

THRIVE OUTSIDE

SUMMIT GUIDE



20 **AUG** 22
1-5

ANCA SUMMIT
IRVINE NATURE CENTER
OWINGS MILLS, MD

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Additional support comes from the Terral and Lynn Jordan Fund, a Donor Advised Fund of T. Rowe Price Charitable.

AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Irvine Nature Center is located on land which served for millennia as a shared place for seasonal hunting, trapping, and trade by Indigenous Peoples living along the Chesapeake Bay and Susquehanna River. The majority of these came from **Algonquin** tribes, most notably the **Piscataway** people, located to the south, and several groups of **Iroquoian** speakers, especially the **Susquehannock** tribe, to the north.

Today the Baltimore area remains home to descendants of these tribes, as well as to several thousand members of the **Lumbee** and **Cherokee** tribes, many of whose parents or grandparents relocated from Virginia and North Carolina to pursue industrial jobs in Baltimore following World War II.

Irvine respectfully recognizes both the Indigenous Peoples who were the original caretakers of the forests and fields of the Maryland Piedmont and their descendants who carry on the rich cultural traditions of their heritage. These communities are our friends and neighbors today. We acknowledge the violent and painful history of forced displacement, which Indigenous People suffered at the hands of white colonists. We affirm that through our educational programming we will strive to honor the legacy of the Indigenous generations before us, to validate the loss of tenured and sacred land, and to ensure that the deep spiritual connections between this special place and its stewards remain steadfast for generations to come.

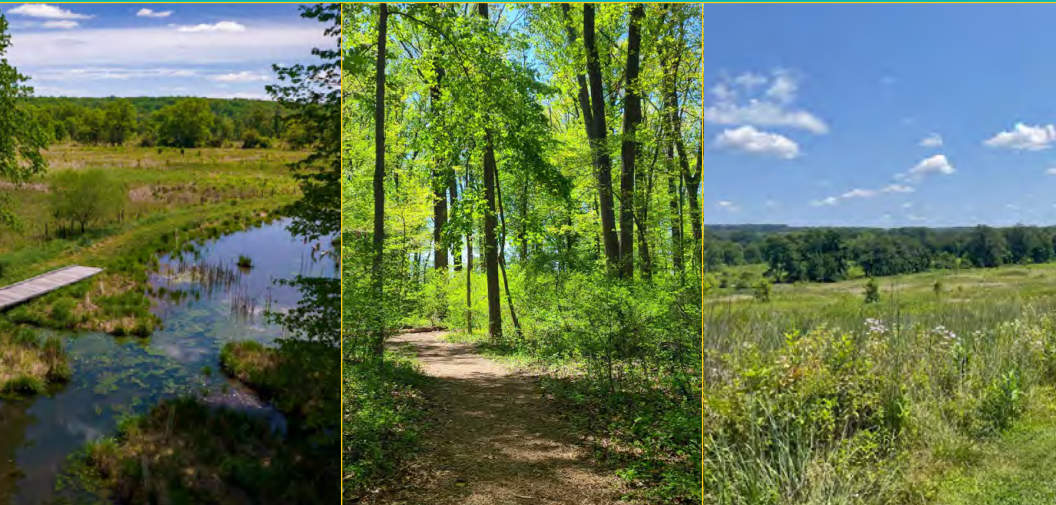


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riggs ward

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WELCOME TO THE SUMMIT

Welcome to the *Thrive Outside* Summit, ANCA's first in-person Summit since 2019. We're thrilled to gather the ANCA community at Irvine Nature Center, which provides Summit participants the opportunity to connect with each other as well as with Maryland's natural landscape.

ANCA's hiatus from in-person Summits was of course challenging, but it also offered the opportunity to reflect on the Summit experience. We asked ourselves, what needed to change? We also considered what our community needs at this moment to move forward and heal from the difficult past few years.

These reflections have informed the experiences before you. Significant elements of this Summit include:



An emphasis on outdoor and hands-on programming.

This is exemplified by a new Summit program format, Field Workshops, in which you can visit nature education sites and learn firsthand from their operations.



An integrated program schedule.

Each day contains multiple program formats so that you can experience a variety of learning environments.



More time for Open Space.

This allows all participants to cooperatively create the Summit experience.

The theme this year, *Thrive Outside*, affirms all nature center missions while also reinforcing that we as nature center professionals need the outdoors to thrive. Here we will walk the talk, and incorporate nature into the event in order to inspire and invigorate our work. We hope that you will depart the Summit with energy and tools so that your own organization can increase outdoor access and ensure everyone will flourish in nature. It's time for all to thrive.

Jen Levy, ANCA Executive Director
Brooks Paternotte, Irvine Nature Center Executive Director

SITE INFORMATION

Irvine Nature Center

Physical Address: 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117
Physical Spaces: See the map on pages 10-11.

Summit activities will take place in and around the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Environmental Education Building. Meeting spaces include:

- Fern Rooms A & B:** indoor meeting rooms on the main floor, accessible by the side entrance
- Upstairs Classroom:** located on the main floor, accessible by the side and front entrances
- Downtairs Classroom:** located in the lower floor, accessible by an exterior door, under the deck
- Under The Deck:** located down the steps (next to the tent) and adjacent to the downstairs classroom
- Amphitheater:** located behind the main building
- Tent:** located to the left of the main building
- Picnic Area:** located at the back of the Outdoor Classroom, accessible next to the amphitheater

WI-FI:
Network: INC_Guest
Password: No-Planet-Beta

HIKING: Irvine Nature Center offers 8+ miles of trails through forests, wetlands, and meadows. Refer to the trail map for inspiration. When out on property, look for the green arrows, which always point back to the parking lot.

FOOD AND DRINK: Summit meals will be served at both Irvine Nature Center and Garrison Forest School. See daily schedules for meal locations. Refreshments will be available in the Exhibit Hall daily.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:
Irvine Nature Center: 443-738-9200
Local Police: 410-887-6975
Emergencies: 911

Walking at Irvine Nature Center:

All meeting rooms and spaces are within a 2-3 minute walk. If you choose to explore the 8+ miles of trails, consider visiting these unique landmarks and spaces:

Location	Distance	Time
Robert A Mardiney Aviary	0.1 mi.	2-3 min.
Therapeutic Herb Garden at Wedding Point	0.4 mi.	7 min.
Woodland Garden	0.2 mi.	4-5 min.
Wetlands	0.7 mi.	12-15 min.
Native American Site	0.7 mi.	12-15 min.

Garrison Forest School

Address: 300 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117
Physical Spaces: See the map on pages 12-13. Alumnae Hall contains the Dining Hall that we will use for meals. Senior House, Shriver Hall, Meadowood, and Lohr Hall are dormitories for Summit participants.

WI-FI:
Network: GFSGuest (no password required)

PHONE NUMBERS:
Main phone: 410-363-1500
Campus Safety & Security: 443-744-3708

Summit Transportation

Shuttles will be operating between Irvine Nature Center and Garrison Forest School every 15 minutes during the time periods listed below:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
3-8:30pm (as needed)	7:30-8:45am 5-6:15pm	7:30-9:30am 11:30am-12pm 1:15-1:45pm 5:30-6:30pm 8-9pm	7:30-9:30am 4:30-5:15pm 8-10pm

Irvine












NATURE CENTER

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




www.ExploreNature.org

Weinberg Education Center

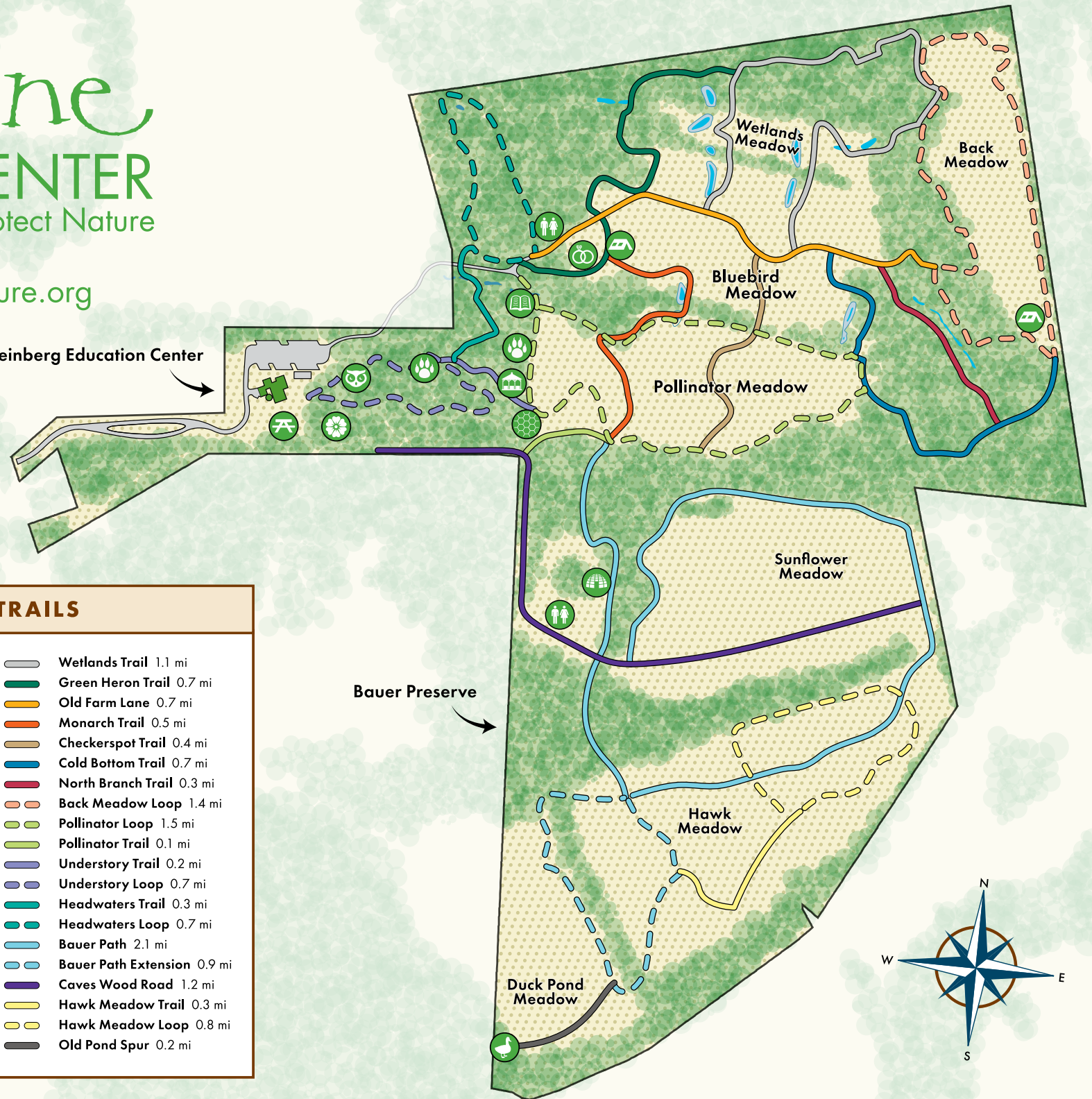
LEGEND

-  Outdoor Classroom Picnic Area
-  Aviary
-  Woodland Garden
-  Wildlife Blind
-  Restroom
-  Wedding Point
-  Education Hut
-  Gazebo
-  Apiary
-  Native American Site
-  Old Duck Pond
-  Campsite

TRAILS

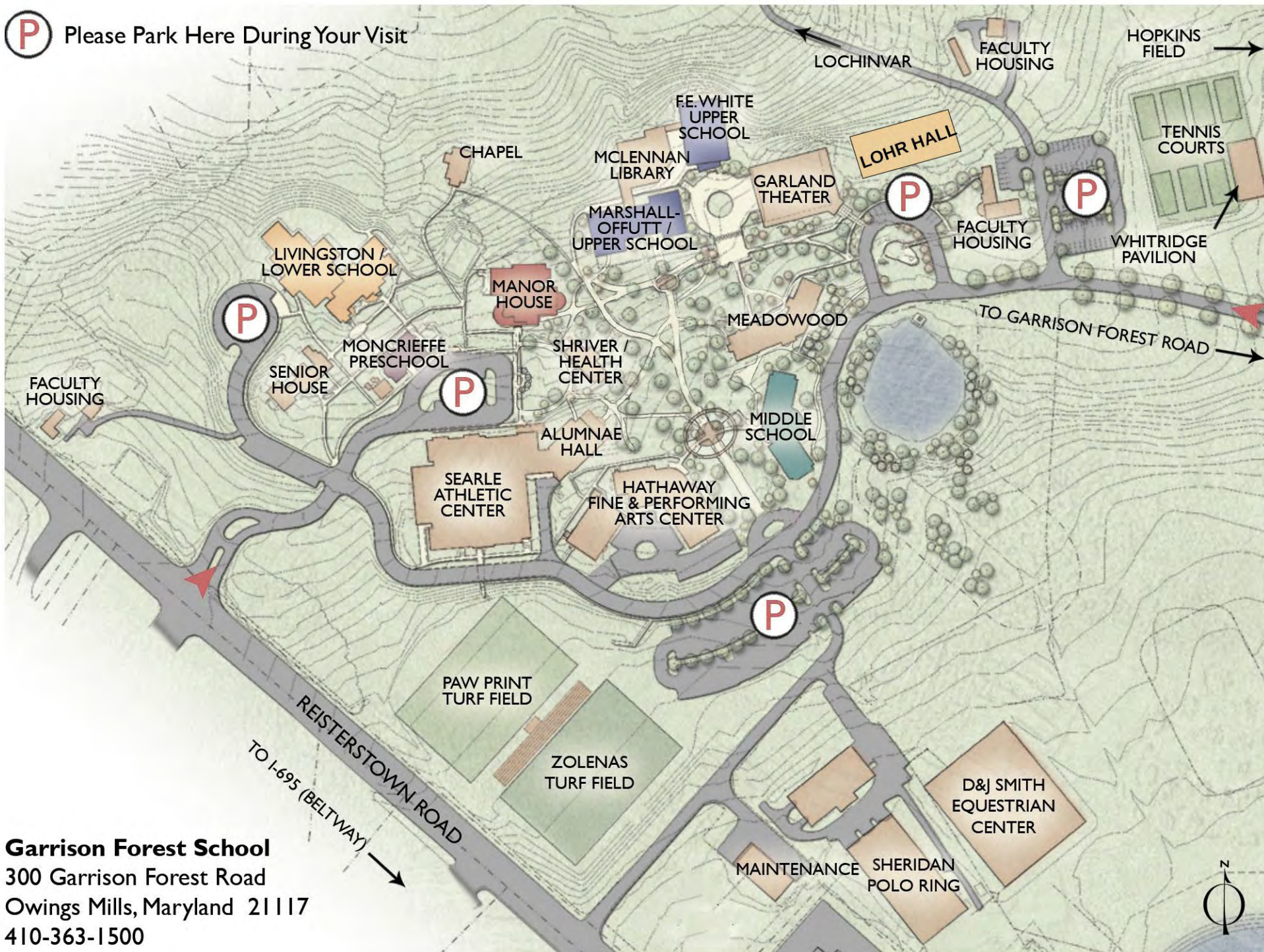
-  Wetlands Trail 1.1 mi
-  Green Heron Trail 0.7 mi
-  Old Farm Lane 0.7 mi
-  Monarch Trail 0.5 mi
-  Checkerspot Trail 0.4 mi
-  Cold Bottom Trail 0.7 mi
-  North Branch Trail 0.3 mi
-  Back Meadow Loop 1.4 mi
-  Pollinator Loop 1.5 mi
-  Pollinator Trail 0.1 mi
-  Understory Trail 0.2 mi
-  Understory Loop 0.7 mi
-  Headwaters Trail 0.3 mi
-  Headwaters Loop 0.7 mi
-  Bauer Path 2.1 mi
-  Bauer Path Extension 0.9 mi
-  Caves Wood Road 1.2 mi
-  Hawk Meadow Trail 0.3 mi
-  Hawk Meadow Loop 0.8 mi
-  Old Pond Spur 0.2 mi

Bauer Preserve





Please Park Here During Your Visit



Garrison Forest School
300 Garrison Forest Road
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117
410-363-1500

ABOUT SUMMIT PROGRAMS

Through the variety of Summit programs, you can connect with peers and experts in a supportive learning environment, while also building a network of professional relationships that will strengthen your work throughout the year.

Program Formats

Facilitated Discussions

Facilitated Discussions are collaborative sessions where all participants contribute to the discussion; the result is a shared dialogue that brings out an abundance of perspectives, possibilities, and renewed energy. Facilitators guide the dialogue but do not give a formal presentation. These discussions are an excellent opportunity to share with your peers, learn new ideas, discuss trends in the profession, and work together to find solutions.

Workshops

Workshops are presentation-based sessions where you can learn in-depth on a single topic, expand your skill set, and engage directly with experts.

Field Workshops

Field Workshops are your opportunity to visit nature education sites around the Baltimore area and learn firsthand from their operations. Representatives from the organization will host each workshop and demonstrate how they put their missions into action. Here's where you can engage in-depth on the workshop topic while going beyond the theory, and into practice.

Open Space

Open Space sessions provide an opportunity for you to create your own meeting, continue a session that needs more time, or find a group to address an issue that was not presented elsewhere during the Summit.

Field Trips

Field Trips add to your professional development experience while taking advantage of unique opportunities to visit additional sites, spend time with local experts, and interact with peers.

Principles of Open Space & Facilitated Discussions

We share these principles for meaningful participation in Open Space sessions and Facilitated Discussions:

1. Whatever happens is the only thing that could happen.
Don't worry about what should have happened.
2. Whoever shows up are the right people to be there.
There is always wisdom in the room.
3. Whenever it starts is the right time.
4. When it's over, it's over! If you finish early, take the time to find a quiet place to reflect, take a nap, or go for a walk with a new friend.

Lastly, we apply the *Law of Mobility* to these sessions — this law states that if you find yourself in a situation where you are neither learning anything or contributing anything, you are responsible for moving to another place, for example to another session.

ANCA has gone hi-tech.



Use the **online Summit Guide** on your phone, tablet, or computer.
Scan the QR code or type **natctr.org/2022** in your browser.



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

All events take place at Irvine Nature Center unless otherwise noted.
Off-site Field Workshops will depart from and return to Irvine.
Field Trips on Friday will depart from and return to Garrison Forest School.

MONDAY

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
3pm	Registration Open	Exhibit Hall
5pm	Networking Social	Tent
6pm	Dinner	Tent
7pm	Summit Welcome	Tent

TUESDAY

Field Workshops

DEPART TIME	EVENT	DEPART LOCATION
8:05am	Ladew Topiary Gardens: Turning Global Challenges into New Opportunities for Nature Education	Irvine Parking Lot
8:10am	Marshy Point Nature Center: Public/Private Partnerships	Irvine Parking Lot
8:20am	Cylburn Arboretum: Nature Education in an Urban Setting	Irvine Parking Lot
8:30am	Pearlstone Retreat Center and Outdoor Education Campus: Sustainability as a Guiding Principle (lunch included)	Irvine Parking Lot
8:45am	Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area: State Legislature Support for Endemic Species Protection	Irvine Parking Lot
9am	Native American Site at Irvine Nature Center: Indigenous Recognition & Collaboration	Weinberg EE Building
9am	Intro to Forest Bathing at Irvine Nature Center	Weinberg EE Building
12:15-1:15pm	Lunch	Tent

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY

TUESDAY (continued)

Concurrent Sessions

TIME	EVENT		LOCATION
1:30-3pm	Hiring and Retaining a Diverse Staff in the 2020's	FD	Upstairs Classroom
1:30-3pm	Maximizing Our Marketing	FD	Under the Deck
1:30-3pm	Succession Planning Doesn't Suck!	FD	Fern Room B
1:30-3pm	Food Justice	FD	Picnic Area
1:30-3pm	Sustainable Investing 101: Panel Discussion	FD	Fern Room A
1:30-4:30pm	Roots & Fruits: How Campaigns Can Ground and Grow Your Organization	WS	Downstairs Classroom
3:30-5pm	Giving Gratitude	WS	Under the Deck
3:30-5pm	Inspiring Climate Change Action for the Next Generation	FD	Picnic Area
3:30-5pm	Mission-aligned Investment Policy: How to Stay the Course in a Challenging Market Environment	WS	Fern Room A
3:30-5pm	Building, Engaging and Maintaining a Great Board of Directors	WS	Fern Room B
6:00pm	Dinner and Campfire Networking at Garrison Forest School		Garrison Forest School

WEDNESDAY

Early Morning Activities

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:45-8:45am	Birding	Outdoor Classroom
7:45-8:45am	Tai Chi & Yoga	Amphitheater
7:45-8:45am	Mindfulness Walk	Outdoor Classroom
9-11:45am	Open Space	Tent
12-1:15pm	ANCA Leadership Awards Luncheon	GFS Dining Hall
1:30pm	Field Workshops	
	Explore the Visitor Experience through Irvine Nature Center (networking/dinner at Irvine)	GFS Dining Hall
	Vision for the Future: The National Aquarium and Brown Advisory (networking/dinner at Brown Advisory)	GFS Dining Hall

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY - FRIDAY

THURSDAY

Early Morning Activities

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:45-8:45am	Birding	Outdoor Classroom
7:45-8:45am	Tai Chi & Yoga	Amphitheater
7:45-8:45am	Mindfulness Walk	Outdoor Classroom

Concurrent Sessions

TIME	EVENT		LOCATION
9am-12pm	Site & Facility Master Planning: An Overview & the Role of ANCA Consults	WS	Downstairs Classroom
9-10:30am	Historical Giving Analysis: Is Your Organization Ready to Consider a Capital Campaign?	WS	Upstairs Classroom
9-10:30am	Pareidolia: What Is That?	WS	Fern Room A
9-10:30am	The New Field Trip Landscape — Engaging Schools Post-Pandemic	FD	Picnic Area
9-10:30am	Risk Management for Outdoor Programs	WS	Fern Room B
9-10:30am	ANCA Peer Consults — A Review	FD	Under the Deck
11am-12:30pm	Leveraging Public Funds for Capital Improvements	FD	Under the Deck
11am-12:30pm	Unpack Your Strategic Plan! How to Maximize Your Nature Center with Strategic Planning	WS	Downstairs Classroom
11am-12:30pm	Living Your Mission: Lessons Learned from Sustainable Building Projects	WS	Upstairs Classroom
11am-12:30pm	Revitalize Your "Post" Pandemic Fundraising	WS	Fern Room A
11am-12:30pm	How Do We Do Less?	FD	Fern Room B

THURSDAY (continued)

12:30-1:15pm	Lunch	Tent
1:30pm-5pm	Open Space Sessions	Tent
5:30pm	Networking Social, Dinner, Dessert Auction, and Summit Closing	Tent

FRIDAY

Field Trips

TIME	EVENT	DEPART LOCATION
9am-2pm	Robinson Nature Center	GFS
8am-2pm	Canoeing at Eden Mill	GFS
8am-1:30pm	Boat Trip on the Chesapeake Bay	GFS



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Irvine Nature Center

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

TUESDAY

Succession Planning Doesn't Suck!

FD

1:30-3pm

FERN ROOM B

What is succession planning and why is it important for your organization? Let's focus on the "success" in succession planning and how it can set your organization up for long-term sustainability. Whether you have done a succession plan before or not, come join us to delve into the different types of succession plans, common misconceptions, when is the right time to do one, how much it costs, how long it takes, how to convince your Board to do it, and resources to help get you started. Bring your experience and your questions and let's help each other plan for success so that succession planning doesn't suck!

Facilitators:

- Kay Carlson, *President/CEO*, Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
- Kitty Pochman, *Executive Director*, the Linda Loring Nature Foundation

Sustainable Investing 101:

FD

1:30-3pm

A Panel Discussion

FERN ROOM A

Sustainable Investing is an investment approach that considers environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors. At Brown Advisory, we strongly believe that we make better business and investment decisions when we consider ESG factors as part of our research. We help our clients use their capital in many different ways, from traditional investment programs that pursue financial returns to philanthropic strategies that prioritize positive societal outcomes. During this session, Brown Advisory's investment professionals will discuss sustainability from both a corporate and investment lens, including sustainable trends, company and manager ESG integration and how we work with clients to align their goals with their capital allocation in consideration of the current market environment, but with a long-term outlook for impact.

Moderator:

Erika Pagel, *CIO of Sustainable Investing, Portfolio Manager*, Brown Advisory

Panelists:

- Carey Buxton, *Head of Sustainable Investing Business*, Brown Advisory
- Morgan Kinsey, *Sustainable Investment Research Analyst*, Brown Advisory
- Elizabeth Hiss, *Equity Research, Sustainable Investing*, Brown Advisory

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Food Justice

FD 1:30-3pm

PICNIC AREA

We talk about sustainable farming, seed saving and urban gardening, but are we missing an opportunity to truly fight for food justice? How do we build authentic relationships with Black-led organizations and Indigenous people to reframe the narratives on key issues such as land access, food sovereignty and the “alternative food movement.” Let’s have a conversation and share ideas on how our nature centers and organizations can take an active, supportive, intentional role in expanding food access and championing food education in our communities.

Facilitators:

- Rachel Anderson, *Naturalist*, Warner Park Nature Center
- John Harrod, *Director of Outreach*, Delaware Nature Society

Hiring and Retaining a Diverse Staff in the 2020’s

FD 1:30-3pm

UPSTAIRS CLASSROOM

In this facilitated discussion you will learn best practices from each best practices on recruiting fundamentals, promoting diverse and inclusive workplace culture, and developing an engaging onboarding plan. We will build a tool box for you to walk away with to impress newcomers & make them feel welcome.

Presenters:

- Leigh Ann Miller, *Executive Director*, Grange Insurance Audubon Center
- Sara Beesley, *Director*, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

Maximizing Our Marketing

FD 1:30-3pm

UNDER THE DECK

A marketing professional at a nature center often wears many hats: copywriter, photographer, videographer, graphic designer, public relations specialist, social media manager, website designer, fundraiser, and more. How do we balance it all? In this discussion we’ll talk about strategies to prioritize time, how small teams (or teams of one) can get the most out of their work, and the best tools and resources for marketing at nature centers.

Facilitators:

- Kristen Cooper, *Director of Marketing and Communications*, Irvine Nature Center
- Asa Duffee, *Director of Marketing and Communications*, the Association of Nature Center Administrators

Roots & Fruits: How Campaigns Can Ground and Grow Your Organization

WS 1:30-4:30pm

DOWNSTAIRS CLASSROOM

This workshop will teach you how to design, implement and execute a campaign using real cases, decisions, and examples. We’ll review best practices and emerging issues in campaign preparation, communications, and the ability to adjust in this changing environment. You will walk away understanding the how and way of fundamentals and enhanced steps to manage and develop a comprehensive campaign.

Presenters:

- Jason Sanders, *Executive Director*, Dodge Nature Center and Preschool
- Jake Muszynski, *Principal*, Creative Fundraising Advisors

Giving Gratitude

FD 3:30-5pm

UNDER THE DECK

In this session, we will focus on the importance of giving gratitude in our day-to-day work. From thanking donors (acknowledgment letter, special thanks for specific giving levels, new donor thank you, special events, etc.) to acknowledging the good work of staff (job preference, special skills, etc.), these interactions can make or break a relationship. As a group, we’ll discuss tips and tricks for making this action a priority in your day-to-day life. You’ll find that no matter the mission, budget, or location, acknowledging the good in others is a key for success!

Facilitators:

- Jenn Wright, *Executive Director*, Grass River Natural Area
- Dennis Pilaske, *Executive Director*, Chippewa Nature Center

Building, Engaging and Maintaining a Great Board of Directors

FD 3:30-5pm

FERN ROOM B

Developing a well-functioning board of directors is Job #1 for organizations committed to achieving their mission. Burnout is a common phenomenon, with a few heroic board members carrying the freight for the entire group. In this workshop Cathy Allen, aka “The Board Doctor,” will discuss high-yield strategies for analyzing your board’s composition and building a well-rounded board with all the skills and characteristics needed to meet current and future goals.

Presenter: Cathy Allen, *Trainer and Mentor*, Nonprofit Board Governance

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

TUESDAY

Inspiring Climate Change Action for the Next Generation

WS 3:30-5pm

PICNIC AREA

The Howard County Conservancy in Maryland recently launched two climate change education programs for students in grades 6-12, bringing current climate science, realistic solutions, and action projects to thousands of students within Howard County Public Schools. Join the managers of these programs to learn how to implement informal climate change education programming using hands-on experiences, real local data, team building exercises, and student-inspired action projects. We'll discuss how to present activities that address one or more "Big Ideas" in climate change science and solutions (such as urban heat islands, increased storm intensity, carbon sequestration, etc), and also explore how to build local and national partnerships to support climate change programming for diverse audiences.

Presenters:

- Bess Caplan, *Climate Change Program Manager*, Howard County Conservancy
- Jessica Kohout, *Youth Climate Institute Manager*, Howard County Conservancy

Mission-Aligned Investment Policy: How to Stay the Course in a Challenging Market Environment

WS 3:30-5pm

FERN ROOM A

In the last decade, adoption of sustainable investment strategies has gained momentum and evolved from screening for "worst offenders" to identifying and investing with best-in-class ESG companies. More recently, however, the higher interest rate environment, slowing growth, challenges with "greenwashing," and geopolitical tensions are leading some investors to question their mission-aligned policies. This workshop will address how endowments and foundations can design a long-term mission-aligned investment policy, which can not only weather short-term headwinds, but also benefit from rising opportunities by applying an ESG lens to the entire portfolio.

Presenters:

- Brigid Peterson, JD, *Head of Endowments & Foundations*, Brown Advisory
- Adela Skenderasi, CFA, *Portfolio Manager*, Brown Advisory

NATURE NERD PINS

Fresh from the Chesapeake Bay

Donate \$30 to ANCA and receive a Blue Crab Nature Nerd pin.

Since 2015, ANCA Donors have supported the Richard Haley Memorial Fund and the ANCA Operational Reserve through the ANCA Nature Nerd Campaign. With a contribution, donors may choose to receive a Nature Nerd pin to proudly display their support and their nature nerdiness. Each year's pin is unique and a celebration of the ANCA Community.

Your \$30 donation, along with all of the 2022 Nature Nerd donations, will be invested in the ANCA Operational Reserve. Make a donation and receive your pin at the ANCA Table. Past years' pins are also available.



No blue crabs are harmed in the pin-making process.

Site & Facility Master Planning: An Overview & the Role of ANCA Consults

WS 9am-12pm

DOWNSTAIRS CLASSROOM

This session will provide an overview of the typical environmental center site and facility master planning process, including selected case study examples. Learning objectives include:

1. Understand essential pre-planning to be considered before engaging a planning firm.
2. Understand key steps involved in the planning process.
3. Discuss strategies for stakeholder engagement and for gaining consensus on planning priorities.
4. Discuss the importance of integrating planning outcomes and materials with an overall funding strategy.
5. Discuss how an ANCA consult can help lay the groundwork for a successful site and facility planning process.

Presenters:

- Wayne Reckard, *Marketing Director and Project Manager*, The Kubala Washatko Architects
- Erik Hancock, *AIA, Partner*, The Kubala Washatko Architects

Historical Giving Analysis: Is Your Organization Ready to Consider a Capital Campaign?

WS 9-10:30am

UPSTAIRS CLASSROOM

Thinking critically, honestly, and strategically about your organization's philanthropic track record should be the first step to considering whether to launch a capital campaign. This process should be informed by actual data and a detailed historical giving analysis. Often, nonprofit leaders have important subject matter expertise, but limited fundraising experience. In this session, consider:

1. What historical giving analysis is,
2. How it can benefit your planning,
3. How to complete one internally, and
4. How to use the recommendations that flow from it to inform your leadership's decision-making and planning.

This topic feels particularly relevant to nature centers, which often have serious capital needs as they work hard to care for extensive physical infrastructure that needs to be maintained, replaced, and endowed.

Presenter: Heather DeGaetano, *Managing Director and General Counsel*, Reflection Riding Arboretum & Nature Center

Pareidolia: What is That?

WS 9-10:30am

FERN ROOM A

This interactive session introduces an eye-opening experience (literally) that enhances hikes in the woods. It introduces the little-known pareidolia instinct — the ability to smell and see familiar objects in unfamiliar places — that enables near magical observations of previously unnoticed natural formations nestled on trees, rocks and mud piles. As children, we used this instinct when identifying animals and faces in the clouds. This session shares ways of adapting this unique experience to educate and attract visitors.

Presenter:

Pat Bernstein, *Founder, Blink to See*

The New Field Trip Landscape: Engaging Schools Post-Pandemic

FD 9-10:30am

PICNIC AREA

Since the pandemic, public school partnerships have changed dramatically for many of us. How do we re-engage teachers, principals and school districts and capitalize on the growing trend of taking students outside to learn science? Let's discuss successes, failures and strategies for challenges such as reduced funding, communication, teacher buy-in and evaluating program effectiveness.

Facilitator:

Rachel Anderson, *Naturalist*, Warner Park Nature Center

Risk Management for Outdoor Programs

WS 9-10:30am

FERN ROOM B

This workshop aims to help nature center administrators take advantage of the best contemporary thinking on incident prevention and mitigation to help ensure their outdoor programs exhibit excellence in risk management. Participants will leave the workshop with practical ideas they can use right away to improve safety at their organization. The workshop is most applicable to programs that offer activities in remote outdoor settings, or provide adventure experiences (like whitewater or backpacking trips).

Presenter:

Jeff Baierlein, *Director*, Viristar

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

ANCA Peer Consults — A Review **FD** 9-10:30am

UNDER THE DECK

ANCA conducted its first Peer Consult 30 years ago. Since then, the organization has done nearly 150 more. While they all have followed the same general format, each has borne the unique stamp of the host's special situation and the Consult Team's special talents. But what should be the essential elements of a Peer Consult? What works? What doesn't? What are tools, tips, and tricks that contribute to optimal success? This session will be a forum for that discussion. If you have ever hosted a Consult, led one, participated as a Team Member, or considered doing any of those things, join us!

Facilitators:

- Bob Mercer, *Retired Director*, Silver Lake Nature Center
- David Catlin, *Principal*, David Catlin Consulting, LLC

Public Funds, Partnerships, and Capital Campaigns: Make Your Money Work for You! **FD** 11am-12:30pm

UNDER THE DECK

Is your nature center part of a public/private partnership? Need some capital improvements? Join the discussion about how to leverage public funds to kick-start or contribute to your capital campaign! Learn and discuss how working with public partners such as your city councilperson or county commissioner can lead to supporting capital improvements. Let's discuss what it takes to get to the next step — taking those public funds and multiplying them with private funding.

Facilitator: Sara Beesley, *Director*, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

Unpack Your Strategic Plan! How to Maximize Your Nature Center with Strategic Planning **WS** 11am-12:30pm

DOWNSTAIRS CLASSROOM

Strategic planning is a key tool for nature centers to envision a future that meets the needs of an organization and its community. Unpack what goes into making action-packed and effective strategic plans that meet your nature center's vision. We will use BLM Campbell Creek Science Center as a case study on how strategic planning creates dynamic change in an organization. Practice developing your own simple plan — and come away with something tangible to take home and put into action!

Presenter: Nancy Patterson, *Director*, Campbell Creek Science Center

Living Your Mission: Lessons Learned from Sustainable Building Projects **WS** 11:00am-12:30pm

UPSTAIRS CLASSROOM

Sustainable buildings can be an important reflection of a nature center's mission, but they're by no means easy to accomplish. This workshop will share details and lessons learned from two sustainable building projects, one at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Finland, Minn., and another at Westwood Hills Nature Center in St. Louis Park, Minn. Learn about both of these projects and what it took to accomplish each, including capital planning, design and operations, and community engagement.

Presenters:

- Peter Smerud, *Executive Director*, Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center
- Mark Oestreich, *Manager*, Westwood Hills Nature Center
- Leighton Deer, *Senior Mechanical Engineer and ACE Engineering Market Leader*, HGA

Revitalize Your "Post" Pandemic Fundraising **WS** 11am-12:30pm

FERN ROOM A

Throughout the pandemic, everything changed... and so should your fundraising strategies! Donors have changed when and how they give, as well as how they communicate. Even with limited staff time, it's possible to increase your fundraising and cement donor relationships. In this workshop, we'll cover a range of actionable tips and topics: mailed solicitations (annual fund), a formula for cultivation, board member templates, and creative marketing ideas. You'll walk away with lots of examples, your own year-long development calendar, and more.

Presenter: Heather Hahn Sullivan, *Chief Operating Officer*, Dunes Learning Center

How Do We Do Less? **FD** 11am-12:30pm

FERN ROOM B

In late May, Third Space Studio's Good Thinking Blog, asked the question "What if you did less?" The post recognized the burnout in nonprofit leaders and how "our enthusiasm for even the most meaningful of work wanes when the emotional, physical, and mental toll of prolonged stress is high." Typical suggestions to burnout include 'take a sabbatical,' 'find a new job,' 'take a vacation,' 'try self-care'. But can we all afford to step away from our responsibilities? Together, let's discuss insights and ideas as we respond to burnout on a more systemic level.

Facilitator: Jen Levy, *Executive Director*, Association of Nature Center Administrators

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FIELD WORKSHOPS

Following the ANCA Leadership Awards Luncheon, you will participate in one of two Field Workshops, which you chose during Summit registration. Please note that each Field Workshop includes its own dinner and networking event.

Explore the Visitor Experience: Irvine Nature Center

Workshop Sponsors: GWWO Architects and Taylor Studios, Inc

Often we think of “education” in the form of programs — but what if every aspect of the visitor’s experience was educational, not just the program? Here we’ll explore how to create an educational and memorable experience through building, exhibit, and site design. Associates from GWWO, Taylor Studios, and Irvine Nature Center will share how to integrate these design elements so that they work together, rather than providing unconnected experiences. Using Irvine as a hands-on example, these experts will explore how the nature center is adding event space and classrooms to its site, while also reimagining its exhibit space.

Following the workshop, participants will have some downtime at Irvine. This could be an opportunity to relax, explore the nature center, network informally, or catch up on work. Later, we will enjoy dinner (provided on-site), a campfire, and storytelling at the Irvine Nature Center campsite.

Vision for the Future: The National Aquarium and Brown Advisory Workshop Sponsor: Brown Advisory

Participants will first visit the National Aquarium to see why it’s a world-class destination for science and education. After time to explore the Aquarium on our own, we will hear from Featured Speaker John Racanelli, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Aquarium. Racanelli will present on the Aquarium’s efforts to have net-zero carbon emissions by 2025, as well as share how the organization managed the financial impacts of the COVID pandemic.

Following the Aquarium tour we will take a water taxi to the offices of Brown Advisory, our Summit Presenting Sponsor, for a cocktail reception and dinner overlooking Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. While at Brown Advisory we will hear from Featured Speaker Dr. Mamie Parker, who serves on the board of Brown Advisory. Dr. Parker made history serving as the first African American Fish & Wildlife Service Regional Director of the 13 Northeastern states, and she has an extensive amount of experience in building bridges to nontraditional partners in the conservation community. Dr. Parker will speak to us about safe spaces for nontraditional partnerships in conservation.

Please note that participants in this Field Workshop will be in downtown Baltimore for the full afternoon and part of the evening.



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EARLY MORNING ACTIVITIES

If you're looking for a creative way to jumpstart your day, attend one of these early morning activities, 7:45-8:45am on Wednesday and Thursday.

Birding

Late summer is a quiet time in the bird world, but the silence can be deceiving; look closely, as it's also the season when bird populations are their highest. Come explore our woods, meadows, and wetlands with Irvine naturalists, as we search for recent fledglings and post-breeding parents, all single-mindedly foraging in preparation for the coming fall migration. Discover why Irvine Nature Center is considered one of Maryland's best birding spots for reliable varieties. *Meet at the entrance to the Outdoor Classroom.*

Qigong & Tai Chi

Qigong is a moving or stationary meditation, dating back over 4,000 years, evolving into the Chinese tradition of Tai Chi. Originators knew that surviving and thriving could be optimized by accessing three fundamental energies: Universe energy, Earth energy, and Man's own internal energy. Participants will enjoy practicing moving meditative forms of body, mind, and spirit to deepen their connection to nature. Led by NQA Level II Instructor Mary Pinkard. *Meet at the Amphitheater.*

Mindfulness Based Gratitude Walk

Science shows that gratitude is a simple, yet effective practice to encourage happiness, improved health, and resilience. Mindfulness has been shown to help train the mind to experience what is here in the moment. Nature has the ability to calm our nervous systems as we connect with landscapes using these techniques. Join Phillip McKnight, Certified Mindfulness Meditation Teacher from Chesapeake Mental Health Collaborative's Center for Nature Informed Therapy, where we will engage in techniques to ground our energy. *Meet at the entrance to the Outdoor Classroom.*



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