

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF  
DARKE COUNTY PARKS

Spring 2018



Darke  
County Parks

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Nature Notes

## MAPLE SUGARING AT THE PRAIRIE WAFFLE BREAKFAST



Saturday, March 3: 8am - 12pm  
Shawnee Prairie Preserve



*Freezing nights and thawing days* are the start to a bottle of maple syrup! This early spring event at Shawnee Prairie offers guided tours through history and science as we learn the process of turning sap into syrup. Hands-on stations will allow for the discovery of this fascinating spring ritual. After our tour of the woods, we'll visit the sugar shack where you can warm up in the steam-filled evaporator room as the sap spends countless hours boiling down to syrup. Be sure to stop by the log house or blacksmith shop to visit with our pioneer volunteers, and the Nature Center gift shop (full of maple goodies) to complete your day at the prairie. Tours will begin at 8am.



*The Friends of the Parks* will once again be serving up a hearty breakfast of waffles, sausage, juice, coffee, and pure maple syrup for just a \$6 donation towards the Friends' mission! Children ages 3-12 are only a \$3 donation and those under 3 years old are free! After breakfast, take a maple syrup tour, grab some fantastic maple-themed baked goods, enter the 50/50 raffle, and visit the log house historical area. Stop by the Nature Center to purchase your pre-sale tickets, or tickets can be bought at the door. Breakfast will be served from 8am-12pm.



*(Additional sausage can be purchased for an extra \$1.)*



# Yours To Discover...

## Senses of the Season

Imagine a place where you could plant a small garden, immerse yourself in education, and mingle with others in your community who share your hobby. Now imagine the space is right here in Greenville!

It is with excitement that we announce the start of a community/educational garden at the new Bish Discovery Center. The money provided through the RAB Lighting grant will fund raised beds, rain barrels, cold frames, a pergola and more. It is our hope to have the raised beds constructed and ready for the community to use by the fall of 2018, with a plan for full completion by spring 2019. We expect approximately 70% of the space devoted to community gardening and 30% for education. The educational aspect, including development of programming that will meet educational standards, will come with collaboration with local schools and teachers who want to explore gardening with their students.

Keep looking on our Facebook page, and upcoming newsletters for more information on this project as it develops. If you want to be a part of this project, call or email the Nature Center to see where you can help. ~Kathi McQueen: Naturalist



## A Word from the Director

Spring always brings new changes and growth. The wildflowers of Routzong Preserve, the recently planted pollinator



meadows at Shawnee Prairie and Alice Bish Park, and the newest endeavor of the Park District, the Bish Discovery Center. Previously the Spencer Landscape and Lawn building located on 404 Ohio Street north in Greenville, this center will serve as a multipurpose facility. In addition, the

2.883 acres will help to serve as a buffer zone to the Alice Bish Park and further preserve the riparian corridor along the State Scenic River Greenville Creek. Pollinator fields have already been planted for a first growing season, community gardens and educational plots for the schools are planned. Rain barrel and collector vessels for the gardens will be on display, solar power and a small wind generator are planned, along with other exciting displays in and around the Discovery Center over the next two-year period. Darke County Parks submitted a grant for Greenspace acquisition from the Clean Ohio Fund and was very fortunate to receive funding towards the purchase. Watch as the Bish Discovery Center begins its transformation. Remember the benefits of Parks and Recreation are endless. ~Roger Van Frank: Director

## SAVE THE DATE FOR SUMMER CAMPS!



Ages 6-7: JUNE 25-29: 10AM-12PM  
EGG-CITING SCIENCE - \$65

Ages 6-7: JULY 16-20: 10AM-12PM  
STICKS & STONES - \$65

Ages 7-11: JUNE 11-15: 10AM-12PM  
STAMP INTO NATURE - \$65

Ages 8-9: JUNE 18-22: 10AM-12PM  
EARTH NINJAS - \$75

Ages 8-9: JULY 23-27: 10AM-12PM  
MAD SCIENTISTS- \$75

Ages 8-12: JULY 5-6: THURS. 1PM - FRI. 11AM  
NATURE AT NIGHT - \$45\*

Ages 10-12: JUNE 11-15: 1PM-4PM  
VOYAGERS - \$95\*

Ages 13-15: JULY 9-13: 10AM-4PM  
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE - \$135\*

Camps with a "\*" indicate a single overnight experience

## Volunteer in the Spotlight

Meet Phill Hollinger, this quarter's Volunteer in the Spotlight! With more than 10 years of volunteering under his belt, Phill has not only assisted with but led park programs. Whether the topic is as complicated as Fibonacci or as fun as kites, Phill brings intellect and fun to everything he does. The popular station of Pioneer Toys during our Prairie Days event would not be possible without Phill and it remains one of his favorite parts of volunteering. Retired from a career in Aerospace Vehicle Engine Maintenance, Phill now has time to enjoy nature, travel and visit National Parks. He has visited more than 36 countries and all 50 states so far. His advice to new volunteers is to find something you are interested in and start volunteering in that area. In the future, Phill would like to see the park obtain the property on both sides of the Shawnee Prairie entrance. Thank you Phill for your hard work and dedication!



## Thank You for Your Generosity

### Grants Awarded:

☐ Harry D. Stephens Memorial Inc.

### In Memory of:

"In Memory of Ron Gilbert" - Sandy Hoying

### Donations for Room Use/Programs Given:

☐ Brethren Retirement Community

☐ Randolph County Garden Club

☐ Darke County Health Department ☐ Darke County Civic Theatre

### Monetary / Material / Service Donations:

Kent Peacock; Friends of the Darke Co. Parks; Regina Schieltz; Village Green; Sherry Martin, Doss Business Systems; Tina White; Pam Pyle; Mark Mills; Deb Shiverdecker; Malinda Linebaugh; The Orme Hardware Company; Jim Kelch; Lowe's Home Improvement (Greenville); Eileen Litchfield/Phoenix Committee; Grilliot Tree Trimming; Dave & Mara Cox; Charles Lange; John & Patti Clifford; Sarah Hunter & Sophie Mills; Holly Besecker/Darke CO. Rabbit Raisers 4-H Club; Ronda Miley; John Labig; Craig Kinnison; Timmons Water Systems; Marilyn Banks; Ginger Gilbert; Everyone who donated towards: Candlelight Dinners, Walking in a Winter Wonderland decorations and event preparations

# Discovery Awaits...



## March

### FULL WORM MOON HIKE

March 1, 7pm: Routzong Preserve  
FREE

### WAFFLE BREAKFAST & SUGARBUSH TOURS

March 3, Shawnee Prairie Preserve  
Waffle Tickets: \$6 Adult / \$3 children  
Annual Friends' Waffle Breakfast is a favorite for many! Maple Tours will begin at 8am and are FREE.

### PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

Tuesdays 9-11am & Wednesdays 3-5pm  
Shawnee Prairie Preserve; FREE

### WORMFARMING 101

March 13, 6:30pm: Bish Discovery Center  
Registration Required FREE  
Discover how vermicomposting helps the environment while naturalist staff leads you through all aspects of worm bin care.  
*\*Informational Only - no worms or bins provided.*

### PARENT & PRESCHOOLER ADVENTURES: BIRD NESTS

2-3 Year Olds: March 14, 10am  
4-5 Year Olds: March 15, 10am  
Registration Required \$2

### F.O.N.D.

March 17, 1pm: Shawnee Prairie Preserve  
FREE  
Family Outdoor Nature Discoveries: explore what nature has provided for the day!

### NATIVE ANIMAL ENCOUNTER

March 24, 10am: Shawnee Prairie Preserve  
FREE  
Turtle, snake, bats or owl? Come visit today.

### EGG DYEING; NATURALLY!

March 24, 2pm: Bish Discovery Center  
Registration Required FREE

"The creation of a thousand forests is  
in one acorn"  
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

## We want You!

We are always looking for volunteers to help out within the Parks. We have a variety of ways you can volunteer, whether it be assisting with animal care, school groups, or festival stations; there is something for everyone. Stop by the Nature Center today to get registered as a volunteer... we can't do it without YOU!

## April

### SPRING MIGRATION BIRD HIKES

April 7, 10, 17, 24: 9am  
Shawnee Prairie Preserve; FREE

### SPRING STARGAZE

April 13, 8:30pm: Shawnee Prairie Preserve  
FREE  
Stillwater Stargazers lend their expertise for an evening with the stars!

### GEOCACHING 101

April 16, 6:30pm  
Bish Discovery Center  
Registration Required FREE

### RAISED BED GARDENING

April 17, 6:30pm  
Bish Discovery Center  
Registration Required FREE  
Discover the advantages and simplicity of using raised garden beds, explore building materials, planting suggestions, and more.  
No gardening experience necessary!

### PARENT & PRESCHOOLER ADVENTURES: KITES

2-3 Year Olds: April 18, 10am  
4-5 Year Olds: April 19, 10am  
Registration Required \$2

### EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

April 21, 1pm: Bish Discovery Center  
FREE  
Join us for an Earth Day Clean up at our new Bish Discovery Center! We'll clean up the earth in celebration of Earth Day!

### F.O.N.D.

April 21, 1pm: Shawnee Prairie Preserve  
FREE  
Family Outdoor Nature Discoveries: Join us at Bish for the above Clean Up

### NATIVE ANIMAL ENCOUNTER

April 28, 10am: Shawnee Prairie Preserve  
FREE  
Turtle, snake, bats or owl? Come visit today.

### FULL PINK MOON HIKE

April 30, 9pm  
Eidson Woods Preserve  
FREE



## May

### SPRING MIGRATION BIRD HIKES

May 1, 5, 8, 22, 26, 29: 9am  
Shawnee Prairie Preserve; FREE

### DOWN TO EARTH BOOK CLUB:

"THE NATURE FIX" BY FLORENCE WILLIAMS  
May 7, 6:30pm: Shawnee Prairie Preserve  
Registration Required

### F.O.N.D.

May 12, 1pm: Shawnee Prairie Preserve  
FREE  
Family Outdoor Nature Discoveries: explore what nature has provided for the day!

### BIRDING THE BOARDWALK

May 15, 7am-5pm  
Shawnee Prairie Preserve  
Registration Required Fee: \$10  
Travel with a Park District Naturalist to Magee Marsh's famed boardwalk for a day of birdwatching! Expect to see well over 40 species of birds, many up close!

### PARENT & PRESCHOOLER ADVENTURES: FLOWERS

2-3 Year Olds: May 16, 10am  
4-5 Year Olds: May 17, 10am  
Registration Required \$2

### NATIVE PLANT SALE

May 19, 10am-3pm: Shawnee Prairie  
Pre-order your native plants and get a jump on the gardening season! See our website.

### BIKE THE TECUMSEH TRAIL

May 24, 6pm  
Registration Required  
Bring your bike (and helmets) and meet us for a bike ride to see the trail! Call to know where to join us.

### NATIVE ANIMAL ENCOUNTER

May 26, 11am: Shawnee Prairie Preserve  
FREE  
Turtle, snake, bats or owl? Come visit today.

### TRY KAYAKING

May 31, 6pm: Meet at Bish Discovery Center  
Registration Required (ages 10+); FREE  
Paddle a kayak for the first time (or third) and get familiar with these popular boats on easy flat water.



# OUTDOOR EXPLORATION & CLASSROOM PROGRAM GUIDE

Teachers! Darke County Parks' outdoor adventure and in-classroom programs are designed to enhance Ohio's curriculum standards and incorporate inquiry based learning activities. Through hands-on exploration, students are encouraged to make discoveries about the natural world and evaluate their findings. Teachers, give us a call today to help us get your students into nature!



## NATURALIST IN THE CLASSROOM

- K **The Power of Plants:**  
Identifying the six plant parts and their needs for survival
- 1 **Getting Ready for Winter:**  
Winter survival strategies for Ohio's wildlife
- 2 **Honeybees and Humans:**  
Human effects on honeybee populations & pollination
- 3 **Rocks Rock:**  
Sorting, graphing and classifying rocks and geology basics
- 4 **Ohio Wildlife Timeline:**  
Hands-on timeline activity of Ohio's wildlife history
- 5 **Owls of Ohio:**  
Discovery of nocturnal birds of prey and their life history
- 6 **Mammal Biology:**  
Classifying mammals using skulls, fur and tracks

## OUTDOOR CLASSROOM ADVENTURES 2017-2018

- K **Adapted to Survive:**  
Discover traits plants and animals need to survive in different habitats
- 1 **Resources, Naturally:**  
Defining natural resources and conservation practices
- 2 **Water Cycle:**  
Precipitation, evaporation & condensation in the water cycle
- 3 **Life Cycles:**  
Discovering plant and animal cycles and seasonal changes
- 4 **Positively Plants:**  
Plant structure, functions and life cycles are explored
- 5 **It's All Connected:**  
Tracing the flow of energy through ecosystems
- 6 **Wading into Wetlands:**  
The value, function and biotic diversity of wetland ecosystems

## FRIENDLY GATHERINGS

### Friends of The Parks

Organized in 1995, the Friends of the Darke County Park District's 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. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month beginning at 6:30pm, with a gathering immediately following. Please join us!

- March 6, 6:30pm
- April 3, 6:30pm
- May 1, 6:30pm



## DARKE COUNTY BIRDERS CLUB

The Darke County Birders Club is open to beginning and experienced birders alike. The club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at Shawnee Prairie Preserve Nature Center. For trip details: Steve Miller 547-3340.

- March 10, 12:30pm - Darke Duck Drive
- March 24, 8am - First Trip of Spring: Grand Lake St. Marys
- March 27, 7pm - MEETING: "Crossing Grand Canyon" - Michelle Young
- April 13, 6:30pm - Evening Sounds Walk (Meet at Chestnut St. Marsh)
- April 24, 6pm - Pre-meeting Walks resume  
7pm - MEETING: "Awaiting the Warblers"
- April 28, 7am - Tar Hollow
- May 5, 6am - Early Morning Sounds Walk (Meet at Chestnut St. Marsh)
- May 11-13 - Maumee Bay Campout
- May 22, 6pm - Pre-meeting Walks resume  
7pm - MEETING: "Spitsbergen Polar Bears" - Margaret Hensel

## DARKE COUNTY CANOE & KAYAK CLUB

Organized to promote canoeing and kayaking, the club is open to all experienced paddlers. Beginning paddlers should first attend the Parks' instructional programs. Meetings are held the 1st Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Nature Center. For updates call Carol Hathaway at 937-547-0220.

## OLDE THYME GARDENERS

The club has a strong interest in heritage gardening techniques of the 19th century. They maintain the heirloom garden at Shawnee Prairie Preserve. No special training is necessary to become a member. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 12pm. Contact: oldethymegardener@gmail.com

## DARKE COUNTY PHOTO CLUB

The club was formed in 1995 to promote photography in & around Darke County. Whether a beginner or advanced photographer, all are invited to attend the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Shawnee Prairie Preserve Nature Center.

# Darke County Parks' Native Plant Sale

May 19, 2018  
10am-3pm

Our annual plant sale returns Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm at the Shawnee Prairie Nature Center. Favorite flowers of the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators are the focus this year. Please consider planting milkweed to help provide habitat for the struggling Monarch population.

**Pre-sale forms and payment must be turned in by April 30<sup>th</sup>.** Plants are available for pre-sale only (a few select plants may be available during the sale).

On the back side, you will find a list of plants available, a brief description, and the price of each plant. Fill out this form with the number of plants you would like and return it, along with your payment, to the address on the reverse side.

**The Native Plant Sale will occur at the Shawnee Prairie Nature Center (4267 OH-502, Greenville).**

**Pre-sale plants must be picked up during the plant sale on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> between 10am and 3pm.**

*Please note: 1) Any plants not picked up by May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 will be considered a donation to the park district and will be planted within our prairies. 2) In the event the minimum of any plant is not met, we will try to replace it with a similar species to the best of our ability.*

*Cash or check only. Thank You.*

***-Over for Plant List-***



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Common Name, Scientific Name	Description	# ordered	\$3 / plant	Total Cost
<b>*Milkweed*- Crucial to Monarch Populations</b>				
Sullivant's Milkweed - <i>Asclepias sullivantii</i>	Pink blooms and pink-striped leaves, Sun, 3-5'		x 3.00	
Butterflyweed - <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Vivid orange, attracts butterflies, Sun, 2'		x 3.00	
Common Milkweed - <i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Sweet-scented clusters of violet-pink Sun, 2-4'		x 3.00	
<b>Part Shade - Sun</b>				
Blue Mist Flower - <i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Small, fluffy, tubular, blue-purple flowers, 1-2'		x 3.00	
Heart-leaved Aster - <i>Symphiotricum cordifolium</i>	Dense blooms of daisy-like aster flowers, 2-5'		x 3.00	
<b>Sun - Part Sun</b>				
Wild Indigo - <i>Baptisia australis</i>	Blue showy pea-shaped flowers, 3-4'		x 3.00	
Ohio Goldenrod - <i>Oligoneuron ohioense</i>	Yellow cluster flowers, 1-3'		x 3.00	
New England Aster - <i>Symphiotrichum novae-angliae</i>	Brilliant purple with yellow centers, 3-6'		x 3.00	
Cup Plant - <i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	Tall yellow sun-flower style blooms, 4-8'		x 3.00	
Wild Bergamot - <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Pink flower, fragrant foliage, native bee balm, 4'		x 3.00	
Foxglove Beardtongue - <i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	White-purple foxglove-style blooms, 3-5'		x 3.00	
Spotted Joe-Pye Weed - <i>Eutrochium maculatum</i>	Tiny, purple flowers, prefers moist soils, 4-5'		x 3.00	
Yellow Coneflower - <i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Yellow flowers, draught/flood resistant, 3-6'		x 3.00	
Royal Catchfly - <i>Silene regia</i>	Scarlet 2" red blooms, 3-4'		x 3.00	
Lanceleaf Coreopsis - <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Yellow daisy-like flowers, 1-2'		x 3.00	
Cardinal Flower - <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Delicate red blooms, needs wet areas, 2-4'		x 3.00	
Blazing Star - <i>Liatris spicata</i>	Vibrant purple spikes, 2-4'		x 3.00	
Prairie Dropseed - <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Small mounding grass, great for borders. 2-3'		x 3.00	
Canada Wild Rye - <i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Ornamental clump-forming grass, wheat-rye-like spikes, 3-5'		x 3.00	

**Please mail order form and payment by April 30<sup>th</sup>:**

Darke County Parks, c/o Mandy Martin, P.O. Box 801, Greenville OH, 45331  
 (Please make checks payable to: Darke County Parks)

Grand Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_