

FALL 2018

GUIDE TO ARLINGTON COUNTY'S NATURE & HISTORY PROGRAMS



# THE SNAG

## What Gall!

By Cliff Fairweather

Perhaps you've noticed odd growths on plants, maybe a hard, rounded, fruit-like growth on an oak leaf or twig or goldenrod leaves formed into tight bunches. While these growths are part of the plant, they're not something the plant would have grown on its own and they're definitely not for the plant's benefit. They are called galls and are formed by insects, mites, fungi, bacteria or viruses.

Most of the galls we commonly see are formed by insects. Gall-making insects are found primarily among the wasps, true flies, aphids and related insects, and a few beetles and moths. What they all have in common is an ability to force a plant to grow a structure that is for the benefit of the gall maker.

Scientists don't completely understand the process of gall formation but most, if not all, gall makers in essence genetically engineer a part of the plant to create an edible shelter. This usually happens on a growing part of the plant such as leaves, stems, roots, flowers and fruit.



Each combination of plant and gall maker results in a unique gall, creating a proliferation of fascinating, sometimes bizarre, and even beautiful shapes and colors. Galls are especially common on oaks, goldenrods and other members of the aster family, hickories, hackberries, and native roses. Galls usually don't kill their host plant, but they do deprive the plant of energy it would otherwise use for reproduction, growth or other life processes.

Hundreds of species of gall wasps occur on oaks, therefore oak-hickory forests in Arlington are a good place to look for these galls. Check fallen oak leaves and twigs for odd growths, such as the hard, round, reddish bullet galls on twigs. One of the largest galls in our area is the oak-apple gall, a light brown, papery sphere about the size of a ping-pong ball. Of course, please leave any gall you come across in the park where you found them. Galls serve two main purposes for the gall makers. First, they provide a shelter against predators, parasitoids (parasites that kill their host) and adverse weather conditions, especially dryness and, in some cases, cold. Second, galls provide a food supply of plant tissue or sap for the gall maker. Some galls continuously renew the food supply as the gall maker consumes it.

The protection afforded by a gall is far from perfect. Many parasitoids have evolved to penetrate galls and much of the diversity of gall shapes and textures is explained by an evolutionary arms race between gall makers and their parasitoids. Some larger galls even attract the attention of chickadees and downy woodpeckers seeking the insect morsel inside.

Fall is a great time to look for galls among the fallen leaves, bare branches and dead herbaceous plants. Look for odd swellings, hard or wooly growths, or other anomalies. Once you learn to recognize galls, you'll begin to realize how many kinds there are. Adults and teens ages 12 and up can join us at the Long Branch Nature Center on Sunday, Oct. 28 from 1 - 3pm for "A Lot of Gall(s)" to learn all about galls through a lecture and in the field.

FALL INTO FUN  
NATURE PROGRAMS!



REGISTRATION BEGINS  
August 14, 2018

### PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- 2 Volunteering & WalkArlington
- 2 Arlington BioBlitz
- 3 Nature Study for Adults
- 3 Birding Afield
- 4 For Nature-Loving Families
- 4 Campfire Evening Magic
- 5 More Fun for Kids & Families
- 6 For Young Naturalists
- 7 Preschool & Tiny Tot Programs
- 8 Native Plant Sale
- 8 Fall Heritage Festival
- 8 Holiday Wreath Workshop
- 8 Register for Programs



ARLINGTON  
VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS  
AND RECREATION

Sign up to receive THE SNAG and learn about our nature and conservation programs at [parks.arlingtonva.us](http://parks.arlingtonva.us)

GULF BRANCH NATURE CENTER  
3608 N. Military Road  
Arlington, VA 22207  
703-228-3403  
[gulfbranch@arlingtonva.us](mailto:gulfbranch@arlingtonva.us)

LONG BRANCH NATURE CENTER  
625 S. Carlin Springs Road  
Arlington, VA 22204  
703-228-6535  
[longbranch@arlingtonva.us](mailto:longbranch@arlingtonva.us)

FORT CF SMITH VISITOR CENTER  
2411 N. 24th Street  
Arlington, VA 22207  
703-228-4775  
[dfarner@arlingtonva.us](mailto:dfarner@arlingtonva.us)

Open 10am - 5pm Tuesday to Saturday, 1 - 5pm Sunday, Closed Mondays

Open 10am - 2pm Saturday & Sunday

# R. I. P. - REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS!

Adults, teens and families ages 8 and up. Want to restore habitat and increase native species diversity right here in Arlington? Work parties are held every month and are making a real difference, with the return of ferns and wildflowers, and the animals that depend on them in areas once covered in destructive invasive plants. Help make it happen! Call nature centers for information. **No registration is required.**

## Second Saturdays

### Gulf Branch Nature Center

Saturday, Sept. 8, 9:30 - 11:30am

Saturday, Oct. 13, 9:30 - 11:30am

Saturday, Nov. 10, 9:30 - 11:30am

## Third Sundays

### Long Branch Nature Center

Sunday, Oct. 21, 2 - 4pm

Sunday, Nov. 18, 2 - 4pm



# Arlington Bioblitz

**Saturday, Sept. 15, 9am - 5pm**

Adults, Families, and Teens. Save the date for the second Arlington Bioblitz! We will use the help of natural history experts, citizen scientists, and the public to see how many plant and wildlife species we can find. This will help us get a better idea of Arlington's biodiversity. Last year 92 people in 19 teams at seven parks made observations of 470 species. What will this year hold? Please let us know if you would like to be a team leader or participant. Meeting locations in Glencarlyn Park forthcoming. For information or to register, contact Alonso Abugattas at [naturalresources@arlingtonva.us](mailto:naturalresources@arlingtonva.us) or 703-228-7742.

Call to register. Free.



## MATURE TREES ARE VALUABLE TREES

TreeStewards.org

Planting new trees is great, yet when it comes to maximizing the incredible benefits of trees, nothing beats caring for existing mature trees.

According to the US Forest Service, trees properly placed around your home can reduce your air conditioning needs by 30% and save 20% to 50% in heating costs. The US Department of Energy says three properly placed trees could save you \$100 to \$250 a year.

Money may not grow on trees, but it certainly grows with them! 98% of realtors report that mature trees affect the sale of homes. Depending on your market, mature trees can account for as much as 10% of your assessed property value, according to the US Forest Service. Cutting down a mature tree wastes the equity you've accrued by having it.

### Keep your gentle giants healthy and beneficial.

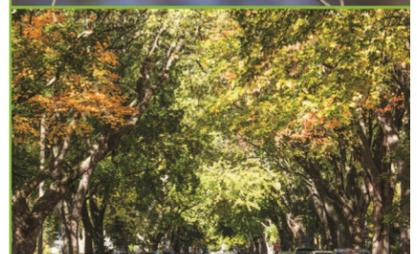
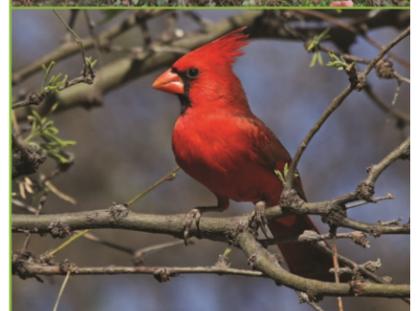
As trees age, a branch here or there may need to be pruned or removed to keep the tree healthy and strong. But, just because a branch or limb might have gone bad, that doesn't mean the whole tree should be removed. Just because you have a cut on your finger, that doesn't mean the whole arm needs to be amputated!

Follow these simple steps, as recommended by arborists and tree stewards:

1. Remove ivy from your tree.
2. Large trees don't need mulch. If you do mulch, keep mulch 3-inches from the tree trunk and never more than 3-inches thick.
3. Construction is one of the biggest threats to mature trees. If you are considering construction anywhere in your yard, contact a certified arborist first so you can avoid damage to tree roots.



You wouldn't let just anyone take care of your pets, and you shouldn't let just anyone take care of your trees. A certified arborist can provide reliable, clear information and directions for keeping your trees healthy for years to come. To find a certified arborist, visit [goodtreecare.com](http://goodtreecare.com)



For additional information on caring for mature trees visit [TreeStewards.org](http://TreeStewards.org)

# ARLINGTON BIKES | WALKS

Arlington County is recognized as a Gold Level Walk and Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community. Get outside and explore.

[Bike Arlington.com](http://BikeArlington.com) [Walk Arlington.com](http://WalkArlington.com)

# Nature Study for Adults

## A LOT OF GALL(S)

Sunday, Oct. 28, 1 - 3pm

Adults. Have you ever wondered about those strange little bumps, swellings and other growths on leaves and stems? They're galls made by certain insects and other organisms. Through a lecture and in the field, we'll explore how they're formed and how to recognize common galls in nature. Teens ages 12 and up are welcome, but must be accompanied by a registered adult. For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center. **\$10. #612948-H**

## DEEP DIVE

Adults. Take a Deep Dive into natural history that scratches more than just the surface. For information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center. **\$5.**

## NON - AVIAN MIGRATION

Thursday, Sept. 13, 8 - 9pm

Birds are not the only animals to migrate. Discover the intricacies of migration in fish, dragonflies, butterflies, and even tiny water fleas. **#612848-D**

## COPPERHEADS

Thursday, Oct. 11, 8 - 9pm

Explore the world of venomous snakes through the life of Arlington's only venomous snake, the Northern Copperhead. **#612848-E**

## BUILT BY BEAVERS

Thursday, Nov. 8, 8 - 9pm

You may know that beavers are dam-builders, but did you also know they were nation-builders? The natural history of beavers is an important pillar in the history of both Canada and the United States. **#612848-F**

## CHAMPION TREES BIKE RIDE

Saturday, Sept. 29, 9am - 12pm

Adults. Marvel at some of Arlington's most spectacular trees on this leisurely ride over mostly level, paved pathways, while stopping at points of natural and environmental interest along the way. Bring your own bike, water, snacks and repair kit. Teens ages 12 and up are welcome, but must be accompanied by a registered adult. For information: 703-228-1863. Meet at the Barcroft Sports and Fitness Center parking lot, 4200 S Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. **Free. #612948-G**



## Birding Trips Afield

Come birding with us! Participants should dress for the weather and bring binoculars, a bag lunch, a drink and snacks for the day. These trips may include walking over uneven terrain and gentle slopes. For information: 703-228-3403. Meet our vans at the **Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center** parking lot, 4200 S Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington.

### KENILWORTH AQUATIC GARDENS

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 9am - 1:30pm

Explore the natural wetlands and cultivated water plants at Kenilworth Park, stretching along the Anacostia River for birds and blooms. We will search for wading migrants such as herons and egrets, as well as songbirds. This trip covers a couple of miles of easy walking on trails and open boardwalks. **\$33. #612848-A**

### OCCOQUAN BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 9am - 3pm

Explore Occoquan Bay in search of fall migrant songbirds and shorebirds. The refuge's grasslands, freshwater tidal marshes, and bottomland forests are also home to many interesting year-round residents. There will be approximately two to three miles of walking on gently rolling, unpaved surfaces. **\$38. #612848-B**

### BLANDY FARM & SKY MEADOWS

Tuesday, Oct. 9, 8am - 5pm

Join us on this excursion to parks on opposite sides of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia where we'll look for fall migrants, including sparrows and raptors. There will be approximately 2-3 miles of walking mostly on gently rolling, unpaved surfaces. **\$48. #612848-C**

### BIRDING MASON NECK

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 9am - 3pm

Join us to search woodlands, meadows and wetlands at some of the protected natural areas on Mason Neck for early waterfowl, Bald Eagles and other raptors, as well as winter and year-round resident songbirds. There will be approximately two to three miles of walking on gently rolling, unpaved surfaces. **For information: 703-228-6535. \$38. #612948-I**

## TREE ID HIKES

The leaves are just starting to fall but we can still identify trees without using the leaf shape as a clue. We'll learn to identify the trees of Arlington parks by their bark and shape. Dress for the weather. Teens ages 14 and up welcome, but must be accompanied by a registered adult. For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center. **\$5.**

Saturday, Sept. 22,

11:15am - 12:30pm **#612948-D**

Saturday, Oct. 27,

11:15am - 12:30pm **#612948-E**

Saturday, Nov. 10,

11:15am - 12:30pm **#612948-F**



## BIRD WALKS

Join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for these informal walks through Glencarlyn Park in search of resident and migratory birds. Experienced and beginning birders welcomed. Bring binoculars and field guides. For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at the parking lot at Long Branch Nature Center. **Free.**

Wednesday, Sept. 5,

8:30 - 11am **#612948-A**

Wednesday, Oct. 3,

8:30 - 11am **#612948-B**

Wednesday, Nov. 7,

8:30 - 11am **#612948-C**



# Fun for Nature-Loving Families

Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

## Campfire Evening Magic

The whole family is invited to join us at the Long Branch amphitheater or the Gulf Branch Fire Ring for lots of old-fashioned fun. These engaging programs will be filled with entertaining activities that may include stories, special animal guests, games, songs and of course, s'mores! For information call the campfire location. **\$5.**

### Gulf Branch Nature Center

Wiggling Worms Campfire

Saturday, Sept. 8, 7 - 8pm [#612858-A](#)

Journey of the Eels Campfire

Saturday, Sept. 15, 7 - 8pm [#612858-G](#)

Three Owls Campfire

Saturday, Oct. 13, 6 - 7pm [#612858-B](#)

Costumes & Camouflage Campfire

Friday, Oct. 26, 6 - 7pm [#612858-C](#)

Blacksmithing Campfire

Saturday, Nov. 3, 6 - 7pm [#612858-D](#)

Oh Deer! Campfire

Saturday, Nov. 17, 6 - 7pm [#612858-E](#)



### Long Branch Nature Center

Slimy Animals Campfire

Friday, Sept. 7, 7 - 8pm [#612958-A](#)

Bats & Bloodsuckers Campfire

Saturday, Oct. 6, 6 - 7pm [#612958-B](#)

Jack-O-Lantern Campfire with Costumes!

Friday, Oct. 19, 6 - 7pm [#612958-C](#)

Virginia's Squirrels Campfire

Friday, Nov. 9, 6 - 7pm [#612958-D](#)

First Thanksgiving Campfire

Friday, Nov. 16, 6 - 7pm [#612958-E](#)

## Arlington Parks Programs

### SEPTEMBER MOON NIGHT HIKE

Saturday, Sept. 22, 7 - 8pm

Families ages 6 and up. Come out for a hike under the stars. Have you ever wondered what animals are in our local parks at night? Experience our trails under the moon, learn a new constellation and meet nocturnal critters. For information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Fort C.F. Smith. **\$5.** [#612858-H](#)

### FORT ETHAN ALLEN PARK WALKING TOUR

Monday, Nov. 12, 1 - 1:45pm

Families ages 7 and up. Fort Ethan Allen was built by the Union Army in September 1861 to command the approach to Chain Bridge and has the most extensive remaining features of any Civil War fort in Arlington. We'll explore the earthworks and discuss how and why the fort was built. Dress for the weather as terrain will be uneven and possibly muddy. For information: 703-228-4775. Meet at Fort Ethan Allen, 3829 N. Stafford Street, Arlington. **Free.** [#612758-E](#)

### FORT C.F. SMITH PARK WALKING TOUR

Families ages 7 and up. Fort C.F. Smith was one of the last Union forts built to protect Washington during the Civil War. We'll learn about the park's history, including the role of the fort and the soldiers stationed there in the Civil War. Dress for the weather, and terrain will be uneven and possibly muddy. For information: 703-228-4775. Meet at Fort CF Smith Park. **Free.**



Saturday, Sept. 15, 9 - 10am [#612758-A](#)

Saturday, Nov. 3, 9 - 10am [#612758-C](#)

Saturday, Oct. 13, 9 - 10am [#612758-B](#)

Monday, Nov. 12, 11 - 12pm [#612758-D](#)

## Nature Center Programs

### OWL HIKE

Friday, Oct. 5, 6 - 7pm

Families ages 5 and up. Have you ever heard an owl hoot in the forest? Join us for a sunset hike to learn all about owls, their adaptations, how to use binoculars and to practice your calls. Whooo knows, maybe an owl will hoot back. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center. **\$5.** [#612958-J](#)

### A WALK IN THE WOODS

Sunday, Oct. 7, 1 - 2pm

Families ages 7 and up. Join a naturalist for a walk in the fall woods at Glencarlyn Park. We'll let the sights, sounds and smells of the season lead us on a leisurely-paced exploration of nature as the last signs of summer give way to fall. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center. **Free.** [#612958-K](#)

### BIRD WALK FOR BEGINNERS

Sunday, Nov. 4, 9 - 10am

Families ages 6 and up. Bird watching is a great family activity! Learn the basics of binoculars, field guides, identification and finding birds. Then we'll get a little birding practice around the nature center and be ready for spring migration next year. Loaner binoculars available. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center. **Free.** [#612958-N](#)

### SECRETS OF SQUIRRELS

Saturday, Nov. 17, 2 - 3:30pm

Families ages 5 and up. Come learn about these furry rodents who are busy in the fall hiding nuts. How do they find them later? Where do they raise their babies? Why are some gray squirrels black? We'll learn the answers in our classroom and on a fun nature hike. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center. **Free.** [#612958-L](#)

### FUN FALL FAMILY HIKE

Saturday, Nov. 24, 2:30 - 4pm

Families ages 5 and up. We'll hike to a great view of the Potomac while searching for the signs of fall like the last wildflowers, busy squirrels and more. Bring a snack to eat by the river, if you aren't still full from Thanksgiving! Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center. **\$5.** [#612858-I](#)

# More Fun for Kids & Families

Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

## CIVIL WAR DISCOVERIES

**Ages 7 to 11. Enlist in our Civil War Army! \$5.**  
For information: 703-228-4775. Meet at Fort C.F. Smith Park.

### ARTILLERY DRILLS

Saturday, Oct. 13, 11am - 12pm

Learn to work as a team as we practice the steps to load and aim a replica Civil War cannon. We'll talk about different types of artillery and put our skills to the test. [#612728-A](#)

### SKIRMISH DRILLS

Saturday, Nov. 3, 11am - 12pm

Skirmishers played a special role in Civil War armies. Learn their functions and practice their drills. [#612728-C](#)

### INFANTRY DRILLS

Saturday, Oct. 13, 1 - 2pm

We'll drill like Union soldiers by practicing our marches and turns, as well as how to "load in nine times" with replica wood rifles. [#612728-B](#)

### BUILD A FORT

Saturday, Nov. 3, 1 - 2pm

We'll investigate how and why forts were built in Arlington during the Civil War. Then we'll work as a team to design forts to defend the city. [#612728-D](#)

## NOTABLE NATURE

Families ages 5 and up. Join us for lessons in nature journaling and sketching. We'll construct our own nature journals, hone our writing and drawing skills and talk about the season while hiking. For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center. Free

Sunday, Sept. 16,  
3:30 - 4:30pm [#612958-G](#)

Sunday, Oct. 14,  
3:30 - 4:30pm [#612958-H](#)

Sunday, Nov. 18,  
3:30 - 4:30pm [#612958-I](#)



## CHIMNEY SWIFTS PUT ON A SHOW!

**Friday, Sept. 14, 7 - 8pm**

Families ages 6 and up. Each September Chimney Swifts put on an amazing show where hundreds gather, swirl, then disappear. We'll learn about their lives and walk to a nearby prime viewing location to enjoy the show! For information: 703-228-3403. [Meet at Walter Reed Community Center](#), 2909 S. 16th Street, Arlington. \$5.



Sunday, Sept. 30, 3 - 4pm

Families ages 4 and up. The Arlington Spellbinders will unleash the power of oral storytelling with favorite tales from around the world. Since ancient times, this tradition has passed on wisdom, connected elders to youth and engaged the imagination. For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center. Free. [#612958-F](#)



# Día de Muertos / Day of the Dead

**Saturday, Oct. 27, 6 - 7:30pm**

Familias. Celebra el Día de los Muertos con nosotros para una noche de diversión. Haremos calaveras – máscaras decorativas hechas de azúcar y trajes. Habrá refrescos. También conoceremos a unos animales nocturnos de cerca y haremos una caminata divertida por el bosque lleno de velas. Para información: 703-228-6535. Se reúne en Long Branch Nature Center. \$5. [#612958-M](#)



Families. Come Celebrate the Day of the Dead with us for a night of family fun. We'll make Calaveras, the decorative sugar skull masks and costumes, enjoy holiday snacks and see some night animals up close. Afterward, we'll go on a fun, not scary, night hike through the candlelit forest. For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center. \$5. [#612958-M](#)

# For Young Naturalists

Register children only. Adults are welcome to attend, but not required.

## Gulf Branch Programs

### FREE PLAY DAYS

Ages 5 to 9. Give kids unstructured time they can call their own. Your child will love this chance to explore our woods, make mud pies, throw rocks in the creek and just be free. Dress to get wet and dirty, and wear closed-toe shoes. **Free.**



Saturday, Sept. 8,  
1:30 - 3pm [#612828-A](#)

Saturday, Oct. 13,  
1:30 - 3pm [#612828-B](#)

Saturday, Nov. 10,  
1:30 - 3pm [#612828-C](#)

### SEASHELLS EXTRAVAGANZA

Not going to the beach this weekend? Get a taste of the shore anyway. We'll dig for shark teeth in the sand, create with seashells and more. We'll also start extra shells on their return journey to the ocean by freeing them in our creek! **\$5.**

Ages 9 to 12. Saturday, Sept. 1, 10 - 11am [#612828-G](#)

Ages 5 to 8. Saturday, Sept. 1, 11am - 12pm [#612828-H](#)

### BUILD A FAIRY VILLAGE

Friday, Oct. 26, 10 - 11:30am

Ages 5 to 12. No school today! Come build a village for fairies, toads, skinks and trolls. We'll mix up some magic potions to take home too! Come dressed in your magical or medieval best. **\$5.** [#612828-I](#)

### CENTIPEDES, MILLIPEDES & WOODLOUSES, OH MY!

Saturday, Oct. 27, 10:30 - 11:30am

Ages 6 to 10. Centipedes, millipedes and woodlice all have many more legs than insects. Find out how they are similar and different to each other, and meet them up close. Then, we'll explore the woods in search of these fascinating creatures. **\$5.**

[#612828-J](#)

### WHOOOOO NEEDS YOUR VOTE?

Come make campaign signs for our critters. Listen to speeches they give (with naturalist translators for those who don't understand hoots and hisses) and vote for which one you think best represents you! If you'd like to be a campaign manager, contact us in advance. **\$5.**

Ages 8 to 12. Tuesday, Nov. 6, 10 - 11am [#612828-K](#)

Ages 5 to 8. Tuesday, Nov. 6, 11am - 12pm [#612828-L](#)

### FEATHERS, FINS AND FUR

Saturday, Nov. 17, 10:30 - 11:30am

Ages 6 to 10. Different animals have a variety of body coverings. From smooth, moist skin that helps amphibians breathe to the warmth of feathers and fur, we will explore all these body coverings. We'll also see and touch some live animals up close. **\$5.**

[#612828-M](#)

### FEEDING TIME!

Ages 6 to 10. Find out what's on the menu for our animals and what they would eat in the wild. We'll learn about the adaptations that help them find, capture and swallow their meals. Then we'll feed our snakes, turtles and frogs. **\$5.**

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 4 - 5pm [#612828-E](#) Tuesday, Nov. 6, 4 - 5pm [#612828-F](#)

## Long Branch Programs

### WATER TESTING

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2 - 3pm

Ages 8 to 12. How can you tell if water is clean? What are some of the things that cause water pollution? We'll become our own environmental scientists and find out these answers as we conduct safe chemical water tests at different locations in Glencarlyn Park. **\$5.** [#612928-A](#)

### NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY HIKE

Saturday, Sept. 29, 3:30 - 5pm

Ages 8 to 12. We'll photograph nature, get some tips on photography, learn about local wildlife and get a chance to take pictures of some live nature center animals. Bring the camera of your choice. **\$5.** [#612928-B](#)

### ROLY-POLIES ROUND-UP

Saturday, Oct. 6, 4 - 5pm

Ages 5 to 11. Head on down to hunt for pill bugs, potato bugs and sow bugs (also known as roly-polies). We'll learn about these little guys and their other log-loving neighbors. **Free.** [#612928-C](#)

### ANIMAL MASKS

Friday, Oct. 12, 4 - 5pm

Ages 6 to 10. We'll make wearable masks from paper plates and decorate them to look like our favorite animals or you can create your own creature! We'll do some face painting too. There will also be some live animals visiting for inspiration. **\$5.**

[#612928-D](#)

### SURVIVAL SKILLS: CORDAGE

Friday, Oct. 26, 4 - 5pm

Ages 8 to 12. Learn hands-on traditional survival skills! Learn how to wrangle and weave rope and other natural materials for making strands and tying knots so you'll never be left hanging! **\$5.** [#612928-E](#)

### LITTER CRITTERS

Sunday, Nov. 4, 1 - 2pm

Ages 6 to 10. We'll hunt in the fallen leaves for crickets, centipedes, millipedes and other litter critters to learn how they enrich soil, keep leaves from piling up and make homes on and in the ground. **\$5.** [#612928-F](#)



# For Preschoolers & Tiny Tots

Register children only. Caregivers must stay with their child.

## PRESCHOOL NATURE EXPLORERS

Ages 3 to 5. Preschoolers can actively explore their natural world with programs that build the foundation for a lifetime of wonder, appreciation and discovery. Hands-on interactive learning, crafts, mini-hikes and nature play provide a fun and engaging experience for your children. \$5.

### Gulf Branch Nature Center

#### OUT CAME THE SUN

Do you know what colors animals see? We'll study a rainbow of colors as we explore visible light from Earth's brightest "Day Star" and learn about its amazing powers.

Tuesday, Sept. 4, 1 - 2pm [#612818-A](#)

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 1 - 2pm [#612818-B](#)

Thursday, Sept. 6, 1 - 2pm [#612818-C](#)

Friday, Sept. 7, 1 - 2pm [#612818-D](#)

#### THE GREAT PUMPKIN

Join us to explore pumpkins and talk about the origins of Jack-O-Lanterns. We'll follow the life cycle of these orange orbs and learn fun facts about this autumn fruit.

Wednesday, Oct. 3, 1 - 2pm [#612818-E](#)

Thursday, Oct. 4, 1 - 2pm [#612818-F](#)

Friday, Oct. 5, 1 - 2pm [#612818-G](#)

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 1 - 2pm [#612818-H](#)

#### CRITTER CLASSIFICATION

With millions of species living on Planet Earth, how do we keep track? We'll learn about the foundations of animal groupings, newly discovered species and their interesting names, too!

Thursday, Nov. 1, 1 - 2pm [#612818-I](#)

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 1 - 2pm [#612818-J](#)

Thursday, Nov. 8, 1 - 2pm [#612818-K](#)

Friday, Nov. 9, 1 - 2pm [#612818-L](#)

### Long Branch Nature Center

#### HIDDEN ANIMALS

Why do some animals blend into their surroundings? How do they use camouflage? Join us as we seek out animals that are masters at hiding!

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 1 - 2pm [#612918-A](#)

Friday, Sept. 21, 1 - 2pm [#612918-B](#)

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 10:30 - 11:30am [#612918-C](#)

Thursday, Sept. 27, 10:30 - 11:30am [#612918-D](#)

#### NIGHT OWLS

Whooo are these mysterious nocturnal birds? Why do they come out at night? We'll become owls to learn how they use their senses to hunt in the dark.

Tuesday, Oct. 16, 1 - 2pm [#612918-E](#)

Friday, Oct. 19, 10:30 - 11:30am [#612918-F](#)

Tuesday, Oct. 23, 1 - 2pm [#612918-G](#)

Tuesday, Oct. 30, 10:30 - 11:30am [#612918-H](#)

#### FUR, SCALES & SLIME!

Fluffy mammals, scaly reptiles, slimy amphibians and fish. Come learn why different species have a variety of outer coverings and we'll touch some live animals too!

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 1 - 2pm [#612918-I](#)

Thursday, Nov. 15, 1 - 2pm [#612918-J](#)

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 1 - 2pm [#612918-K](#)

Friday, Nov. 30, 10:30 - 11:30am [#612918-L](#)

## TINY TOT NATURE FUN!

Ages 18 to 35 months. Introduce your child to nature. These programs are designed to help children and caregivers feel comfortable exploring and enjoying our natural world. \$5.

### Gulf Branch Nature Center

Tuesday, Sept. 4, 10 - 10:45am [#612818-M](#)

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 10 - 10:45am [#612818-N](#)

Friday, Sept. 7, 10 - 10:45am [#612818-O](#)

Thursday, Oct. 4, 10 - 10:45am [#612818-P](#)

Friday, Oct. 5, 10 - 10:45am [#612818-Q](#)

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 10 - 10:45am [#612818-R](#)

Thursday, Nov. 1, 10 - 10:45am [#612818-S](#)

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 10 - 10:45am [#612818-T](#)

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 10 - 10:45am [#612818-U](#)

### Long Branch Nature Center

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 10 - 10:45am [#612918-M](#)

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 10 - 10:45am [#612918-N](#)

Friday, Sept. 21, 10 - 10:45am [#612918-O](#)

Tuesday, Oct. 16, 10 - 10:45am [#612918-P](#)

Tuesday, Oct. 23, 10 - 10:45am [#612918-Q](#)

Thursday, Oct. 25, 10 - 10:45am [#612918-R](#)

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 10 - 10:45am [#612918-S](#)

Friday, Nov. 16, 10 - 10:45am [#612918-T](#)

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 10 - 10:45am [#612918-U](#)

## NATURE STORYTIME

Families ages 2 and up. Register children only. For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center. Free.

#### SPIDER STORYTIME

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 10:30 - 11am

Come spin a web of stories about our favorite eight-legged friends. [#612918-V](#)

#### AUTUMN STORYTIME

Tuesday, Oct. 9, 10:30 - 11am

Leaves, leaves, everywhere! We'll enjoy stories and walk to see the colorful leaves. [#612918-W](#)

#### ANTLERS STORYTIME

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 10:30 - 11am

Join us to read stories about animals that carry branches on their heads. [#612918-X](#)



## TURTLE THANKSGIVING

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 10:30 - 11:30am

Ages 3 to 6. Register child only, but caretakers must attend. Come help us make lunch for our turtles. We'll chop up fresh fruits and veggies for Thanksgiving, then give them worms for dessert! For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center. Free. [#612918-Y](#)



## Native Plant Sale Long Branch Nature Center Saturday, Sept. 22, 1 - 3pm



Want to beautify your yard? Then it is time to go native! We are offering a great selection of plants that are accustomed to local climate and wildlife. We have gorgeous natives for sun to shade, and even deer resistant plants. This fall we are offering trees and shrubs as well as perennials in our Pre-order Sale! See our [order form](#) for more information and to pre-order your plants today! Order online at: [registration.arlingtonva.us](http://registration.arlingtonva.us). Pick-up at Long Branch only. On the day of the sale we'll have a wider selection to choose from on-site. Payment can be made by cash, check or credit card. For information: 703-228-6535. (Rain Date: Sunday, Sept. 23, 1 - 3pm)

## Fall Heritage Festival Gulf Branch Nature Center Saturday, Oct. 20, 1 - 5pm

Each fall we gather around the Walker Log House to celebrate our nation's heritage. Join us this year for a family-friendly day of fun. Step back into history and try your hand at some old-time games and crafts, make a corn husk doll, try on a coon-skin cap or work the cider press! Write with a quill pen, churn butter and enjoy old-time music. Bring your old pants and shirt to make a scarecrow (child sizes work best)! Drop in anytime between 1 and 5pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No registration needed. For information: 703-228-3403. Only \$5 per person!



## HOLIDAY WREATH WORKSHOP

Saturday, Dec. 8, 1 - 4pm

Ages 12 and up. Using all-natural items we'll create some delightfully decorative crafts you can use to spruce up your home or to give as special gifts. We'll provide music, refreshments, basic instruction and enough materials for each participant to make at least two seasonal decorations. Participants should bring hand pruners or wire cutters and any extra materials or special decorations you may wish to add. For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center. \$30. [#622949-A](#)



## How to Sign Up!

**REGISTRATION OPENS** for Arlington residents Tuesday, August 14. Non-resident registration opens Wednesday, August 15.  
**Registration deadline:** Participants must register by 4pm the day before a program. For day of registration, call the program site to check availability.

### HOW TO REGISTER:

**Online:** Click on the hyperlinked program number in the digital SNAG to go to program registration. You can also register online at [registration.arlingtonva.us](http://registration.arlingtonva.us). You can browse our offerings as a 'Guest', but you must log in to register for a program. If you do not have an account, you can create one online or call 703-228-4747 for help.

**By Phone:** Call the Registration Office at 703-228-4747, Monday to Friday, 8am - 5pm.

**In Person:** Visit the Registration Office at 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington, VA 22206, Monday to Friday, 8am - 5pm.

### FEES

A 2.5% fee is charged by our credit card processor. Customers using credit and debit cards pay the convenience fee directly to the credit card processor. Arlington County does not receive any portion of this fee. Learn more at [parks.arlingtonva.us](http://parks.arlingtonva.us), search surcharge.

The program fee is per participant unless otherwise stated. Most program fees are charged at registration. Some program fees will be charged at the program site (cash or check only, no credit cards please.) See program write-up for details.

### WE DON'T WANT FEES TO BE A BARRIER

Any member in a household that has qualified for a fee reduction can receive a fee reduction for nature and history classes and programs with advance registration and payment. We cannot give fee reductions for on-site payments, such as at special events. Questions? Visit [parks.arlingtonva.us](http://parks.arlingtonva.us) and search "fee reduction" or call 703-228-4747.

### CANCELLATIONS

Notify us at 703-228-4747 or email us as soon as possible so we may contact someone from the waiting list. Cancellations on the day of the program should be made directly with the program site.

### REFUNDS

Full refunds will be automatically processed within 30 days when classes are canceled by Parks and Recreation due to weather, insufficient enrollment or other unforeseen reasons. Transfers from one program section to another may be requested through the Registration Office at 703-228-4747, prior to the start of the program. No refunds or credits if participants are unable to attend a program.

### WEATHER

Indoor programs are cancelled in conjunction with the Arlington County's school closings policy. Outdoor programs may be cancelled due to rain or other inclement weather. Call nature centers for information.

### MODIFICATIONS

We can provide reasonable modifications for people with disabilities upon request. Advanced notice is welcomed. Please call 703-228-4740. TTY 711.