

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF
DARKE COUNTY PARKS
Summer 2018



Darke
County Parks

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

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Nature Notes

Bats are Back!

The Bats are back from their winter hibernaculum and they need YOUR help! Contrary to common misconceptions, bats do not want to suck your blood, get stuck in your hair or go bump in the night. They do however offer a \$3.7 billion benefit to the agriculture community annually! As Ohio's main predator of night-flying insects, bats are of huge importance. With the onslaught of White-nose Syndrome, a fatal fungal bat disease, bat populations have dropped up to 99% in some sites. Obviously, this is devastating to our ecosystem, but you can help! Providing habitat, roosting boxes, and promoting pro-bat knowledge are all ways you can help protect this vital component of our environment.



Want to learn more? Join us for our Bats of Ohio program to be held August 25th at 8pm (see inside for details). This program will feature the most up-to-date technology in locating and detecting bat echolocation frequencies using an Echometer and an iPad.



Summer Camps are Back!

Check out the camp offerings inside for details!

For over 15 years, Darke County Parks has been proud to offer a variety of summer day camps for ages 6-15. Over a thousand children have learned about the natural world through our camps. In our continued commitment to get kids outside to learn, appreciate and

enjoy nature, we once again have a variety of camp themes ranging from nature hikes, science experiments, to paddling kayaks and tent camping! Space is limited and tends to fill quickly. Be sure to register your camper today! Call the Nature Center at 937-548-0165 to sign up and we look forward to a summer of adventure!



Discovery Awaits...



June

SUMMER STROLLS

Saturdays, June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 10am
Shawnee Prairie Preserve
"Summer Wildflowers"

STAMP INTO NATURE CAMP

June 11-15, 10am-12pm: 7-11yr old camp
\$65 *See inside for details*

VOYAGERS CAMP

June 11-15, 1-4pm: 10-12yr old camp
\$95 *See inside for details*

TEDDY BEAR PICNIC

June 16, 12:30pm: Shawnee Prairie Preserve
Registration Required FREE
Bring your favorite teddy bear(s). All ages welcome.

EARTH NINJA CAMP

June 18-22, 10a-12p: 8-9yr old camp
\$75 *See inside for details*

PARENT & PRESCHOOLER ADVENTURES: TOADALLY FUN!

2-3 Year Olds: June 20, 10am
4-5 Year Olds: June 21, 10am
Registration Required \$2

F.O.N.D.

June 23, 1pm: Shawnee Prairie Preserve
FREE
Family Outdoor Nature Discoveries

EGGCITING SCIENCE CAMP

June 25-29, 10a-12p: 6-7yr old camp
\$65 *See inside for details*

BUTTERFLY GARDENING

June 30, 3pm: Shawnee Prairie Preserve
Registration Required FREE

"There may be more to learn from climbing the same mountain a hundred times than by climbing a hundred different mountains."
-Richard Nelson



July

SUMMER STROLLS

Saturdays, July 7, 14, 21 and 28, 10am
Shawnee Prairie Preserve
"Butterflies of Darke County"

NATURE @ NIGHT CAMP

July 5-6, 1pm-11am: 8-12yr old camp
\$45 *See inside for details*

INSPIRATION IN BLUE: AN ART CAMP

July 9-11, 9:30a-12:30p: 7-11yr old camp
\$50 *See inside for details*

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP

July 9-13, 10a-4p: 13-15yr old camp
\$135 *See inside for details*

STICKS & STONES CAMP

July 16-20, 10a-12p: 6-7yr old camp
\$65 *See inside for details*

PADDLE THE GREENVILLE

July 17, 6:30pm
Registration Required \$10/paddler
Paddle a canoe or kayak down the Greenville Creek with us!

BACKYARD GARDENS: SUCCESSION PLANTING

July 19, 6:30pm
Bish Discovery Center
Registration Required FREE

F.O.N.D.

July 21, 1pm: Shawnee Prairie Preserve
FREE
Family Outdoor Nature Discoveries

MAD SCIENTISTS CAMP

July 23-27, 10a-12p: 8-9yr old camp
\$75 *See inside for details*

OWL PROWL HIKE

July 24, 8pm
Eidson Woods Preserve
Registration Required FREE

PARENT & PRESCHOOLER ADVENTURES: FAIRY GARDEN

2-3 Year Olds: July 25, 10am
4-5 Year Olds: July 26, 10am
Registration Required \$2

BIKE PARADE

July 28, 9am: Fairgrounds
Registration Required FREE
See website for details

ENCAMPMENT: GATHERING AT GARST

July 27, 4-10pm / July 28, 10am-8pm
July 29, 11am-5pm
See website for details

August

SUMMER STROLLS

Saturdays, Aug. 4, 11, 18, and 25, 10am
Shawnee Prairie Preserve
"Prairies in their Prime"

PROJECT WILD

Aug. 4, 9am
Shawnee Prairie Preserve
Registration Required by July 27 FREE
Attention teachers, informal educators and volunteers! Learn fun wildlife activities and receive both the "Project WILD" and "Project Aquatic WILD" K-12 guides.

DOWN TO EARTH BOOK CLUB:

"NORTH WITH THE SPRING" BY EDWIN WAY TEALE

Aug. 6, 6:30pm: Shawnee Prairie Preserve
Registration Required FREE

10 ESSENTIALS OF DAYHIKING

Aug. 9, 6:30pm: Bish Discovery Center
Registration Required FREE
Discover what to pack whether you are hiking Darke County Parks or Glacier National Park!

BACKYARD GARDENS: FREEZING & DRYING YOUR HARVEST

Aug. 14, 6:30pm
Bish Discovery Center
Registration Required FREE

PARENT & PRESCHOOLER ADVENTURES: CREEKING @ BEARS MILL

2-3 Year Olds: Aug. 15, 10am
4-5 Year Olds: Aug. 16, 10am
Registration Required \$2

F.O.N.D.

Aug. 18, 1pm: Shawnee Prairie Preserve
FREE
Family Outdoor Nature Discoveries

LEAVE NO TRACE

Aug. 23, 6:30pm: Bish Discovery Center
Registration Required FREE
Learn the 7 LNT principles to use where ever your trails lead you.

BATS OF OHIO

Aug. 25, 8pm: Shawnee Prairie Preserve
Registration Required FREE

FULL MOON CANOE/KAYAK PADDLE

Aug. 27, 8pm
Registration Required (ages 18+);
Fee: \$15/paddler Bring a headlamp
Paddle by the light of the Full Moon! This program is for advanced paddlers only. See website or contact us with questions.

Yours To Discover...

Summer Camps are Back!

Hey campers! Our summer nature day-camps are back and more exciting than ever! Check out your age group(s) below and call today to get registered. Space is limited!

AGES 6-7

Egg-citing Science

June 25-29: 10am-12pm \$65

This "Eggciting" camp will focus on fun "eggperiments" and everything egg in nature including bird eggs, frog eggs, insect eggs, and snakes.

Sticks & Stones

July 16-20: 10am-12pm \$65

Sticks and Stones will take us into the field as we explore, build and discover nature around us. Explore fossils and gems, build forts and make hiking sticks!

AGES 7-11

Stamp Into Nature

June 11-15: 10am-12pm \$65

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 fill their logbook.

Inspiration in Blue: An Art Camp

July 9-11: 9:30am-12:30pm \$50

An art camp focusing on the blues found in nature. In conjunction with the Anna Bier Art Gallery, Darke County Parks will host this creative camp geared to budding young artists. Each day we'll create pieces inspired by the sky, flowers, and all creatures of blue found on earth. Artwork completed will be on display at the DCCA Barbecue and Blues event at the Greenville Public Library Friday, July 13th.

AGES 8-12

Nature @ Night

July 5-6: 1pm Thurs - 11am Fri \$45

There is so much to see and do in the park after dark! This single overnight event will give a quick introduction to camping while being close to modern facilities for comfort. After setting up camp, there will be a dinner over the campfire, a night hike, games and more. Campers will go home after we eat breakfast and break down camp the following day. Don't miss this exciting adventure at Shawnee Prairie!

**Includes one overnight camping experience*

AGES 8-9

Earth Ninjas

June 18-22: 10am-12pm \$75

Join us as we calm our minds like Jedi's, learn to move silently with the rhythm of the forest, and activate body senses through fun training games and wild nature play. Discover how to blend into the landscape using camouflage and by mimicking wild animals. Hone your skills with exciting missions and challenges as you earn the title of Earth Ninja!

Mad Scientists

July 23-27: 10am-12pm \$75

Science is everywhere! Join us for a week full of experiments that are sure to delight as we delve into the natural world of science! There are sure to be booms, bubbles, and "Oh wows"!

AGES 10-12

Voyagers

June 11-15: 1pm-4pm \$95

Become "voyagers" as we learn to paddle canoes and kayaks through flat water and creeks. We'll learn the basics of navigation to find our way along the waterways just as the voyagers of old did. Prepare to get wet daily and join us as we voyage the waters of Darke County and beyond as we complete our week with a lake-side tent camping adventure! New games, locations and activities will make this camp exciting for all.

**Includes one overnight camping experience*

AGES 13-15

Outdoor Adventure

July 9-13: 10am-4pm \$135

Outdoor adventure is all around us; you just have to know where to look! We'll travel by kayaks along a local waterway, explore a cave by flashlight, speed down twisting paths on mountain bikes and take to the skies exploring elevated challenge courses and ziplines. We will conclude the week with an overnight camping and paddling experience.

**Includes one overnight camping experience*

Thank You for Your Generosity

In Memory of:

"In Memory of Wayne Nichols" - Gary & Gail Benesh

"In Memory of Steve Schafer" - Valaria Harshbarger; Mary & Terry Keaser; Tim & Judy Hittle

"In Memory of Ruth McClear" - Vanis Brumbaugh

"In Memory of Ron Putterbaugh" - Vanis Brumbaugh

Grants Awarded:

□RAB Impact Grant awarded to Friends of the Parks

Monetary / Material / Service Donations:

West Central Ohio Gourd Patch; Chrissy & Derek Brim (Crowing Coops 4-H Club); Show Hoppers 4-H Club; Tina White/Atlas Quest Letterboxers; Thomas & Jerilynne Messenger; Matthew Arnold; Second National Bank; Darke County Birders; Erica Simister; Eileen Buell; Troy Animal Hospital; Pam Millard; Terry Baker; Mote & Associates, Inc.; Rebsco; Sweet Annie's Cabin/Diane Billenstein; Mandy Martin; Roger M. Van Frank; Terry Tonovitz; Crowing Coops 4-H Club; Carmen Dumas; John & Patti Clifford

Adopt-a-Raptor: Karen Jo Maule; Travis Flack; Joe Jessup; Mike & Torri Brown

OPRA Brunch Assistance: Friends of the Parks; Eileen Litchfield; Deb Shiverdecker; Mandy Martin; Ivy League Florists; Barbie Hansbarger; Carolyn Hollinger; Tina White; Dean Whipp; Cindy Ploch; Sue Besecker; Roger Brocius; Neil Schmidt; Randy Minnich; Karen & John Burkett; Ron Gross; Jerry Lamb; Pam Siegel.

Volunteer in the Spotlight

Meet John and Darlene Dillon, this quarter's Volunteers in the Spotlight! As active members of the Friends of the Darke County Parks, John and Darlene have been volunteering for several years with many different park activities. Their favorite part of volunteering is the enjoyment they get from meeting and working with a variety of people while supporting park events like Prairie Days and Nature Day. They are also Adopt-A-Park volunteers who monitor and clean up litter on the Tecumseh Trail. Having lived in Gettysburg for the past 45 years, John is a retired teacher with 35 years experience who still fills in as a substitute for Greenville Schools. Darlene has been a stay-at-home mom who has volunteered with many different organizations all of her life. In their spare time, John and Darlene enjoy tending their garden, reading, and hiking in both Miami and Darke Counties. In the future, John and Darlene think that keeping up the park trails will encourage more people to use the parks more regularly. Thank you, John and Darlene, for your hard work and dedication!



Director's Corner

I am continuously made aware of how fortunate I am to have the number and type of volunteers supporting the Park District. Volunteers and staff will soon be highlighted by an article being published in the NAI publication "Legacy". This publication highlights activities, programs and special accomplishments of naturalists from around the United States and the world. I am very pleased that Darke County Parks' very own Kathi McQueen was selected for publishing. I want to again thank all of those volunteers that continue to mold this district into an award-winning Park District. Staff should be very proud of all of their accomplishments. I am very blessed to be working with some of the greatest volunteers and staff members in my 38-year career. Once again, the Benefits of Parks and Recreation are Endless.

~Roger Van Frank, Director

Welcome Addison as Maintenance Supervisor!

Hello! My name is Addison Bashore, and I am from Bradford, OH. I am currently serving as a volunteer firefighter for the Bradford Fire Department, and I also serve as a 4-H volunteer for Darke County. I have lived in Darke County for my entire life, so I was familiar with the programs and type of work the park district completes. In the past, I have attended and volunteered at Prairie Days by driving for the wagon rides. When I came upon the listing for a Maintenance Supervisor here, I could not pass up the opportunity. I have experience in natural resources and park management that I will utilize within the District. I look forward to serving to the best of my ability and continuing to keep our parks enjoyable places to visit.

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!

June 5, 6:30pm
July 10, 6:30pm
August 7, 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.

June 9, 7am - Breeding Bird Survey
June 23, 7am - First Trip of Summer: Greene County
June 26, 6pm - Pre-meeting Walk (Chestnut St. Marsh)
7pm - MEETING: "Homing Pigeons" - Kathy Jones
July 7, 12:30pm - Target Birds of Darke County
July 21, 7am - Bridges of Union County
July 24, 6pm - Pre-meeting Walk (Chestnut St. Marsh)
7pm - MEETING: "Pat's Park Pix with Photo Pals" - Pat McCarthy
August 4, 7am - Land of the Cross-tipped Churches
August 11, 12:30pm - Shorebird Fall Migration
August 28, 6pm - Pre-meeting Walk (Chestnut St. Marsh)
7pm - MEETING: "Birding with Aging Joints"

-Michelle Young, *Certified Physical Therapist*

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: oldthymegardener@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 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6pm at the Shawnee Prairie Preserve Nature Center.