

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
PRESS RELEASE**

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For more information, contact:

Community Outreach and Media Relations Office
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
The Montgomery County Planning Board
301/495-4600

**PONTOON BOAT NATURE CRUISES AVAILABLE AT
BLACK HILL REGIONAL PARK**

BOYDS, MD – Black Hill Regional Park has announced the schedule for the “Kingfisher” pontoon boat cruises on Little Seneca Lake through September 24. Cruises are scheduled every Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting, at 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. Led by a park naturalist or other knowledgeable park staff, each cruise runs for one hour.

Children and adults will often see beavers, heron, hawks, deer, mallards, geese, bluebirds and other wildlife on their cruise around the 505-acre lake and its 16.5 miles of shoreline. The pontoon boat is wheelchair-accessible and personal floatation devices are on board.

“Tickets for rides on the Kingfisher are only \$4, and the cruise is priceless,” said Director of Parks Mary Bradford. “You can even make special arrangements for a memorable evening cruise for your family or small group of friends.”

To arrange for naturalists’ group programs for schools, scouts and other organizations, generally available during the school year, those interested can call 301/972-5990. Reservations for naturalist-led programs, including story times or evening cruises on the pontoon boat, are available online at www.parkpass.org. Additional information on ParkPASS registration is available at 301/444-3141.

Formed by construction of a 91-foot earth and rock dam, Little Seneca Lake is a backup reservoir for Montgomery and Prince George’s counties with a maximum depth of 68 feet and a capacity of 4.25 billion gallons of water. Species of fish found in the lake include largemouth bass, tiger musky, crappie, catfish and several types of sunfish.

Located at 20926 Lake Ridge Drive in Boyds, Maryland, 20841, Black Hill Regional Park is The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission’s 1,342-acre park offering boating, kayaking, fishing, hiking trails, picnic shelters, conservation areas and the Black Hill Visitor Center overlooking scenic Little Seneca Lake. For directions, log on to http://www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/facilities/regional_parks/blackhill/index.shtm

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