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Wonderful OWL Weekend

June 7 - 9, 2024 Class Descriptions

1. **All About Bees** – New this year! Chris Gunther, a member of the Carroll County Beekeepers Association, will discuss bee biology and behavior, effects of our deteriorating environment on bees and beekeeping, what is involved in becoming a beekeeper, bee friendly habitat and show some tools of the trade.
2. **Archery** – Barry Kemery and Ray Harner (retired MD DNR police officer) guide novices and help experienced archers hone their skills. Bullseye targets as well as 3-D targets will be available.
3. **Advanced Shotgun Games** – *For experienced shooters only please!* Terry Oland (certified NRA range officer and hunter education instructor) and avid outdoorsman and hunter Dave Hansroth will provide a different shooting experience with games that include a good hint of friendly competition. Ladies who have confidence in gun handling and safety and in their level of shooting skills should sign up for this fun filled session where targets will be thrown at a challenging pace and angle. You are welcome to bring your own gun and shells. **Cost of Shells: $12 per box of 25.** *OWL reserves the right to remove shooters from this class who do not meet the minimum skill level required to participate safely.*

1. **Basket Weaving** – Sharon Schaeffer (member of the National Basketry Organization and active in local guilds) will patiently guide students of all levels in two different sessions. Students should bring: a hand towel, scissors or reed clippers and clothespins. If you have any other standard basket making supplies, you could bring them. Water buckets and other supplies will be provided for use during class. Session is limited to 12 students.

Students will begin the class weaving a wall basket. The option to weave the covered glass yogurt jar will be available for those that finish the wall basket early or wish to continue weaving after lunch. You must advise when registering if you plan to make both so that sufficient supplies will be available.

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**Wall Basket -** Flat reed is woven around a D-handle to create a flat, wall basket. Students will use stop /start rows of reed as they bring up the sides. Colored reed is avaible for decorative high lights. Embellishment will be available for added for accent. The basket can be woven on either a tall thin handle or a shorter wide handle. **Fee: $30.**

**Covered Glass** **Yogurt Jar** - Using a variety of reed, participants will weave around a small yogart jar. A pocket is woven into the side to hold a small wooden spoon. A choice of wooden lids will be provided to complete the project. The spoon pocket can be left off and the jars can be used to hold trinkets.

**Fee: $20**.

1. **Battery Powered Tools** – Bryant Descheemaeker from Schmuck Lumber Co. in Hanover, PA will again instruct this hands-on class about the simplicity of battery powered tools by making a small project to take home. Learn how to safely use these easy-to-use tools for all kinds of jobs around your home and yard.
2. **Bird ID with App** – New this year! Birding enthusiast, Dean Newman, a Director with the Southern Maryland Audubon Society, will teach the basics from learning how to select/use binoculars and other equipment, and the key points on what to focus on to identify the uniqueness of the birds. You’ll learn how to identify who is fluttering around and singing in your backyard using the Merlin Bird ID app from Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Expect to walk around the farm looking and listening for birds to apply these basics. The Merlin Bird ID app will need to be downloaded to your smartphone prior to that weekend. <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/download/>
3. **Blacksmithing** – New this year! An introductory, hands-on course covering the basics of blacksmithing with Ken Strosnider, Vice-President of the Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland who’s done a wide range of projects since starting in 1997. Ken will demonstrate how to make a hook or other small item. Participants will then complete a project, which they will take home. For safety, long-sleeved cotton shirt, long pants and closed-toed shoes with socks are required. This course is limited to 5 participants per session. Two sessions available, morning and afternoon.
4. **Canoe/Kayaking** – Take a leisurely trip down the Monocacy and enjoy the peacefulness of one of Maryland’s oldest waterways. Be thrilled with all of the wildlife you see. Note, put in will be further upriver this year, however, take out is the same. Justin at River Island Outfitters is happy to have us return! (<https://riverislandoutfitters.com/faq/>). *Participants will need to drive/carpool approximately 1 hour each way to meeting point.* **Fee: $39/person.**
5. **Fly Fishing** – New this year! Norma Kawecki of the Chesapeake Women Anglers will share a little bit of everything you need to know related to fly fishing: introduction to fly fishing gear (leaders, flies, forceps, etc.), demonstration of a variety of casts, practice casting under instruction, and fishing on the Monocacy River. A Maryland fishing license is required and may be purchased online. <https://dnr.maryland.gov/pages/licensing.aspx>
6. **Fly Tying** – New this year! Norma Kawecki of the Chesapeake Women Anglers provides instruction and tips on how to tie flies that look good enough to eat – well, to a fish anyway! This class teaches the basics in the art of fly tying. Fly types and their uses will be discussed and demonstrated, including nymphs, dry flies, wet flies and streamers. Participants will get to try their hand at tying several of their own flies.
7. **Handguns** – George Bransom and Dwight Mumper (Montgomery County Police Firearms Instructors) will share different types of handguns, emphasize safety, and teach you how to hit your target. Those new to handguns will be versed in all aspects of safety surrounding the handling, loading, unloading and shooting of handguns. Those who are familiar and have shot handguns previously, will be given a safety refresher course and then spend time hitting the bullseyes. A variety of handguns will be available for you to try. You are welcome to bring your own gun and bullets. **Fee: $10.**
8. **Outdoor Cooking** – Outdoor enthusiast, Fran Gower (retired MD DNR) will demonstrate basic outdoor cooking techniques. Gain new skills while making a delicious dish over a campfire.
9. **Pollinator/Gardening** – Erin Stiede (FPAC-NRCS with USDA) will share information on pollinators and gardening. Pollinators are vital, yet they are declining. Learn about the connection between our gardens and the pollinators in our backyards. Focus will be on plants and practices that attract and support pollinators.
10. **Pool Playtime** – Spend a few hours lounging around the pool, swimming, or playing pool games. Please bring your own towel. *Participants will need to drive/carpool approximately 10-minute drive each way.* NOTE: No lifeguard on duty.
11. **River Fishing** – Frank Ryan and Ray Harner (both retired MD DNR police officers) will assist with fishing along the scenic Monocacy River. The Monocacy is home to a variety of fish: largemouth and smallmouth bass, black and white crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed, sunfish, channel catfish, yellow and brown bullheads, and common carp. All tackle and worms will be provided but you may bring your own gear. A Maryland fishing license is required and may be purchased online. <https://dnr.maryland.gov/pages/licensing.aspx>
12. **River Walk - Tree ID/Flora & Fauna ID** – Frank Ryan (retired MD DNR police officer) will change hats and lead a walk around the Bridgeport Farm and along the Monocacy River where you’ll observe a variety of trees and vegetation including flora and fauna, and maybe some wildlife. Frank is a wealth of knowledge and will point out things you may well have been missing. Bring your camera if you like. Recommend wearing comfortable, closed toe shoes.
13. **Self Defense** – Chris Jordan and his team from The Education Armory, LLC will instruct participants on useful techniques to protect yourself in a variety of situations. This is very much a hands-on class!! For what situations do you want to be prepared? How can a woman of my age/height/weight best defend myself in a certain scenario? Specific questions and topics will be solicited after your registration is confirmed.
14. **Shotgun Safety/Beginner Shooting** – Terry Oland (certified NRA range officer and hunter education instructor) and avid outdoorsman and hunter Dave Hansroth will explain all the safety aspects of firearms safety. If you are a novice shooter, this is an opportunity to learn gun safety, handling, range etiquette, proper technique, stance, rules, etc. Our certified instructors will have you hitting the targets very quickly. The targets will be set specifically for making it easy to learn a new skill. You are welcome to bring your own gun and shells. **Cost of Shells: $12 per box of 25.**
15. **Sporting Clays at Orvis** – Nestled in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains, enjoy the panoramic scenery as you shoot your best round of sporting clays in an exciting forested course.  Orvis Hill Country (<https://www.orvis.com/orvis-hill-country.html>) will host your morning adventure. You may use your own shells (target load 71/2 or 8). *Participants will need to drive/carpool approximately 25-minute drive each way.* **Fee: $45 per round of 50.**
16. **Tomahawk and Knife Throwing** – We welcome back long-time re-enactor Mike Shubert for this popular class. Distance, timing and letting the axe do the work are the keys to success. You will hit the target like an expert after receiving tips on the correct way to hold and release tomahawks and knives.
17. **Turkey/Goose/Duck Calling** – New this year! Retired DNR police officers Frank Ryan and Ray Harner will provide instruction on various turkey calls and the different sounds to engage the elusive bird. Multiple World Goose Calling Champion and First World Goose Calling Champion of Champions Sean Mann from Maryland’s Eastern Shore will provide instruction and share his tips on goose and duck calling techniques. Be prepared to do some calling!
18. **Wood Turning** –New this year! Local Taneytown artist Doug Heck began wood turning 20 years ago. Wood turning is the

****art or process of fashioning wooden pieces or blocks into various forms and shapes by means of a lathe. Doug will demonstrate how to bring out the beauty of a simple block of wood. This hands-on course will let participants do the turning of the wood into something special that is theirs to keep.

*Participants will need to drive/carpool approximately 10-minute drive each way.*

Session is limited to 5 students. **Fee: $90.** <https://www.dougsturnings.com/>

**EVENING ACTIVITIES will include –**

* Friday - An informative presentation on Maryland Bears by Tanner Brown with MD DNR. Maryland’s conservation programs and habitat improvements have allowed for a healthy population of bears. Learn about conserving and managing habitat, while promoting human safety and property protection. Learn also about the habitat, sounds, diet, reproduction, and behavior of bears. They are ‘oh so cute’ and look so ‘cuddly’, but wait, looks can be deceiving.
* Saturday - Night Vision Hunting with Steve Staub and Jeff Richards - In this workshop we will spend time learning all about night hunting. You will get hands-on experience with three different types of optics that can be used to hunt in the dark. We will also discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each, which will allow you to decide which style would be right for you if and when you get started with night hunting.

**ACRONYMS –**

DNR……………………………………………………………………………….…….…… Department of Natural Resources

FPAC……………………………….………………………………………….…………… Farm Production and Conservation

NRA……………………………………………………………………………………………………. National Rifle Association

NRCS…………………………………………………………….……………….…. Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA…………………………………………………………………………………. United States Department of Agriculture