

**PINEY RUN RECREATION AND
CONSERVATION COUNCIL**

30 Martz Road, Sykesville MD 21784 Nature Center: (410) 795-6043



February 9, 2026

The Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council is dedicated to supporting Piney Run Park and the Piney Run Nature Center. With the focus on conservation and environmental education, many programs and activities held throughout the year are promoted and offered by the Piney Run Council. Proceeds from these programs and events as well as Nature Center memberships and Adopt A Critter sponsorships help the Council provide support for our resident critters, exhibits, the Piney Run Summer Nature Camp, college scholarships (see below) and kayaking instruction as well as other programs, projects and activities to benefit the Park and Nature Center and for the enjoyment of our visitors.

Our Park Naturalist, Basil Levesque, continues to be very busy. In addition to the many park programs and field trips Basil leads, they have been caring for our live animals and exhibits to ensure each critter has the optimal habitat for its species. Basil, the park staff and volunteers have also been dedicated to maintaining many garden spaces and planting more native plants.

The Council was able to host numerous fundraising activities and events last year and will look forward to doing so this year. We recently held a Chippewa Storage Basket basketweaving class and our **Cabin Fever Crafts Show**. At the end of this memo is a list of the upcoming scheduled Council events. More information about our Council events and offerings can be found on the [Friends of Piney Run Park & Nature Center Facebook page](#) and in this document.

Since park programs thrive on new ideas, input from additional people is always welcome and encouraged by the Council. All Council meetings are open to the public. Any member of the Nature Center is automatically a member of the Council, but must attend one Council meeting or provide 4 hours of volunteer service to/for the Council within the previous 12 months (and be 18 years of age) in order to vote at these meetings. Council meetings are held bi-monthly on the 3rd Thursday in January, March, May, July, September, and November at 6:30 p.m. typically in the Piney Run Nature Center. At these meetings updates from Park Staff and Council members are presented and discussed, decisions are made about fundraising events, and how membership and fundraising money is spent for the benefit of the Park and



The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410.386.3600 or 1.888.302.8978 or MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.



Nature Center. If you are interested in additional information about the Council, please contact the Council Treasurer, Renee Schoff, via email (PineyRunParkCouncilTreasurer@gmail.com) or call the Nature Center at 410-795-6043.

Nature Center memberships, park passes, pavilion rentals and registrations for County-sponsored Carroll County Recreation & Parks programs can be purchased on the County's program registration website ccrec.recdesk.com. (The Park Entrance Fee is still applicable for Nature Center members although park entrance fees are not applicable to senior citizens and active and retired military personnel.)

We thank you for your support of Piney Run Park, the Piney Run Nature Center and the Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council and hope to see you frequently throughout the year.

Your Piney Run Council Officers

Colleen Winters, President

Max Bukowitz, Vice President

Erin Heinrich, Secretary

Renee Schoff, Treasurer

PineyRunParkCouncilTreasurer@gmail.com

Dylan Collins, Park Manager

Basil Levesque, Park Naturalist



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Below is the list of Council fundraising events and activities for 2026 as of February 9, 2026. All Council proceeds are used to support the Piney Run Nature Center, Piney Run Park and the community. Discounts are offered to Nature Center members for some programs. More 2025 events may be added and/or this schedule may change.

- **[Nature Center Memberships](https://ccrec.recodesk.com/Community/Membership)** – available at <https://ccrec.recodesk.com/Community/Membership>; valid for the calendar year
- **[Adopt A Critter Program](https://ccrec.recodesk.com/Community/Program/Register?programId=5003)** – available at <https://ccrec.recodesk.com/Community/Program/Register?programId=5003>; valid for the calendar year
- ***Kayaking at Piney Run Park***
 - **Ranger Led Kayak Trips** are scheduled periodically during the spring, summer and fall. Select Programs and search “kayak” at this link for a list of programs: ccrec.recpark.com.
 - **Private Group Kayak Paddles** - Please contact the Nature Center at (410) 795-6043 to schedule a private paddle for your group or for more information.



Two Pocket Comb Basket basket weaving class - **Saturday, February 21st 9a-3p**

Signup Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FADA922AAFBC25-61364008-2026>

Continuously Woven Market Basket basket weaving class **Saturday, March 7th 9a-3p**

Signup Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FADA922AAFBC25-61364380-2026>



Calm the Spirit Self-Care Workshop **Saturday, March 14th 2p-3:30p** - learn to craft simple, natural remedies with essential herbs and learn mindful self-care techniques to help manage stress. This is a hand-on class with Joanna Compton of Growing Partners Landscape Consulting, Design and Workshops.

Signup Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FADA922AAFBC25-61992685-calm>

Spring Fever Coffeehouse **Friday, March 27th 7p-9p** - featuring Nordic and Celtic music by Wherligig, delicious desserts and non-alcoholic beverages.

Signup link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FADA922AAFBC25-60337429-2026#/>



The Versatile Herb Workshop **Saturday, April 11th 2p-3:30p** - learn how to grow herbs in your garden and use herbs in favorite recipes with Joanna Compton of Growing Partners Landscape Consulting, Design and Workshops. Sample various dishes with herbs and take home your own herb plant after you've learned how to properly plant and maintain it. **Please register early as this class has a limited size.**

Signup link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FADA922AAFBC25-61996017-theversatile>

Annual Spring Perennial Swap (Part 1) **Sunday, April 26th 1p-3p** - free plant swap; donate your extra plants or see if you can find something new for your garden.



Wall Mounting Plants Workshop **Saturday, May 2nd 2p-3:30p** - learn how to wall-mount a plant using a simple, eye-catching technique with Joanna Compton of Growing Partners Landscape Consulting, Design and Workshops. You'll work from start to finish mounting, planting, wiring and prepping your board to hang. **Please register early as this class has a limited size.** Signup link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FADA922AAFBC25-61997530-wall>



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Celebrate Spring Crafts Show Saturday, May 9th 10a-4p - visit the Nature Center and yurt to see the beautiful unique crafts our talented vendors have created. This is a great opportunity to find unique Mother's Day gifts.

Annual Spring Perennial Swap (Part 2) Sunday, May 17th 1p-3p - free plant swap; donate your extra plants or see if you can find something new for your garden.

Two Pressed Flower Events by Twisted Sisters Artistry - To be scheduled
UV Jewelry Class and Initial Frame Class

- ***“Members Only” Event*** – Summer/Fall (date TBD)
- ***Summer/Fall Basket Raffle*** – September/October
- ***Fall Perennial Swap*** – TBD
- **6th Annual PINEY RUN PARK FALL FESTIVAL** – **Saturday, October 10th from 10am - 4pm** (rain date Oct. 11th). Live music, craft & food vendors, scarecrow making, wagon rides, craft activities and much more!
- ***Adult Country Holiday Workshops*** – **Saturday, December 12th from 10am–12pm and 1pm–3pm**
- ***Children’s Holiday Workshops*** – **Friday, December 18th from 4pm-6pm and Saturday, December 19th from 10am-12pm**

Information about these and other Council events can be found on the [Friends of Piney Run Park & Nature Center](#) Facebook page. Piney Run Park information is available at <https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/directory/recreation-parks/places-to-go/piney-run-park/> on the “Nature Center” page.

Council Officers:

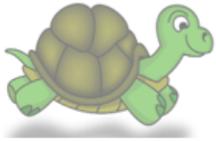
Colleen Winters, President Max Bukowitz, Vice President
Erin Heinrich, Secretary Renee Schoff, Treasurer
(PineyRunParkCouncilTreasurer@gmail.com)

Park Management: Dylan Collins, Park Manager **Park Naturalist:** Basil Levesque



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Adopt A Critter Program



Sponsored by the Piney Run Recreation & Conservation Council

The Piney Run Nature Center's live animal residents require constant care. You can help support the critters in general or sponsor a particular animal by purchasing a 2026 Piney Run Park **Adopt A Critter Program** which will help support our critters for an entire year! Each sponsor will be mailed a certificate and photo of the critter they are sponsoring; and will be invited to schedule a private session with the naturalist and their sponsored critter for their family's own personal encounter by calling the Nature

The fee for each membership is only \$30. What a great gift idea for any nature lover!

You may sign up to Adopt A Critter online at the Carroll County Recreation & Parks Program Registration sight link below or by scanning the QR code on this page:

<https://ccrec.recdesk.com/Community/Program/Registrar?programId=5003>

Questions? Please call the Nature Center at 410-795-6043.



Critters in need of sponsors include:

Barred Owl

Red-Tailed Hawk

Eastern Screech Owl

Black Rat Snake

Florida King Snake

Common Watersnake

Eastern Box Turtle

Musk Turtle

Red Eared Slider

American Toad





EXPLORE *Piney Run Reservoir*

ORGANIZE YOUR GROUP KAYAKING TRIP WITH PINEY RUN PARK



Description

Come enjoy the beautiful 300 acre scenic reservoir at Piney Run Park with a guided group kayak trip! All equipment and instructions will be provided by qualified park staff!



Scheduling

Call the Nature Center at 410-795-6043 to schedule your kayaking trip. Trips are for 2hrs including launch time.



Terms and Fees

The cost is \$20 per person for up to 10 people. Must be 16 years or older to kayak.



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30 Martz Rd Sykesville MD, 21784
410-795-6043



THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT APPLIES TO THE CARROLL COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND ITS PROGRAMS, SERVICES, ACTIVITIES, AND FACILITIES. ANYONE REQUIRING AN AUXILIARY AID OR SERVICE FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION OR WHO HAS A COMPLAINT SHOULD CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF CITIZEN SERVICES, 410.386.3600 OR 1.888.302.8978 OR MD RELAY 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NO LATER THAN 72 HOURS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED EVENT.