western end of the central meadow, will provide a gathering space for campers if it rains. It's just a brisk 5-minute walk from the main building, and it can be used as a gathering spot, for enjoying campfire-cooked meals, or for programs with our animals or naturalists. Also, the barn's floor is made up of recycled concrete.

Next to the barn, there will be two semi-permanent tents with cots set up. Irvine also has more than an acre of space for pitching tents. Once tents are up, the space can accommodate as many as 50 campers. There is a built-in campfire ring, as well as a grill to help adventurous types cook dinner (there is no electricity at the site). The site does not have water available, and it's very much pack-in, pack-out style camping.

For new campers, the next question always is, "But what about the bathroom?" Well, Irvine has that covered too. An ingenious and environmentally friendly company, Cleanwaste, has outfitted our rustic "outhouse" with some of the comforts of home. So no matter your need, there is a place to go.

CAMPING AT IRVINE

Many of us have slept under the stars all over the globe. And it's an exciting experience, no matter where you unroll your sleeping bag and roast marshmallows. What's great about camping is the adventure itself. It's what happens on the trip.

For me, Assateague Island at age 9 was amazing. But it wasn't the place that hooked me on nature. It was the nighttime hike. It was getting a boost from a friend to climb a loblolly pine. It was learning to recognize poison ivy. It was seeing a real-life great blue heron.

Irvine is primed for an amazing array of educational activities just like those. Scouts, sports clubs, church groups, Summer Nature Camp kids and families have so much fun in store. Want to learn to build your first campfire? Or figure out how to tie knots and use a compass? What about catching lightning bugs before settling

in for fire-charred hot dogs? What kind of amphibians bellow in the Piedmont at night? Does the world look different when the only light comes from the stars and a campfire? Which way is north from here? Is there a better insect repellent than this? (There has to be, right?!)

Camping at Irvine will bring these activities, warm fuzzy feelings and adventurous learning experiences closer to home. Just think – the birds and animals, the grasses and trees, the wetlands, the sounds, the wildflowers... All these things can provide an exciting and educational time for youngsters! Plus, this is a camping experience that is so accessible. It's close to the metro area and I-695, and bordered by 1,200 contiguous preserved acres.

See you back at camp!

Beth Lacey Gill is Irvine's director of marketing. Every year, she returns to Assateague Island National Seashore for camping with her friends, her dog and a lot of sunscreen.

Want to book a great camping excursion for your group? Contact Courtney at 443-738-9224 or CourtneySagal@ExploreNature.org.

Starting Out

Camping can be intimidating. But it doesn't have to be! If you have young children, try a backyard campout before you go for the first time. And here are some tips for making the most of your first experience:

- Teach the kids how to set up a tent.
- Try some outdoor cooking.
- Show them how to use some camping equipment.
- Plan a few activities.
- Search the sky for constellations.
- Listen to the many night sounds.

Ask the Naturalist

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

QUESTION: There are giant wasps digging in my yard. What should I do?

A: The wasp you are most likely seeing is the cicada killer (*Sphecius speciosus*), a large, solitary, ground nesting wasp. The cicada killer can grow up to two inches long, is black to reddish brown in color with light yellow stripes on the abdomen, and has reddish wings. Despite its large size, you have little to fear from these intimidating insects and it is best to leave them to their work!

Solitary wasps like the cicada killer often dig holes in the ground where they lay a single egg. When this egg hatches, the small caterpillar-like larva will be hungry. The job of the mother is to bring one bug after another (in the case of the cicada killer: cicadas) to stuff into the burrow so her offspring will have plenty to grow fat on. The entrance to the tunnel is then sealed and, eventually, the larva will pupate and later emerge as a new adult wasp. The adults tend to feed on nectar.

Since they do not have a nest to defend and are focused on gathering food, solitary wasps will not sting unless handled roughly. These wasps are often considered beneficial as they may hunt down pest insects that damage plants. If there are many nesting in the same area, consider roping off the area so guests know to avoid it.



EXPLORE NATURE COOPERATIVE: K-1ST HOMESCHOOL SERIES

Check out our exciting new homeschool series for children in kindergarten and 1st grade. It's a great way for curious youngsters to enhance their education in nature.

See more details on page 10.

New!



2012 Native Plant Seminar & Sale



Saturday,
August 25
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

REGISTER NOW:
www.ExploreNature.org



Save the Date

4th Annual
Pumpkins on the Green
October 5, 2012

Our annual "ungala" is a fun and casual event that celebrates nature! Tickets go on sale later this summer.

Live Music • Dancing
Sustainable Dinner • Cocktails
Silent & Live Auctions

Signs of the Season

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

Summer is a season buzzing with activity. Birds have arrived and are raising their chicks in the trees. Bees are busy collecting pollen and making honey. Fields begin to fill with wildflowers. One of the most colorful, exciting and adventurous places to go during this season is...your local farmer's market.



Introducing children to local and organic foods is a great way to pave the way for healthy eating habits.

That's right! The farmer's market is the place to be all summer long. Your senses will stir from the purple hues of rhubarb, the smell of a fresh cantaloupe and the smooth texture of a bright-red heirloom tomato. But the fun doesn't stop at the market! There are endless dishes you can serve up daily from this freshest of ways to get your fruits, veggies and meats.

Becoming a "locavore" is both a healthy and nature friendly habit to develop, especially

when the foods are grown without the use of pesticides or other chemicals. Maryland residents are fortunate to have a large bounty of crops to select from thanks to the favorable climate and varied habitats and soil types from the mountains to the Eastern Shore. So find a market near you, support your local farmers, be adventurous and try some new foods and recipes today!



Support & Leadership Make Onsite Camping Possible

By Karen Nitkin, Irvine's Grant Writer

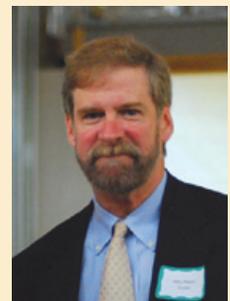
Gregory C. Pinkard, vice president of our Board of Trustees, wants Irvine visitors to get dirty. Pinkard, a guiding force in Irvine's 2008 move and the creation of our green building and exhibit hall, noted most visitors spend time inside the building, on the trails or in the Outdoor Classroom, which opened in 2011.

What was missing was a place "out on the land," the back portion of Irvine's 116 magnificent acres, where Scout groups and other visitors could camp year-round on the floor of the Caves Valley. "You really can't do that anywhere close to the Beltway," he said.

Pinkard worked closely with fellow trustee Patrick A. Rodgers II of the Facilities Committee, who "just got behind

it and was a huge part of making it happen," he said. Crucial assistance came from Lynn R. Jordan, trustee emeriti, and her husband Terrell; and Cynthia and Ned Murray, longtime supporters of Irvine and personal friends of Pinkard.

With their financial support and leadership, a road now leads to the site, which has a fire pit, picnic tables and a barn. It's a "wonderful canvas," said Pinkard, which will get even better over time. Meanwhile, it is ready for campers who want dirt under their fingernails and the scent of campfire in their hair.



Gregory C. Pinkard

Volunteer Spotlight

Former Eagle Scout Continues to Give to the Environment

By Carin Smith, Irvine's Manager of
Volunteer Services

More than 50 years ago, Miner "Moe" Brown received the highest honor a boy scout can obtain - his eagle! And today Irvine is reaping the benefits of Moe's early environmental experiences.

After a long and successful career in hospital administration, Moe retired and began thinking back to his days as a boy scout and how much he enjoyed nature.

He took Irvine's Volunteer Naturalist Training, and from then on he was hooked! Moe began leading nature walks and later became an Exhibit Hall Docent. This winter, he led 21 programs in local classrooms. "I really enjoy the exchange with the children," Moe said about his volunteer work. "When I first started at Irvine, I thought I'd only want to work with older children, but I have grown to enjoy all the ages I work with."

Given Moe's very active life, Irvine is so fortunate that he's willing to share his many talents with the children that visit. Moe, we thank you for your continued dedication to the environment and to Irvine!



THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS FROM CONSTELLATION ENERGY, LEGG MASON, STARBUCKS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM, T. ROWE PRICE, UPS AND ZURICH INSURANCE!

Members & Volunteers Summer Picnic & Square Dance



Join us for an evening of fun, food, games, live music, ice cream and simple square and contra dancing! Great for all ages!

Sunday, June 3, 2012

4:30 - 7 p.m.

\$5 for children, \$15 for adults

To register, contact 443-738-9227 or
BeckerV@ExploreNature.org



Summer Nature Camp

Outside experiences for children ages 2-15!

Dates: June 11 - August 24

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

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

Before and aftercare available with most sessions.

Some camps are already full - Register early!

Contact Courtney at 443-738-9224 or
CourtneySagal@ExploreNature.org

BIRD-a-THON

IT'S LIKE A SCAVENGER HUNT
WITH BINOCULARS!

**April 28-
May 14, 2012**

TREE TIP

By Stephen Sprague, President of Carroll
Tree Service

Mulching around newly planted trees minimizes mechanical damage. However, mulch "volcanos" may cause girdling roots that inhibit a tree's ability to transfer nutrients. Keep the depth of the mulch at 2-3 inches and maintain 3-4 inches of space at the base of the trunk. Your tree will thank you for it!

WELCOME TO IRVINE, NEW MEMBERS!

WE'RE THRILLED TO HAVE A GREAT BUNCH OF NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED THROUGHOUT THE SPRING. MEMBERSHIP DUES HELP US PRESERVE TRAILS, PROVIDE QUALITY ANIMAL CARE AND MAINTAIN THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Adams
Mr. Geoffrey Becker and Ms. Nora Sturges
Mr. Stephen Becker and Mrs. Julie Becker
Ms. Jennifer Beschorner
Mrs. Michelle Bishop and
Mr. Tytus M. Mapp
Mr. Donald Bonsteel and
Ms. Bridget Gilhool
Mr. and Mrs. Allen S. Brown
Mr. Jason Cain
Mrs. Shannon Carney
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Choi
Mr. and Mrs. Nirav Choksi
Mr. and Mrs. David Clapp
Ms. Patricia M. Cole
Mr. and Mrs. Keegan Conrad
Mr. David Crowley
Ms. Maureen D'Angelo
Ms. Kristin I. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy W. Davis
Ms. Carol deNeufville
Niraj Desai
Ms. and Mr. Erin R. Drew
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Durgin
Mr. Carl Eastwick and Mrs. Julie Eastwick
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edington
Ms. Jaime Elwood
Mrs. Christa Erbes
Ms. Dawn Feakes-Lange
Mr. Michael Ferguson and
Ms. Katherine Miller
Ms. Terri First
Ms. Christina Fischel
Ms. Diane Fortuin
Mr. and Mrs. Kieran Fox
Ms. Lynn Glaeser
Ms. Rivka Glaser and Mr. Joshua Weisberg
Ms. Arielle Goldman and
Mr. Steven Krichbaum
Mr. and Mrs. James Gordon
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Gorner
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Gorstan

Ms. Alison Greer and Mr. Padraic Kennedy
Ms. and Mr. Lisa Greisman
Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Griswold
Mr. and Mrs. Seth Guikema
Vaux and Renee Hall
Ms. Heather Harrison
Mrs. Gabrielle Hart
Ms. Joo Hawong
Ms. Elizabeth Hazen
Ms. Sally Hector
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Hemm
Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Hershberger
Mrs. Whitney Hill
Kelley and Bill Howard
Ilana Iacobovici
Ms. Ashley Johnson
Mrs. Jennifer C. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Mohammed Khan
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kichler
Mr. and Mrs. Shawn Kiernan
Joonseo Kim
Ms. Rachel Klavan
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Lambrecht
Ms. Andrea Langlie
Ms. Lynn Lettre
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Luniewski
Devon Dodson and Amy Maloney
Ms. Dorja Marshall
Ms. Sonya Martin-Johnson
Gill McCallion
Ms. Sarah McKittrick
Mr. Clemence Miller
Mrs. Amy Moore
Melinda and Casey Naill
Ms. and Mr. Leslie Owsley
Mr. Khalil Parran
Ms. Amy Pearce
Ms. and Mr. Debra Popiel
Mrs. Elizabeth Popp
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Raffaelli
Ms. Laura Reames
Ms. Annmarie Reilly
Ms. Virginia Richard

Ms. Imogene J. Rone and Dr. Tracy R. Rone
Ms. Felicity Ross
Ms. Shanon Russell
Colby Savadore
Ms. Andora Schinabarger
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan B. Schwartz
Mr. Jeff Shuman
Mr. Ali Smith and Ms. Nora Bucke
Mrs. Marjorie Smith
Ms. Teresa Souza and Mr. Kashav Kotval
Mrs. Laura Straight
Mrs. and Mr. Sonja Sugerman
Mr. and Mrs. Joel Sunshine
Ms. and Mr. Elizabeth Thompson
Ms. Angela Ulrich
Mr. and Mrs. Mauricio Velazquez de Leon
Ms. Jennifer Vey
Ms. Jennifer Vitelkites
Mrs. Sharon Wallach
Ms. Jewell Walton
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Waters
Ms. Catherine Winders and
Mr. Joseph Baker
Mrs. Andrea Wright
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Yurko
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Zahn

WELCOME, TOO, TO OUR NEWEST CORPORATE & FOUNDATION PARTNERS!

Baltimore City Foundation
Becton Dickinson Diagnostic Systems
Carroll Tree Service
Cecilia Young Willard Helping Fund
Charm City Run
Marathon Capital Management, LLC
The P&G Fund of The Greater
Cincinnati Foundation
PNC



Wish List

Help us by donating needed items! You can make Irvine an even better place to camp by providing some items we can always use. If you are able to help provide any of the following, please call Janet at 443-738-9231.

**Footprints/Floors for
4-person Tents**

Solar Lanterns

4-person Tents

Outdoor Park Grills



Nature Preschool Conference



**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
JUNE 8-9, 2012**

DAVID SOBEL, KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Preschool educators and administrators connect to discover and share activities, insights and best practices in nature-based early education.

**REGISTER TODAY AT
WWW.EXPLORENATURE.ORG**



What's New in the Nature Store?

Summer time at Irvine's Nature Store means lots of new items arriving to make your summer fun greener and safer!

Stop in before setting out on your hike for a bug sweep net, natural insect repellent/sunscreen, Irvine hat and Klean Kanteen, binoculars and walking sticks! Get outside for some fun, but always be prepared – we can help you.

Many visitors ask if they should continue filling their bird feeders during the summer months – YES! Additional species visit the feeder during the warm seasons and nesting birds bring their fledglings to visit your feeder. Also, you're outside more during the summer and can enjoy the activity at your feeder better! Try adding more feeding choices like fruits, jellies, meal worms and nuts to attract some new birds to your feeding station. Need advice? Just ask us!

Don't forget to check out our newly arrived shipments of hardy summer native plants!



the Nature Preschool at IRVINE

Daily classes of nature-based curriculum
for children ages 3-5



Discover our unique approach to early childhood education! *The Nature Preschool at Irvine* uses a balanced curriculum that seeks to develop the “whole child” and prepares your youngster for kindergarten and beyond. Call Monica at 443-738-9213 for a personal tour.



Your Irvine at Work



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



More than 300 volunteers participated in Project Clean Stream with Irvine.



Irvine celebrated Dr. Seuss's 108th birthday by reading the eco-friendly tale *The Lorax*.



A Le Conte's sparrow made a rare visit to Irvine! The male's call resembles a grasshopper buzz.



The Nature Preschool had its own team in Irvine's Bird-A-Thon fundraiser which goes until May 14.



Winter 2012 destroyed our wigwam. So volunteers helped us build a new and better one!



Kids Unplugged had its annual visit from the Plastic Bag Monster! Each year, only 1-2% of our plastic bags are recycled.



Director of Education Rob Mardiney was honored with the Garden Club of America's Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award for outstanding achievements in furthering the early environmental education of children.



Families gathered in early spring to plant and dedicate trees in honor or in memory of their loved ones.



As maple sugaring season wrapped up, Irvine celebrated with a pancake breakfast for its volunteers on a tremendous spring day.

Summer 2012 Programs at Irvine Nature Center



FOR KIDS

TALES & TAILS!

Join Irvine for a few animal stories followed by an animal interaction! We'll have this program every Friday. A close-up, hands on encounter with Irvine's animal friends. All ages with adult.

Every Friday, June 15 - September 7,
10 - 10:45 a.m.

Free!

SLUGS & BUGS

Turn over logs and rocks to uncover all sorts of creepy crawlies during this naturalist-led hike. Bring a water canteen, binoculars and your bug field guide! All ages.

Saturday, June 16, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Free for members, \$10 non-members

FATHERS DAY SNACK WITH THE ANIMALS

Looking for the perfect way to spend Fathers Day? Bring your dad to observe animal feeding time at Irvine. Find out what our resident animals like to munch on, see some critters enjoy a tasty meal and even share a delicious treat with dad! All ages.

Sunday, June 17, 1 - 2 p.m.
Free for members, \$10 non-members

BUTTERFLY LOVE

Do you love butterflies? Then you are not alone! Come meet new friends and learn about the life cycle and different physical features of our local butterflies, including many interesting facts, folklore and anecdotes. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes, because - weather permitting -

we'll embark on an outdoor adventure seeking butterflies and seeing firsthand the habitats they need. We'll complete our butterfly journey with a fun craft for you to take home. Ages 5 & up.

Saturday, June 23, 1 - 2:30 p.m.
Free for members, \$10 non-members



FIRE(FLY)WORKS

The fireworks are over, but the fireflies are just getting started! Join us as we explore the amazing world of these luminescent beetles, play games and create some "cold light" of our own! All ages (with adult).

Friday, July 13, 8 - 9 p.m.
Free for members,
\$10 non-members

FOREST FORTS & SHELTERS

Hike the forest to search for animal shelters like nests, webs and burrows. We'll visit a wigwam made of all-natural materials. Then create a hidden forest fort for your own adventures with new friends! Ages 6 & up.

Saturday, July 7, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Free for members, \$10 non-members

Learn the
art of habitat
creation!

STREAM SEARCH'N

Enjoy a fun hike and immerse in some stream exploration to find critters like crayfish. Ages 5 & up (with adult).

Sunday, July 15, 1 - 2:30 p.m.
Free for members, \$10 non-members

NO BONES ABOUT IT...

Let's explore skulls alphabetically. We'll go A to Z and you'll have the skills necessary to solve the mystery of whose skull it is...or at least make an educated guess. Ages 7 & up.

Saturday, August 4, 1 - 2:30 p.m.
Free for members, \$10 non-members

O IS FOR OPOSSUM!

Have you met one of the newest members of Irvine's naturalist staff yet? Come meet her, learn what makes opossums unique, and play dead! All ages.

Sunday, August 5, 10 - 11:00 a.m.
Free for members, \$10 non-members

SSSSSSNAKES!

Learn about sssome native sssnakes and then explore their habitats to try to ssspot a wild one! All ages.

Saturday, August 11, 1 - 2:30 p.m.
Free for members, \$10 non-members

TURTLES, TERRAPINS & TORTOISES

Come get an up close encounter with Irvine's resident turtles. Learn facts, ask questions and see what it's like to live a slow, long life. All ages.

Sunday, August 19, 10 - 11 a.m.
Free for members, \$10 non-members

Please call to pre-register as soon as possible!

Programs may fill, in which case, we will not be able to accept walk-ins.



HOW TO REGISTER

THERE ARE 3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1. Call 443-738-9224.
2. Email Programs@ExploreNature.org.
3. Register on-site at Irvine.

PAYMENT IS REQUIRED AT TIME
OF 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.

FOSSIL FUN!

How do we know dinosaurs roamed the Earth? Fossilized bones buried in the earth's crust! Dig for dinosaur bones, meet Irvine's living dinosaur relatives and even make a "fossil" to take home!

Ages 4 & up.

Sunday, September 9, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

Free for members, \$10 non-members

THE WILDLIFE OF WILDFLOWERS

Our naturalist will lead your little one through the meadows to find the beetles, butterflies, predators and prey that depend on the many wildflowers that grow there. It's like a backyard safari with a butterfly net!

Ages 5 & up.

Saturday, September 15, 10 – 11 a.m.

Free for members, \$10 non-members

**EXPLORE NATURE COOPERATIVE:
K-1ST HOMESCHOOL SERIES**

This hands-on series provides a foundation of skills for Kindergarten and 1st grade students. Live animal encounters, trail walks, and learning in the Outdoor Classroom are all part of the fun! Our nature-based learning model aligns with MD State Curriculum in a wholesome, student-centered environment. We ensure developmentally appropriate practices across disciplines including: literacy and language; math; music and creative arts; science; human and natural history; and cooking. Parents will assist the lead educator in the classroom for three weeks per semester (six classes) as terms of the co-op. Register for the fall semester or for both fall and spring. Register by calling 443-738-9210, or download the registration form at www.explorenature.org/homeschool-series. Age 5 turning 6 during the program year, through 7 years old.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:15 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Fall: 9/18 – 12/20/2012

Spring: 1/8 – 5/15/2013

\$700 fall, \$900 spring

Get involved with Irvine after preschool!

FOR FAMILIES

PICNIC & SQUARE DANCE FOR MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

Join us for an evening of fun, food, games, live music, ice cream and high-energy square dancing! Activities for all ages! Together, we'll learn the Virginia Reel with some old-time fiddles at a traditional barn dance. It'll be a night of boisterous fun for our favorite supporters – our members and volunteers! This family-friendly event will also have games for kids, including an outdoor scavenger hunt, an egg relay and three-legged races. Swing your partner 'round and 'round! All ages.

Sunday, June 3, 4:30 – 7 p.m.

Members only: \$15 each adult, \$5 each child

GREAT AMERICAN BACKYARD CAMPOUT

Join the rest of America in this annual tradition promoted by the National Wildlife Federation! Pitch a tent at Irvine, head out for a night hike with us, do some stargazing, then enjoy a campfire snack before bed. In the morning, we'll listen to the sounds of the forest waking up and share a light breakfast. Pre-registration is required; Irvine provides a limited number of tents (please mention that you need one when registering). Please eat dinner before arriving promptly at 6 p.m. All ages.

Friday, June 22, 6:30 p.m. –

Saturday, June 23, 9 a.m.

Families of 4+: \$20 members,

\$40 non-members

Individuals: \$6 members, \$15 non-members



GETTING STARTED WITH GEOCACHING

Did you know there are more than a million treasure boxes hidden all over the

world and YOU can find them? Come hike our trails with a naturalist who will show you how to be a "geocacher" and introduce you to a fun, outdoor activity for the whole family! Wear hiking shoes and bring water and a GPS unit if you have one.

Ages 5 & up (with adult).

Saturday, June 30, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Free for members, \$12 non-member

A MID-SUMMER'S PUPPET THEATER

Imaginations run wild as animal puppets spin stories in our Outdoor Classroom puppet theatre. Seating is limited so we suggest bringing a blanket to sit on. Snacks are available starting at 6:45 (extra cost) and the show starts promptly at 7:15 p.m. In case of rain, the show will take place indoors. All ages.

Friday, July 6, 6:45 – 8 p.m.

Free for members, \$10 non-members

HITCHHIKING BUGS

This program offers a hands-on exploration into the Travel Bug and GeoCoin aspects of Geocaching. Learn about Travel Bugs and GeoCoins then create an Irvine Travel Bug to send on a hitchhiking journey. Participants will be able to follow the Travel Bug created in this program as it travels around the world! Ages 5 & up (with adult).

Saturday, July 21, 1 – 3 p.m.

Free for members, \$12 non-members

SUMMER FAMILY NIGHT HIKE & CAMPFIRE

A great way to prepare the very young for camping!

Let's take a night hike to watch for bats, listen for owls and test our senses in the dark. We'll finish the hike with a campfire and s'mores. Ages 5 & up (with adult).

Saturday, August 25, 7 – 9 p.m.

Free for members, \$10 non-members

BUDS & SUDS

Have you ever thought of cooking up your own cleaners, soaps and shampoos? Learn how plants and every day pantry items can work together to get the job done. Go home with your very own customized shampoo! Ages 6 & up (with adult).

Sunday, August 26, 1 – 2 p.m.

Free for members, \$10 non-members

FOR FAMILIES! *continued*

SELF-GUIDED GEOCACHING TRAIL

Come check out Irvine's geocaching trail, created with help from the Ranger Rick and the National Wildlife Federation! Bring your own GPS or members can borrow one from us to find hidden treasures as you hike our nature trails. Instructions, a seasonal trail guide and a Ranger Rick passport are all included and available at Irvine's registration desk. For more information, visit geocaching.com/RangerRickTrails. All ages (with adult).

*Anytime during Irvine's regular hours!
7 days a week, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.*

FOR ADULTS

DISCOVER THE NIGHT SKY

The most amazing thing you see all week just might be through a telescope. Bring your friends and family to this



informal gathering at Irvine to explore and learn about the past, present and future of our night sky, and how it might be changed forever if we don't care to preserve it. Join hobby astronomer Alex Gorstan at sunset (weather permitting) for stories, lessons and observation. We will meet in front of the building and walk down the access road to the meadows. We suggest bringing a flashlight and dressing warmly. Feel free to bring your own telescope or binoculars as well! This is an informal program, so feel free to stay for 5 minutes or until the telescope is packed away.

Thursdays, June 7, 8:30 p.m.,

July 5 - 8:30 p.m., August 16 - 8:30 p.m.

*(Perseid Meteor Shower!), Sept 6, 7:30 p.m.
Free!*

DIY NATIVE BEE NEST SITE

Everyone knows why honeybees are amazing, but did you know there are many other native bees living in Maryland? These important parts of our landscape often go unnoticed. Come find out who they are and then create a place for

these peaceful pollinators to find shelter! Materials provided. Ages 12 & up welcome.
*Thursday, June 21, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Free for members, \$10 non-members*

EARLY MORNING BIRD WALK: IRVINE NATURE CENTER

Start your Wednesday mornings with a pleasant walk at various locations in Baltimore County in search of both migratory and resident birds. This two-week, peak-summer series will meet at different local parks. Bring your binoculars – Irvine has extras, if needed. July 11 at Irvine, August 8 at Lake Roland. Call 443-738-9224 for directions.
*Wednesday, July 11, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Free!*

ATTRACTING OWLS TO YOUR BACKYARD

Maryland is home to 7 different owl species throughout the year. Learn how to identify them, what they look for in a habitat and how to make your backyard owl friendly.
*Thursday, July 26, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Free for members, \$10 non-members*

EXPLORING HEMLOCK GORGE

Spend a summer morning in the shaded forest floor of the Gunpowder Falls' Hemlock Gorge in northern Baltimore County. Search along the river under the hemlocks for wildflowers, ferns, birds and other wildlife. Ask for directions when registering; we will meet at the site. This excursion is led by Rob Mardiney.
*Saturday, August 4, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Free for members, \$10 non-members*

EARLY MORNING BIRD WALK: LAKE ROLAND

Start your Wednesday mornings with a pleasant walk at various locations in Baltimore County in search of both migratory and resident birds. This two-week, peak-summer series will meet at different local parks. Bring your binoculars – Irvine has extras, if needed. July 11 at Irvine, August 8 at Lake Roland. Call 443-738-9224 for directions.
*Wednesday, August 8, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Free!*

NATIVE PLANT SEMINAR & SALE

Our annual Native Plant Seminar & Sale is perfect for homeowners, garden club enthusiasts, Native Plant Society members, nursery/landscape professionals, land managers and environmental educators. Four post-seminar workshops will be offered in the afternoon.
*Saturday, August 25, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
\$60 members, \$70 non-members*

MONITORING MONARCHS

The monarch butterfly completes one of the most amazing migrations in the animal kingdom, especially for its size. Find out how entomologists have discovered so much about its journey and learn how to be part of this effort. Participants will even get a chance to tag their own monarch! Family friendly!
*Thursday, August 30, 5:30 – 7 p.m.
\$5 members, \$15 non-members*

JUNIOR NATURALIST INFORMATION SESSION

Do you have a child between the ages of 6 and 10 who loves being outdoors? Come hear about our Junior Naturalist program and how they can be a part of it! On Saturday mornings during the school year, Junior Naturalists get an exclusive look at Irvine's animals, exhibits and trails, benefiting from this truly immersive nature experience.
*Thursday, September 13, 6 – 6:30 p.m.
Free!*

FALL VOLUNTEER NATURALIST TRAINING

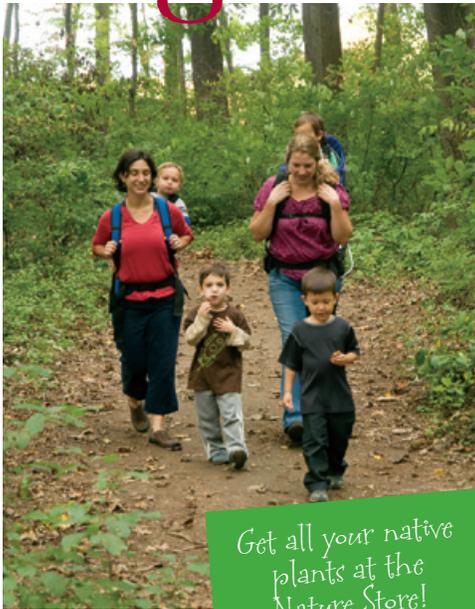
Irvine's Volunteer Naturalists are a distinguished group of men and women of all ages with a passion for teaching others about the environment. By completing this 5-session course, you can join them in leading educational field trips for school groups visiting our trails. Irvine's staff will cover field trip themes, natural history, trailside activities and teaching techniques. No experience necessary – just bring enthusiasm for nature and working with kids!
*Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 11
through 25, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
\$30 refundable deposit*



11201 Garrison Forest Road
Owings Mills, MD 21117
443-738-9200
www.ExploreNature.org

Summer 2012 Programs

Irvine Nature Center



Established as a non-profit in 1975, Irvine Nature Center inspires appreciation and respect for the natural world, increases awareness of environmental issues, and encourages individuals to sustain Earth's ecosystems. Irvine fulfills its mission through outdoor environmental education programs, publications and events. Program offerings include public programs, summer nature camp, school field trips, The Nature Preschool, nature in the classroom, teacher development, group programs, special events and occasional travel opportunities. Irvine features a green building, trail system, native plant gardens, live animals, interactive exhibits, a kid's corner and a nature store. Irvine also serves as a community resource for natural history information. We are supported by our members and generous donors.

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: field guides, birdfeeders, binoculars, toys and much more. 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

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

NATURE STORE HOURS
Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Weekends 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.