



# Nature Notes



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF DARKE COUNTY PARKS



## June - August 2017

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## SUMMER DAY CAMPS

Registration required  
See inserted flyer



**School's out, and the weather is fine!** For over 15 years, Darke County Parks' summer camps have been an annual family tradition. Over a thousand children have participated and learned about the natural world through our camps. In our continued commitment to get kids outside to learn, appreciate, and enjoy nature, we are offering nine camps for a range of ages and at a variety of times.

To find out all that we are offering this summer, please turn to the *pull-out section* of this newsletter. Camp descriptions, age ranges for each camp, and the mail-in registration are included inside. We hope to see many returning and new faces this summer as we explore the amazing natural world in Darke County Parks! Space is limited for each camp and will fill quickly. Please register today!



### OUR MISSION

The Mission of Darke County Park District is to acquire and preserve land areas possessing special natural and historical features and to manage and maintain these resources for the benefit of its residents through appropriate educational and passive recreational programs and activities.

## RAPTOR RUN/WALK 5K

Saturday, August 5: 8am  
Registration required (see below) / Fee: \$20 (due July 23)



**Do you know any runners,** or people who love to walk fun-themed 5K's? Darke County Parks is here to help you commit to being fit as we host our first-ever walk/run 5K. The path will be set out along the trails of Shawnee Prairie allowing you to take in the sights of woodland, prairie, and wetlands along your way. This 5K will benefit the raptor education program for Darke County Parks to assist our care and housing of the Great Horned Owl as well as the growth of additional raptors in the future. There will be unique awards for the top three people in each age category and professional timing provided by Can't Stop Running in Piqua, OH. This event is held rain or shine. For more information contact the Nature Center at 937-548-0165.

To register online visit: [www.cantstoprunningco.com](http://www.cantstoprunningco.com)  
Entry Fee: \$20 with shirt by July 23 / \$12 WITHOUT shirt by July 23  
(\$20 the day of the race (no shirt))

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK...

As I ponder my quarterly "Director's Desk" article this morning, I look back on all of our Nature Notes and have found one common thread, volunteerism. What is it about volunteering that draws so many individuals and groups to the Darke County Park District? I find that each person volunteering may have an individual reason like, "My friends do it," "I enjoy being around other volunteers," "My volunteer job gives me a sense of purpose," "I do it because I'm a people person and volunteers can help others," or "I enjoy educating the next generation". All these have a common thread, a piece of ownership, and a sense of belonging to a great collaboration of people and places in Darke County. As a Director I am continuously reminded how fortunate we are to have such a group surrounding us. Through these volunteers' collaboration and efforts, our organization has grown strong. Throughout my 38 year career in public service, I learned to communicate well with groups, stay engaged as a Director, and to lead by example. I stumbled in that endeavor recently when I was not able to make a meeting with a volunteer due to a personal family issue and was unable to contact them about my absence. Family is very important to me, but the volunteer's time is also important to me. Once again it boils down to communications. I needed to email, text, phone call, tweet, Instagram, Facebook, Instant Messenger, or somehow contact this volunteer. We are all human and sometimes cannot meet all the needs of the job. "Try harder next time, son," is what my Father used to point out to me. This common thread of passion that bonds us all together is no doubt what makes the Park District an important part of this regional community. Without the thousands of hours donated each year by the volunteers, this district would not have the success it thrives on today. Our staff thrives on these friendships too. Sometimes we spend more time in a week with volunteers than with our own families, so it does not surprise me to see lifelong friendships grow from this time spent together. As I continue in my 15th year as your Director of Parks, this region's giving attitude never ceases to amaze me. I can't thank you all enough for your hard work in making this district a wonderful work location for me and my fellow workers. "Try Harder Next Time Son". Ok Dad; I promise.

"Parks and Recreation, The Benefits Are Endless"

**Roger Van Frank**  
-Director-

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS...

### Memorials / Honorariums

*"In Memory"* of Alice Bish

- Bish & Boyer, Inc.

*"In Memory"* of Tom Rhoades

-Mandy Martin; Carol Duffield

*"In Memory"* of Jeannie Grosch

-Susan Gray; Donald & Barbara Leis; Richard & Marjorie Howell

### Monetary Donations

Dayton Area Board of Realtors	Friends of the
Greenville Public Library	Darke Co. Parks
Darke Co. Republican Club	Gerald & Janice Lamb
West Central Ohio Gourd Patch	Mary Ann Josselyn
Girl Scout Troop #30038	Darke Co. Birders
Garber Nature Center	Betty Byrd & Frank Marchal
Brethren Retirement Community	Family of Ashley Schutz
Family Health	
Matthew Arnold	

### Material / Service Donations

- Doss Business Systems  
*HP 6300 Pro PC*
- Tom & Sarah Bugher  
*Bird Seed*
- Steven Kolb  
*Gallon Jugs*
- Stan & Carol Cox  
*Bird Seed*
- Tina White & Mitzi Johnson  
*Gift cards for Goodwill for craft supplies*
- Pat Trocano  
*Fabric*
- Paceline Products  
*Individual Packets of Chamois Butt'r for Bike Summit*
- Brandi Brumbaugh  
*Bird seed & suet*
- Gail Schafer  
*40 gallons of water*
- Diane Martin  
*Vinyl table clothes*

### Grants Awarded

*:: Ketrow Foundation ::*

- Renovation of Nature Center Kids' Corner -

*:: Lydia Schaurer Memorial ::*

- Animal tank filters and filtration medium for one year -

# SUMMER SPECIAL EVENTS

## BIKE PARADE AT ANNIE OAKLEY DAYS PARADE

Saturday, July 29: 8am

Fairgrounds; Registration required; FREE

*Nothing says summer like bike rides and parades, so we thought why not combine the two? In conjunction with the Annie Oakley Days-parade, join Darke County Parks in celebrating our bike trail. The sky is the limit when it comes to decorating your bike! It can be colorful, themed, or simple. We just ask that you register to let us know you'll be joining us in the parade!*



## OLD FASHIONED CAMPFIRE

Friday, July 7: 8:30pm

Shawnee Prairie Preserve; Registration required; FREE



Join us for a good old-fashioned campfire! Bring a camp chair and join a naturalist for an evening of sitting around the fire, eating s'mores, listening to stories, and singing campfire songs. Bring your instrument if you'd like to play, and bring the kids for this special night of fun in your park.

## YOUR GUIDE TO OUTDOOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

### AMERICAN RED CROSS: WILDERNESS FIRST AID

August 11-13 (includes overnight camping in the park)

Shawnee Prairie Preserve; Registration required; Fee: \$159

**Check; Call; Care.** First Aid and CPR training are crucial for all to know and understand, but what happens when you're out of range of a cellular tower and no one can be called for help? During this American Red Cross Authorized Provider workshop, we will dive deep into the first aid care required in a backcountry situation. Current First Aid and CPR certification is required prior to attending the course. Beginning with a classroom session Friday evening (6-9pm), we meet again on Saturday at 9am to continue our training. The workshop will conclude on Sunday at 1pm after an overnight camping experience in the park! Spending the days outdoors, we will work through real-world scenarios as we walk the trails encountering workstations along the way. Tents can be provided if needed.



### ARCHERY

Tuesday, July 25: 6pm; Shawnee Prairie Preserve;

Ages 8 and up only please; Registration required; FREE

Whether you want to sharpen your skills or try it for the first time, we are pleased to offer an evening of archery fun. All equipment will be provided through the Ohio Division of Wildlife and our expert volunteer instructor. The instructor will lead you in the proper technique and form to have you hitting the target in no time!



# YOUR GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

## PARENT & PRESCHOOLER ADVENTURES

Parent and Preschooler Adventures is a series of monthly, hour-long programs designed to give parents and their preschoolers an opportunity to investigate nature through hands-on activities, hikes, stories, songs, and take-home projects. The "Little Explorers" Wednesday classes are for 2-3 year olds, and the "Seedlings" Thursday classes are for 4-5 year olds. **Registration is required**, and each class has a fee of \$2.00.

### JUNE - FEATHERED FRIENDS

Wed., June 14 (2-3 yr. olds); 10am-11am  
Thurs., June 15 (4-5 yr. olds); 10am-11am  
Shawnee Prairie Preserve

Discover birds through song, story, craft, and a bird walk. It's never too early to learn to use binoculars, so we'll decorate ours and head outside. Common birds seen in June are Robins, Woodpeckers, Orioles, Wrens, and Vultures. We'll have fun searching for birds in flight, on the ground, or in a tree!



### JULY - THE MAGIC OF TREES

Wed., July 12 (2-3 yr. olds); 10am-11am  
Thurs., July 13 (4-5 yr. olds); 10am-11am  
Shawnee Prairie Preserve

Trees are so important for all creatures on earth. They provide oxygen, a home for wildlife, foods, medicine, shade, and more. Your preschooler will be delighted to explore what makes trees so special through games, crafts, and science.



### AUGUST - WATER PLAY

Wed., August 16 (2-3 yr. olds); 10am-11am  
Thurs., August 17 (4-5 yr. olds); 10am-11am  
Meet @ Tecumseh Point

The hot days of August are the perfect time to cool down with some water play. Dress for wet as we'll have squirt guns, water balloons, and more water fun!



## F . O . N . D FAMILY OUTDOOR NATURE DISCOVERY

*It's no secret that we all have way too much screen time. According to Scott D. Sampson, author of How to Raise a Wild Child, "The average North American child now spends about seven hours a day staring at screens and mere minutes engaged in unstructured play outdoors, a dramatic transformation within the past generation. Yet recent research indicates that experiences in nature are essential for healthy growth. Regular exposure to nature can help relieve stress, depression, and attention deficits. It can reduce bullying, combat obesity, and boost academic scores." Darke County Parks are proud to offer this accessible, timely opportunity for families to engage in unstructured and purposeful outdoor play in our parks. Our Naturalists will provide the tools and locations for kids and their parents to explore.*

## NEW FAMILY PROGRAM!



### JOIN US MONTHLY

AT 1PM:

JUNE 17

JULY 15

AUGUST 19

ALL ACTIVITIES WILL  
TAKE PLACE AT THE  
NATURE CENTER



# CANOE/KAYAK PADDLING SKILLS

Float difficulty varies. Some are ideal for beginners; others are more suited to those with experience. Paddling outings are weather dependent, and adjustments may be necessary due to conditions. All equipment is provided. Parks' staff are certified canoe/kayak instructors. Dress for the possibility of getting wet.

## PADDLE THE GREENVILLE

Friday, June 23: 10am

Registration Required / Fee: \$10

**It's paddling season!** Grab the water bottles, and let's get on the creek! We'll launch our boats and paddle the Greenville Creek, exploring this scenic waterway. Pack your lunch as we will find a stop along the way to grab a bite to eat and then hop back on the water to finish our trip. Reserve a canoe for doubles or a kayak for solo paddling. Prior experience is not required but will prove useful.



## STRAWBERRY MOON FLOAT

Friday, July 8: 8pm

Registration Required / Fee: \$10



**Ready for adventure?!** We're going to explore the Greenville creek by the light of the Full Strawberry Moon! This float will be for those with prior experience as it will be a bit more challenging of paddle. Be sure to bring your water bottle, a headlamp, and sense of adventure! Reserve a canoe for two or solo a kayak.

## ISLANDS OF LAKE LORAMIE

Monday, August 7: 5:30pm

Meet at Shawnee Prairie / Registration Required / Fee: \$10

**Open water!** Join us as we launch our boats into the calming waters of Lake Loramie State Park. We'll meet at the Nature Center and then carpool to our put-in location. As we float through the islands of the lake, we'll enjoy wildlife and flowering plants. Please be sure to dress to get wet and bring sunscreen and plenty of drinking water. Ages 10 and up. Please call with questions. Reserve a canoe for two or solo a kayak.



## THE ART OF NATURE JOURNALING

Saturday, June 24: 9am

Shawnee Prairie Preserve / Registration Required / FREE

*Do you want a deeper appreciation of the world around you?* Do you want to record what you see on your hike? Do you want to practice your sketching or watercolor skills on an outdoor subject? Join us for a workshop on the art of nature journaling. Along with the Greenville Art Guild, we'll discuss the different styles, purposes, and media used to keep a journal (with a special focus on pen and ink, water color, and colored pencils); we'll explore journal examples and try it out for ourselves. If the weather permits, we'll be outside, so bring a lawn chair and your preferred journaling materials (ex: pens, pencils, colored pencils, tablet, journal, diary, or loose paper). Join the Greenville Art Guild for their annual "Paint Out" following the program.



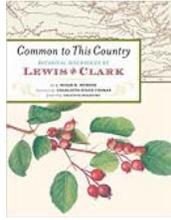
# DOWN TO EARTH BOOK CLUB

Do you like reading books by nature writers, books about the outdoors, or maybe even about pioneers first settling Ohio? The Down to Earth Book Club will feature a different book in every Nature Notes. At the end of the quarter, everyone is welcome to come discuss the work, enjoy some tasty treats, and suggest future books.

## COMMON TO THIS COUNTRY: BOTANICAL DISCOVERIES OF

### LEWIS AND CLARK

Monday, August 7: 6:30pm  
Shawnee Prairie Preserve  
Registration requested



This season we will read *Common to This Country: Botanical Discoveries of Lewis and Clark* by Susan H. Munger and Charlotte Staub Thomas (Illustrator). Lewis and Clark's 1804 to 1806 expedition to find a water route to the Pacific discovered American Indian tribes, animals unknown to science, and 178 types of plants. In exquisitely detailed and botanically accurate watercolors and intriguing essays, *Common to This Country* explores the significance and place in history of more than two dozen of these plants and chronicles Lewis' obsession with plant collecting. This beautiful guide appeals to natural history buffs and gardeners alike. Weather and mosquitoes permitting, we'll discuss the book outside. Please bring a lawn chair, and give us a call to let us know you plan on participating.

Do you like butterflies? Worried about declining populations? We need you! Each and every Friday (with temps above 60 and no rain) at 1pm, we'll hike and record all butterflies observed. These numbers will then be sent on to the Ohio Lepidopterists for scientific study. Join us!



## HELP US MONITOR BUTTERFLY POPULATIONS

Fridays @ 1pm  
Shawnee Prairie Preserve

# 3 Months At A Glance

## YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DARKE COUNTY PARKS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>June</b>						
				1 Canoe&Kayak Meeting 7pm	2 Breeding Bird Survey 7am ----- Butterfly Monitoring 1p	3 Log House Area Open 1-4pm
4 Nature Center & Park Office -Closed -	5	6 Friends of DCP Meeting 6:30pm	7	8 DCP Board Meeting 4pm	9 Butterfly Monitoring 1pm	10 Log House Area Open 1-4pm
11 Nature Center & Park Office -Closed -	12 Stamp into Nature -- Ages 6-9 -- 9:30am-12pm*		13	14	15	16 F.O.N.D. 1pm Council House Open 1-3pm Log House Area Open 1-4pm
	Let's Paddle -- Ages 10-12 -- 1pm - 4pm*					
		Gardeners Meeting 12pm	Photo Club 7pm	Little Explorers Preschool 10am*	Seedlings Preschool 10am*	Butterfly Monitoring 1pm
18 Nature Center & Park Office -Closed -	19	20 Things with Wings -- Ages 6-7 -- 10am - 12pm*		21	22 Paddle the Greenville 10am*	23 Art of Nature Journals 9am*
	Volunteer Shenanigans: 6:30pm*		~Summer Solstice~		Butterfly Monitoring 1pm	Log House Area Open 1-4pm
25 Nature Center & Park Office -Closed -	26	Rocks -- Ages 6-7 -- 10am- 12pm*				
		Birders Meeting 7pm			Butterfly Monitoring 1pm	
6		Unless indicated, all programs begin at Shawnee Prairie Preserve.		Programs marked with (*) require registration.		● - New Moon ○ - Full Moon ◐ - First Quarter ◑ - Last Quarter

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>July</h1>						1 <i>Log House Area Open 1-4pm</i>
2 Nature Center & Park Office -Closed -	3	4 Independence Day Nature Center - Closed -	5 <b>Christmas in July -- Ages 6-9 -- 10am-12pm*</b>	6 Nature of Tecumseh Trail 6:30pm Canoe & Kayak Meeting 7pm	7 Old Fashioned Campfire 8:30pm Butterfly Monitoring 1pm	8 Strawberry Moon Float 8pm* <i>Log House Area Open 1-4pm</i>
9 Nature Center & Park Office -Closed -	10 <b>Trail Blazers -- Ages 8-9 -- 10am - 12pm*</b> <i>Volunteer Shenanigans 1pm*</i>	11 Gardeners Meeting 12pm Photo Club 7pm	12 Little Explorers Preschool 10am*	13 Seedlings Preschool 10am* DCP Board Meeting 4pm	14 Butterfly Monitoring 1pm	15 F.O.N.D. 1pm Council House Open 1-3pm <i>Log House Area Open 1-4p</i>
16 Nature Center & Park Office -Closed -	<b>Adventure Zone - Ages 13-15 - 10a-4pm*</b>					22
23 Nature Center -Closed - Nature Center -Closed -	24 <b>Ocean Explorers</b>	25 Archery 6pm*	26	27	28	29 Bike Parade 8am* <b>See us at the Gathering at Garst this weekend!</b> <i>Log House Area Open 1-4p</i>
30	31 <b>Survive Camp</b>	Birders Meeting 7pm			Butterfly Monitoring 1pm	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>August</h1>						5 Raptor Run/Walk 5K 8am
6 Nature Center & Park Office -Closed -	7 Islands of Loramie 5:30pm* Down to Earth Book Club 6:30pm*	8 Gardeners Meeting 12pm Photo Club 7pm	9	10 Canoe & Kayak Meeting 7pm DCP Board Meeting 4pm	11 Butterfly Monitoring 1pm <b>Wilderness First Aid*</b>	12 Council House Open 1-3pm <i>Log House Area Open 1-4p</i>
13 <b>Wilderness First Aid*</b> Nature Center & Park Office -Closed -	14 <i>Volunteer Shenanigans: Roadtrip! 7:30am*</i>	15	16 Little Explorers Preschool 10am*	17 Seedlings Preschool 10am*	18 Butterfly Monitoring 1pm <b>Come See Us @ The Fair</b>	19 F.O.N.D. 1pm <i>Log House Area Open 1-4p</i>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 <b>Come See Us @ The Darke County Fair</b> <i>Log House Area Open 1-4p</i>
27 Nature Center & Park Office -Closed -	28 Volunteer Appreciation 7pm*	29	30	31 Evening on the Prairie 7pm Bats of Ohio 9pm		

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**PRAIRIE DAYS**  
 is almost here!  
 Saturday, September 23: 10a-5p & Sunday, September 24: 12p-5p  
**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

# YOUR GUIDE TO NATURAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

## BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

Friday, June 2: 7am  
Shawnee Prairie Preserve / FREE

Join us as we record the breeding birds of Shawnee Prairie. We will hike the trails to record the birds that are nesting to add to the records of the district. We will start early and continue through the morning hours keeping track of the species observed and heard throughout. Bring your walking shoes, binoculars, and a trail-side snack as this could be a lengthy walk.



## NATURE CENTER ANIMAL TOUR

Wednesday, July 19: 6:30pm  
Shawnee Prairie Preserve / Registration Required / FREE

Have you met our resident animal ambassadors? Learn why these animals live at the Nature Center and what it takes to care for them on a daily basis. Find out why each and every animal is an important part of the ecosystem and how you can help to keep them safe. Bring a friend and prepare to have an up-close encounter as you see (and possibly touch!) some of the amazing animals that call Darke County home.

## NATURE OF THE TECUMSEH TRAIL

JULY 6: 6:30pm  
Meet at Shawnee Prairie Preserve / FREE

The Tecumseh Trail traverses many habitats, so let's take a walk and see what we can find! We'll explore the newly completed section of the trail and enjoy a peaceful walk along Bridge Creek. We will hope for wildflowers, birds, and maybe a frog or two! Wear comfortable walking shoes, bring binoculars if you have them, and a water bottle.



## AN EVENING ON THE PRAIRIE

Thursday, August 31: 7pm  
Shawnee Prairie Preserve / FREE

The prairies come alive in late summer. Join us for a leisurely stroll through the prairies of Shawnee Prairie. We will discover a variety of blooms, butterflies, and other pollinating insects, while enjoying a summer evening's walk. Bring water and dress for the weather. After this program, be sure to join us for a talk and demonstration of bat technology (see below).



## BATS OF OHIO

Thursday, August 31: 9pm  
Shawnee Prairie Preserve / FREE

Thank you to a generous anonymous donor, we are excited to offer a new Bats of Ohio program. We are now able to incorporate bat echolocation technology while monitoring the bats in our parks. Using state-of-the-art bat detecting software and an iPad, we will be able to translate the echolocations of bats as they hunt over the prairie! Don't miss this opportunity to combine technology and nature while focusing on the most important of insect-eating mammals.





# Naturalist Corner



## NATURAL HISTORY

When I became a naturalist, they told me I would teach both cultural and natural history, but what exactly is "natural" history? I wondered. Simply put, it's the "science" side of our park programs, but to me the phrase "natural history" has always meant much more. It means getting to share the vital importance of pollinators with the bee fearer. It means seeing the pride and appreciation for our ancestors naturally grow in kids as they cook over the fire, and most importantly it means sharing the beauty and bounty the park has to offer.

Slowly, naturally, that history with the parks develops in each of us. Those memories, whether from a school field trip to the wetlands, a day spent planting prairie plants with volunteers, or a casual stroll through the woods, are what tomorrow's parks are made of. Helping others develop their own "natural history" with the land, the history, and the park is the best part of being a naturalist. It didn't take long to cultivate the wonder of our parks that I enjoy sharing with others. I will never forget the awe I felt watching a Monarch emerge from a chrysalis for

the first time or seeing the kids' satisfaction when they tasted the meal they'd cooked over the fire at camp last summer. Just a few weeks ago, I witnessed our honeybees swarm and seized the chance to ask our bee keeper a plethora of questions about this amazing occurrence I'd never seen

before. We never stop learning. Throughout my time here I've also had the privilege of learning from, teaching, and working with dozens of talented and interesting people from all walks of life, and all of them had one thing in common, a deep desire to do, to learn, and to connect. I hope I've made a mark on their natural history, but I know they all have made a mark on mine. In almost two years, the passion I've developed here has changed my life. As I move on to the next chapter of my career, I will always be grateful for the skills, friends, and memories I hold dear. From going zip lining with the adventure camp my third week on the job to hosting the log house for every kind of history program you can imagine, this has been the most fun position I have ever had. Thank you all for taking me in to the Darke County Parks family and making me a part of the natural history of such a beautiful and special place.

I want to encourage all of you to explore the parks this summer and develop your own natural history in whatever way seems right to you. Take a walk, learn a new skill, take a float down the creek, or volunteer. These are OUR Darke County Parks, and I plan to spend my summer enjoying them right alongside you!

Hannah Wiest, Naturalist (2015-2017)



## YOUR GUIDE TO PIONEER LIVING PROGRAMS

### LOG HOUSE / BLACKSMITH SHOP OPEN

Select Saturdays 1 - 4pm  
Shawnee Prairie Preserve

Imagine working in a blacksmith shop or living in a log house. Come visit the settlers and blacksmith on select Saturday afternoons as volunteers demonstrate what life was like on the Ohio frontier over 200 years ago. Hear the hammer and anvil ring and listen to tales of life on the frontier for an afternoon and imagine that our modern world doesn't exist. Due to the availability of our volunteer pioneers and blacksmiths, the log house and blacksmith shop may not be able to be opened each Saturday. Please call the Nature Center to confirm dates.



### VISIT THE COUNCIL HOUSE

Saturdays, June 17, July 15, and August 12: 1-3pm  
Anthony Wayne Peace Council House

Join us on these select dates, and visit the Anthony Wayne Peace Council House, located at Prairie Ridge Meadow. Visit with our historical "long hunter" volunteer as he explains the purpose of the building, how many Native American tribes signed the Treaty of Greene Ville, and what activities took place in the longhouse. Stop by and learn the answers to these questions and more.

# FRIENDS OF THE DARKE COUNTY PARKS

Organized in 1995, the Friends of the Darke County Park District is a 501(c)3 corporation whose mission is to "Promote and support the mission of the Darke County Parks through volunteerism and fund-raising". The Friends strive to increase public awareness and appreciation of the beauty found within Darke County Parks. Their volunteerism shows throughout the county through Adopt-a-Waterway & Highway programs, helping staff run events such as Prairie Days, hosting the Waffle Breakfast, managing the Endowment Fund, and staffing the gift shop in the Nature Center. Business meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month beginning at 6:30pm, with a gathering or program being held at 7pm immediately following the business meeting. Please Join Us!

## A Message from the Friends:

Another year is under our belts with a great turnout for The Friends annual waffle breakfast. Thanks to everyone who came out to support this event. A big thanks to all the volunteers for the outstanding jobs they did. A very special thank you goes out to Ivan and Jason Garber, the owners of The Butcher Block and Smoke House for their generous donation of the sausage patties, Kent Shafer for his donation of water, and Kitchenaid for their donation of the waffle makers.

A new event has been established by friends and park staff members which is called "Every Woman Has A Story". There will be a guest speaker and great food at each brunch at a cost of \$20.00.

Our first brunch was a success with guest speaker Mitzi Johnson on collectible glassware. Our next brunch will be August 12th and can be paid for at the Nature Center.

The Friends of the Darke County Parks need new members with new and fresh ideas to share. Our meetings are the 1st Tuesday of the month, so please come join us!

Barbie Hansbarger, President of the Friends

## Meetings

June 6

July

no meeting due to holiday

August 1



## The Olde Thyme Gardeners

The Olde Thyme Gardeners have a strong interest in heritage and pioneer gardening techniques used in the 19th century. They also maintain the heirloom garden adjacent to the Log House at Shawnee Prairie Preserve. No special training is necessary to become a member; the only requirement is an interest in gardening practices of 1800-1820 and a love of growing things. Meetings are held each month at 12pm. Contact them at:

Blog- <http://oldethymegarden.blogspot.com/>  
E-mail- [oldethymegardener@gmail.com](mailto:oldethymegardener@gmail.com)

## Meetings

June 13  
July 11  
August 8



Join us in the Pioneer Garden this season!

## DARKE COUNTY CANOE & KAYAK CLUB

The Darke County Canoe and Kayak Club was organized to promote canoeing and kayaking. In non-paddling months, we enjoy hiking. The club is open to all experienced paddlers. Beginning paddlers can learn through the parks' instructional programs. Our meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7pm in the Nature Center. For updates and to reserve space on a trip, call Carol Hathaway at 937.547.0220.

## Meetings

June 1  
July 6  
August 3



## Field Trips

June 24:

*Paddle the Great Miami River- Tipp City to Taylorsville*

July 15:

*Paddle the Mad River near Urbana*

August 12:

*Paddle @ Lake Loramie*

*Destinations and times subject to change according to weather and water levels; please contact Carol Hathaway (see above) for plans.*

## DARKE COUNTY PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The Darke County Photography Club was formed in 1995 and promotes photography in & around Darke County. Presentations are also given by guest speakers on all subjects of photography. Whether you are a beginner or advanced photographer, all are invited to attend the monthly meetings held the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Shawnee Prairie Preserve Nature Center.



June 13

July 11

August 8



Meet Randy Minnich, this quarter's Volunteer in the Spotlight! A year ago Randy started as an Adopt-A-Park volunteer and today still walks many of our parks to report damage or downed trees. His volunteerism has grown to include making maple syrup, working on the bike trail, and splitting wood. A retired resident of Darke County, Randy enjoys art, reading, hiking, and bicycling. He enjoys helping the parks because he knows how pivotal his role is in our organization, and he loves working outside and within our parks. Randy encourages others to volunteer because the need is so great, you get a feeling of satisfaction, and you meet new friends. He would like to see the continuation of nature programming for the community along with increasing the number of parks with walking trails. The continuing growth and development of the new bike trail is also important to him. Thank you Randy for your dedication to the park!

## VOLUNTEER IN THE SPOTLIGHT



"THOSE WHO CAN, DO.  
THOSE WHO CAN DO MORE, VOLUNTEER."

First, I want to thank everyone for a very successful maple syrup season! Collecting, boiling, and the breakfast went smoothly, and it is all because of you! Second, let's talk about spring and how it makes everything feel brand new. I took a brief walk through the woods today and just stopped to look at all of the tiny bits of life emerging and the sounds of birds high above my head. Even further investigation revealed "hummingbird bees" (that are not bees!), cabbage white butterflies, and tiger beetles. I invite all of you to take the time to look, listen, and feel the nature in our parks - even if you feel like you know it well. As a volunteer, you are the heart of the park and being able to convey this feeling to others in the community will keep our parks strong and vibrant. I hope to see you soon in the park.

-Kathi McQueen: Volunteer Coordinator

## Volunteer Corner



### VOLUNTEERS IN THE FIELD

Larry Blosser explains the intricate details of boiling sorghum during Prairie Days 2016.



## VOLUNTEER SHENANIGANS

Welcome to Volunteer Shenanigans! These social gatherings and workshops will allow you to grow your skills, help with group projects, explore other nature centers/parks, and have fun! Even if you aren't sure about the topic, join us for a enjoyable, social gathering!

We hope you will attend often and see this as a small reward for all that you give us. Thank you.

*Register with Kathi, so we know you are coming!*

- ❑ June 19, 6:30pm - The Story of Water
- ❑ July 10, 1pm - Creek walk at Worth
- ❑ August 14, 7:30am - Siebenthaler Fen with Greene Co. Parks
- ❑ August 28, 7pm - Volunteer Appreciation



## DARKE COUNTY BIRDERS CLUB



The Darke County Birders Club is open to beginning and experienced birders alike. Monthly meetings include a short business session followed by a program on a variety of topics. The club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at Shawnee Prairie Preserve Nature Center. Monthly field trips begin at the Nature Center where directions and carpooling opportunities are discussed. For more information, contact Steve Miller at 547-3340.

### PROGRAMS, MEETINGS, & TRIPS

Breeding Bird Survey  
Saturday, June 10, 7am  
Meet at Becky and Terry Hartnagle's farm for the annual census of breeding birds in Darke County.

Seize the Summer at Cedar  
Sunday, June 18, 7am  
We will head to Cedar Bog to get a jump on summer birding.

Meeting  
Tuesday, June 27, 7pm  
6pm: Pre-meeting Hike at Chestnut Street Marsh  
7pm: Edible Plants: Naturalist Robb Clifford shares his passion for edible plants.

Birding the Stillwater River  
Saturday, July 8, 12:30pm  
We'll bird by car various river spots in Darke and Miami Counties.

Back on the Road Again  
Sunday, July 16, 7am  
We'll return to Indiana to bird at Salamonie Reservoir and State Forest.

Meeting  
Tuesday, July 25, 7pm  
6pm: Pre-meeting Hike at Chestnut Street Marsh  
7pm: Snakes are Us: Chad Arment talks about snakes in Ohio.

Centerville Indiana  
Sunday, August 6, 7am  
Birding at Mary Gray Sanctuary and other areas.

Early Shore Birds  
Saturday, August 12, 12:30pm  
Woods Road wetland may reveal the start of fall migration...

Meeting  
Tuesday, August 22, 7pm  
6pm: Pre-meeting Hike at Chestnut Street Marsh  
7pm: Panama Paradise: Margaret Hensel returns for another world birding trip

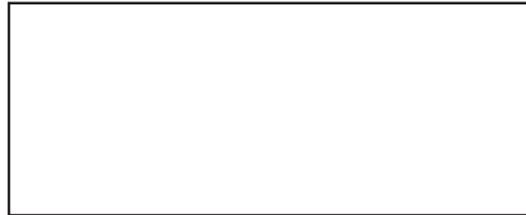
# Darke County Parks

P.O. Box 801  
4267 State Route 502  
Greenville, OH 45331  
Voice: 937.548.0165  
Fax: 937.548.2935  
www.darkecountyparks.org



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## Quarterly Question:

How many instars does the Monarch caterpillar have?

Email your answer to [info@darkecountyparks.org](mailto:info@darkecountyparks.org)

*Last quarter's correct answer: Spring Peeper (Pseudacris crucifer) are known to sing as early as February! Congrats to Larry Wolf for submitting the correct answer.*

## WISH LIST

If you have any of the following items and would be willing to donate them to Darke County Parks, please contact the park office at 548-0165. Your donations are tax deductible.

- Birdseed (black oil sunflower preferred)
- 100% wool blankets
- Nightcrawlers for critter food
- Pre-packed snacks for summer camps
- Bottled water for summer camps
- Storage tote containers (small, medium, and large)
- Small "Audubon" bird song wall clock

### Darke County Parks Contacts

*Director/Secretary* - Roger Van Frank

*Chief Naturalist* - Robb Clifford

*Naturalist* - Mandy Martin

*Volunteer Coordinator/Naturalist* - Kathi McQueen

*Administrative Assistant* - Deb Shiverdecker

*Parks Maintenance* - Wayne Nichols

### Board of Park Commissioners

John M. Cook, President

Roger L. Brocius, Vice-President

Tina E. White, Commissioner-At-Large

Questions about the newsletter or operations of the park district may be directed to 937.548.0165

Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm, or send an email to [info@darkecountyparks.org](mailto:info@darkecountyparks.org).

# HEY KIDS!

## GET OUTSIDE THIS SUMMER!

For over a decade, Darke County Parks summer camps have been an annual tradition for families. In our continued commitment to get kids outside to learn, appreciate and enjoy nature, we offer two styles of camps.

*Don't wait! Complete the included registration forms, and mail your payment today.*

*Space is limited and fills up quickly. We can't wait!*

### Day Camps

These classic day camps are similar to the format of camps we have been offered for over a decade! Most camps feature crafts, take-home items, and lots of nature and fun!

<p>Ages 6-7</p> <p><small>*Participants must have completed kindergarten*</small></p>	<p><u>THINGS WITH WINGS</u> Monday, June 19 - Friday, June 23 10am - 12pm Fee: \$65 (due: May 22)</p> <hr/> <p><b>Bats have wings. Birds have wings. Seeds have wings!</b> There are so many things with wings that we'll need a whole week devoted to exploring them all. Floating, soaring, flying, or gliding are all reasons why things have wings. From mammals to insects we'll discover flight, the shape of wings and more.</p>	<p><u>ROCKS</u> Monday, June 26 - Friday, June 30 10am - 12pm Fee: \$65 (due: May 29)</p> <hr/> <p><b>Discover types of rocks</b> and famous rock formations as we investigate rocks and minerals. Through hands-on activities, we'll be exploring the three types of rocks and how they are formed. We'll finish out the week with gem screening and geode cracking presented by Geologist Mike Manning.</p>	<p>Ages 6-7</p> <p><small>*Participants must have completed kindergarten*</small></p>
<p>Ages 8-9</p>	<p><u>TRAILBLAZERS</u> Monday, July 10 - Friday, July 14 10am - 12pm Fee: \$70 (due: June 12)</p> <hr/> <p><b>Packs, trail mix, and walking sticks</b> in hand mean we're ready to hit the trails. We'll learn how to prepare for hiking the back country and go exploring! Daily adventures through the parks and trails of Darke County Parks will include a creek hike and even a scavenger hunt.</p>	<p><u>OCEAN EXPLORERS</u> Monday, July 24 - Friday, July 28 10am - 12pm Fee: \$70 (due: June 26)</p> <hr/> <p><b>What does the ocean</b> have to do with landlocked Ohio? Everything! Discover our ties to the ocean, both historically and now, while exploring the park and doing fun experiments. Each day we will investigate a different type of marine animal while learning how we impact their survival.</p>	<p>Ages 8-9</p>
<p>Ages 10-12</p>	<p><u>LET'S PADDLE</u> Monday, June 12 - Friday, June 16 1pm - 4pm Fee: \$75 (due: May 15)</p> <p><b>Canoe, kayak, and camp!</b> An annual favorite, this camp will spend the week on the water learning to paddle canoes and kayaks. At week's end, we'll set up a base camp on the lakeshore! There will be a single overnight experience with this camp.</p>	<p><u>SURVIVE THE OHIO TERRITORY</u> Monday, July 31 - Friday, August 4 10am - 12pm Fee: \$75 (due: July 1)</p> <p><b>Do you have what it takes to survive?</b> Can you manage your food, health, and keep your family alive out there in the wilds of the Ohio Territory? We'll learn the basics and try our hand at firestarting, water purification, shelter building and wilderness first aid!</p>	<p>Ages 10-12</p>
<p>Ages 13-15</p>	<p><u>ADVENTURE ZONE</u> Monday, July 17 - Friday, July 21 10am - 4pm Fee: \$125 (due: June 19)</p> <p><b>Get outside with Darke County Parks.</b> Our goal for the week is to have great adventures in the outdoors! We'll explore nature in a more active role during this camp. In the years past we have zip-lined, mountain biked, kayaked, and rock climbed. Register today for this adventure based camp! There will be a single overnight experience with this camp.</p>		<p>Ages 13-15</p>

# HEY KIDS! GET OUTSIDE THIS SUMMER!

For over a decade, Darke County Parks summer camps have been an annual tradition for families. In our continued commitment to get kids outside to learn, appreciate and enjoy nature, we offer two styles of camps.

*Don't wait! Complete the included registration forms, and mail your payment today.  
Space is limited and fills up quickly. We can't wait!*

## Mini Day Camps

These mini day camps are a newer style of camps that allow even more children to learn about their natural world. These camps offer a condensed program with 3-days of camp involving hands-on activity, take-home crafts, and lots of time outdoors!

## S U M M E R M I N I - C A M P S

Ages  
6-9

\*Participants must have completed kindergarten\*

STAMP INTO NATURE  
Monday, June 12 - Wednesday June 14  
9:30am - 12pm  
Fee: \$30 (due: May 15)

**Stamps, ink pad, and log book in hand!** It sounds like you are ready to hit the trails and start Letterboxing. Letterboxing is an outdoor hobby which combines hiking, orienteering, treasure hunting, and puzzle solving. Campers will get the chance to create their own trail name, carve stamps, and go letterboxing!

Ages  
6-9

\*Participants must have completed kindergarten\*

Ages  
6-9

\*Participants must have completed kindergarten\*

CHRISTMAS IN JULY  
Wednesday, July 5 - Friday, July 7  
10am - 12pm  
Fee: \$30 (due: June 8)

**Let it snow!** In December, the Nature Center is filled with the Christmas spirit as over a dozen trees sparkle with the joy of the season. During this holiday-themed camp, the participants will create ornaments which will adorn a tree in the center this December! We'll also explore snow in July and play Christmas themed games to keep our spirits bright.

Ages  
6-9

\*Participants must have completed kindergarten\*

## S U M M E R M I N I - C A M P S



Darke County Park District  
P.O. Box 801  
Greenville, OH 45331  
937-548-0165



**SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION:**  
*(Please PRINT Clearly)*

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Camper's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age Group Camp Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_ (Youth/adult sizes)

Name of Camp(s) Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell/Work/Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Cell/Work/Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell/Work/Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

***\*Please indicate Primary person to call in Emergency by circling one name from above!\****

Alternate Authorized Pick-up Persons \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Doctor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_ Policy# \_\_\_\_\_

**Allergies (food/ medicine/ etc.)** \_\_\_\_\_

Prescription Medications Being Taken \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Medical Conditions** \_\_\_\_\_



Darke County Park District  
SUMMER CAMP  
WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I/We, the undersigned parent(s)/guardian(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print) a minor under the age of eighteen (18) years, do hereby grant permission for said minor to participate in the Summer Camp Programs sponsored by the Darke County Park District. In consideration of being permitted to participate and recognizing these activities may take place in environs which may be inherently dangerous I /we, intending to be legally bound, hereby, for myself/ourselves and my/our heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns voluntarily assume all risks undertaken by my/our child/ my ward/ our ward participating in this activity and release and forever discharge the Darke County Park District, its employees, commissioners, volunteers, agents, and all affiliated sponsors from any and all liability for personal injury or property damage of any kind sustained in association with participation in this program, whether such personal injury or property damage is caused by negligence of the Darke County Park District, its employees, its commissioners, its volunteers, its agents, and any of its affiliated sponsors. In addition, I/We give full permission to use photos taken during camp activities of you or your child/ward (no names will be used) for future publications and media issued by the Darke County Park District.

By signing below, I/We agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Darke County Park District, its employees, its commissioners, its volunteers, its agents, and all of its affiliated sponsors from any and all liability, claim, demand, loss, cost or expense arising out of any personal injury or property damage, including, but not limited to, legal expenses, and the cost of the defense thereof, in any matter arising from the participation of said minor in the activities of the Darke County Park District.

I/We further agree that said minor will abide by all applicable rules and requirements for participation promulgated by the Darke County Park District and will follow the directives of instructors who are connected with these activities. I/We understand that failure to follow these rules may result in denial to further participate in these activities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (please print)