

Newsletter of the  
Crawford Park District  
Spring 2023



## Monarch Recovered!!!

Each year CPD staff, along with hundreds of other Monarch butterfly enthusiasts, scour milkweed plants looking for the caterpillars that are secretly munching away on the leaves. Many of us collect those caterpillars to rear into adulthood so that we can put a tag on the adult before they start their migration to Mexico. The tag is a tiny sticker that comes from Monarch Watch Tagging Program. This is a “large-scale community science project that was initiated in 1992 to help understand the dynamics of the monarch's spectacular fall migration through mark and recapture.” Each year, millions and millions of Monarch butterflies migrate to the transvolcanic mountains of central Mexico where they spend the winter months huddled together in the oyamel fir forest.

In 2021, thousands of these butterflies were adorned with the Monarch Watch tags, while the taggers hoped their butterfly would make it to Mexico. The tags don't contain GPS units in them, so we can't track them during their flight. The only way to know the location of a butterfly is to be



close enough to read the code on the tag and submit that information to Monarch Watch. The recovery rate of someone finding a butterfly with a tag is usually less than 1%.

On September 15, 2021, during one of our tagging programs at Unger Park, Naturalist Chelsea had an excited group that wanted to learn about Monarchs and came to assist with the butterfly release. The participants helped fill out the data sheet that included date, location, gender, and if it was reared or wild caught. A male butterfly was adorned with tag ACZZ660 on the discal cell of his hindwing. The kids then nicknamed him “Mike” before they released him to start his migration to Mexico. Of the 900 tagged butterflies that were recovered that season, we are excited to find out that “Mike” made it 2,210 miles from Unger Park in Bucyrus to Cerro Pelon, Mexico!

Each September, we offer 3 public programs for participants to learn about this magnificent migration. We also take butterflies into the local schools to teach the students about the life cycle of insects and to have the students help us send the butterflies on their way. We usually end with a chant of... “Gotta Go! Gotta Go! Gotta Go to Mexico!”



# The Crawford County History Alliance

**Who Are We?** We are an ad hoc alliance (a coalition) of participating Crawford County historical organizations and museums that comes together every quarter to share ideas, experiences, and most importantly, promotions to raise awareness of what our organizations are about and to tell our county's history to the public. This alliance met four times in 2022. \*Organizations noted below have so far been represented. We welcome all to be a part of sharing in this joint cause, which will mean that all of our county's small groups can take advantage of what we do!

\*Bucyrus Historical Society  
Crawford County Arts Council

\*Crawford Park District

\*Crestline Historical Society

\*Friends of the Big Four Depot

\*Galion History Center

\*Gill House

\*Harvey School

\*New Washington Historical Society

\*Ohio Lincoln Highway (Hopley Monument restoration)

T&OC Depot

Tiro Memories Museum



## 2023: A Three-Part Promotion



### #1: Crawford County History Fair @ Lowe-Volk Park, Sunday, April 23

Any and all of the CCHA organizations are invited to set up a table and have a volunteer to answer questions as we invite the general public and especially interested children to come and learn more about Crawford County's history.

### #2: Crawford County PASSPORT to History

To be passed out at the HISTORY FAIR on Sunday, April 23. Visitors will get a passport where all of the participating organizations will have a page with their information about visiting. When a passport holder visits this summer, their passport will get a stamp for that place.



### #3: Crawford County Get Acquainted Tour

We will provide two buses to depart Lowe-Volk Park on two Sunday afternoons in late summer for a Get Acquainted tour of all the museums in the county. More information will be available on April 23 at the Crawford County History Fair.



For more information about the Crawford County History Alliance and the three-part promotion, contact Mike Hocker by emailing: [mnhocker@icloud.com](mailto:mnhocker@icloud.com) -or- calling: 419-982-3288.

## High Desert Greens

Seth and Betsy Meehan started out as hobby gardeners in the high desert of Utah where they lived. They converted what yard they had into a tiered vegetable garden, growing potatoes, carrots, radishes, tomatoes, tomatillos, green beans, squash, zucchini, cucumbers, peas, wild raspberry bushes, and plum trees. Due to the high desert heat and drought conditions, water usage was limited outdoors. Growing vegetables for their own consumption became difficult. Seth attended "YouTube University" while he was furloughed from work during the pandemic. He happened upon microgreens and became interested enough to build his own kit and try it. Soon, they were hooked and bought trays, racks, and lights to have their own setup. Then, they began selling greens to friends and thought "we could really make a go of this."



Ultimately, they decided to move back east to Mansfield where Betsy has family. (Northcentral Ohio's climate also made it an easier decision.) The Meehans were fortunate enough to get just over 5 acres of land to turn into a small but high intensity farm. They have converted their garage into a grow space for microgreens, mushrooms, and large leaf lettuce. In the future they hope to be able to hold site tours, presentations, demonstrations, and more. To learn more, attend the "Microgreens" program, cohosted by the CPD and Earth, Wind, and Flowers Garden Club on April 3, 6:30pm, at the Lowe-Volk Nature Center.



# PROGRAMS

All programs are free of charge, unless otherwise noted. For more information or questions about programs, call 419-683-9000, or visit [www.crawfordparkdistrict.org](http://www.crawfordparkdistrict.org)

## March

### **Homeschool in Nature: Bird Beaks**

**Thursday, March 2 10am & 2pm Lowe-Volk Park**

All birds don't eat the same thing, so their beaks are adapted to meet their food needs. This month we'll take a look at several different bird beaks and complete an activity to figure out which "tool" is best for that bird. Call the Park District at 419-683-9000 to register your 5-12-year-old.



one of the first birds to migrate back to the area in spring. These tiny, camouflaged critters are one of our most unique birds, from their eggs to their walk! Come out at dusk and watch the males perform a whirling "sky dance" hundreds of feet into the air! Explore woodcock specimens, photos, and videos as well! Flashlights will be provided. Please dress for the weather. This program is subject to change date/location based on conditions. We will post on Facebook, or call the CPD office to confirm!



### **Clover Hike**

**March 3 - March 31 Lowe-Volk Park**

Take a stroll through Lowe-Volk Park looking for clovers as you go. Each one will have a clover fact for you to read. Once you finish your hike, stop at the front desk of the Nature Center to collect your prize! (The clovers will be out all the time; you can only collect your prize when the Nature Center is open.)



### **Artifact Expo**

**Saturday, March 11 10am-2pm Lowe-Volk Park**

If you are into prehistoric artifacts, this event is for you! Come and see what other local collectors have found in the fields of Crawford County, as well as other areas. Come view their displays and have your



questions about unidentified items answered. There will also be raffle items, and all kids will get their own piece of flint to take home. Drag out that old cigar box and show off your artifacts!

### **Little Explorers: Wood**

**Tuesday, March 7 5pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Little Explorers is an interactive program for young children, ages 0-5. Activities focus on stimulating infants' senses and developing toddlers' and preschoolers' fine motor skills. This month we'll explore the fun smells, textures, and types of wood!

### **Woodcock Walk**

**Tuesday, March 7 6:30pm Sandusky Headwaters**  
Timberdoodle, mudbat, bogsucker. Woodcocks are

### **Feeding Day**

**Sunday, March 12 1pm Lowe-Volk Park**

The animals that reside in the Nature Center get a variety of food. Some prefer worms or mice, while others gobble up leafy greens and vegetables. Stop by to help Lisa feed some of our animal ambassadors.



# PROGRAMS



## March

### **Puppet Pals: Stream Life**

**Thursday, March 16 6pm Lowe-Volk Park**

**Friday, March 17 11am & 2pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Our Puppet Pals are exploring a stream! Join them on their adventure, where a Raccoon, White-tailed Deer, Eastern Hellbender, and more discover the life of a stream. Puppet show will include a kid's activity. For kids ages 3-7 and their parents.



### **Gardening for Moths: Meet the Author**

**Saturday, March 18 10am Lowe-Volk Park**

Why would anyone want to garden for moths!?! Join CPD Naturalist Chelsea Gottfried on an incredible photographic journey examining the beauty of our moths and exploring the integral roles they play in ecosystems. Her newly released book, *Gardening for Moths: A Regional Guide*, coauthored with Jim McCormac, will be available for purchase. Chelsea will also highlight the most attractive and uncommon moths that have been discovered in your CPD parks, some of which are featured in this book!

### **Face to Face: Salamanders**

**Saturday, March 18 2pm Lowe-Volk Park**



Join Naturalist Chelsea to learn about and meet the salamanders of the Nature Center face to face! There will be opportunities to touch and/or hold Spotted Salamanders, Eastern Tiger Salamanders, Unisexual *Ambystoma* Salamanders, and an endangered Eastern Hellbender.

### **Nature Hike**

**Sunday, March 19 3pm Heckert Nature Preserve**

The first days of spring are a time of rapid change. Birds begin their breeding cycle; amphibians, plants, and even insects emerge after months of dormancy. Meet Warren Uxley at the Heckert parking lot.

### **Looking at Nature's Micro World**

**Saturday, March 25 10am Lowe-Volk Park**



You have seen feathers, sand, and butterflies, but have you ever viewed them under a microscope? The fine details are

AMAZING! Come and explore the small things in nature by learning how to use a variety of magnifying lenses, microscopes, stereo microscopes, digital microscopes, binoculars, and even a camera to make the small things in nature appear large and close-up. You will have hands-on opportunities to use the magnifiers to explore the small things in our natural world. This class is especially designed for ages 5-12. Call the Park District at 419-683-9000 to register, but walk-ins are welcome.

### **Vernal Pool Exploration**

**Sat., March 25 2pm Heckert Nature Preserve**

Vernal pools are a diverse habitat to explore. Join Josh for an investigation of the vernal pools at Heckert looking for bugs, frogs, and SALAMANDERS, of course! All ages welcome. Wear rubber boots.





# PROGRAMS



## March/April

### **Planetarium**

**Saturday, March 25 8pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Step inside Wynford's portable planetarium right here at the Lowe-Volk Nature Center. You'll be able to experience the night sky in a whole new way. Constellations, planets, stars, or the moon are some of the sights to see. Afterwards, head outside to view the night sky in real time through a telescope. Call the Park District at 419-683-9000 to register.

### **Eagle Watch**

**Sunday, March 26 2pm Lowe-Volk Park**



What a comeback! Once driven to the brink of extinction, Bald Eagles are the epitome of wildlife recovery. Join Josh for this informative program that will

examine the history of our national symbol and its current status in Ohio. After the presentation, we will caravan to some of the active nests in Crawford County. Fun for the whole family!

### **Hi-Tech Egg Hunt**

**Sunday, April 2 1-3pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Bring your smartphone, GPS unit, or borrow a GPS unit from us to use for a hi-tech egg hunt. Follow the coordinates throughout the park to discover a hidden egg. There will be a nature-based question in each egg that needs to be answered. Kids finding all the eggs and answering the questions will receive a small prize when completed. Come join the fun!



### **April Showers Hike**

**April 3 - April 30 Lowe-Volk Park**



Take a stroll through Lowe-Volk Park looking for the rain clouds as you go. Each one will have a line of a poem for you to read. Once you finish your hike, stop at the front desk of the Nature Center to collect your prize! (The poem will

be out all the time; you can only collect your prize when the Nature Center is open.)

### **Microgreens**

**Monday, April 3 6:30pm Lowe-Volk Park**



The CPD is partnering with Earth, Wind, and Flowers Garden Club, bringing in Seth and Betsy Meehan to discuss their journey with microgreens.

The owners of High Desert Greens, Seth and Betsy will be speaking about microgreens, what they are, and what nutritious benefits they offer. They will also explain their process and do a live planting and harvesting demonstration. There will be microgreens to sample, along with some available for purchase. (See page 2 for more information about Seth and Betsy and their High Desert Greens venture.)

### **Homeschool in Nature: Invasive Species**

**Thursday, April 6 10am & 2pm Lowe-Volk Park**

This month we are investigating invasive plant species and how they can affect our local wildlife. We will then head out into the park to help remove some of those unwanted plant species. Dress for the weather. Call the Park District at 419-683-9000 to register your 5-12-year-old.





# PROGRAMS



## April

### **Artifact Hunt**

**Saturday, April 8 Meet at 10am Lowe-Volk Park**

Join other artifact collectors to walk nearby farm fields looking for remnants of pre-historic cultures who inhabited Crawford County. Be the first human to touch an artifact since it was used thousands of years ago! Don't miss this popular annual event. Bring the whole family, dress for the weather, and don't forget your boots if the ground is wet. Also, walking sticks may be helpful.



Join Naturalist Chelsea for a leisurely stroll through the woodland to admire our spring blooming wildflowers, including an uncommon hybrid violet. Our focus will be on identification, but photography will be encouraged. Tips for photographing flowers will be provided and interesting natural history tidbits about specialist bees and myrmecochory will be shared.

### **Wildflower Walk**

**Monday, April 17 2pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Join Naturalist Chelsea for a leisurely stroll through the woodland to admire our spring blooming wildflowers, including an uncommon hybrid violet. Our focus will be on identification, but photography will be encouraged. Tips for photographing flowers will be provided and interesting natural history tidbits about specialist bees and myrmecochory will be shared.



### **Little Explorers: Frogs**

**Tuesday, April 18 5pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Little Explorers is an interactive program for young children, ages 0-5. Activities focus on stimulating infants' senses and developing toddlers' and preschoolers' fine motor skills. This month we'll explore slimy, slippery frogs and their bumpy cousins: toads! We'll be inside and outside, so dress for the weather!



### **Face to Face: Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches**

**Saturday, April 8 2pm Lowe-Volk Park**



Join Naturalist Chelsea to meet our "hissing" cockroaches face to face. Learn all about these intriguing insects, including how they actually produce their hissing sounds. There will be opportunities to touch

and/or hold the cockroaches, and we will even watch as Simon, our bearded dragon, devours a few of them!

### **Spring Wildflowers**

**Sunday, April 16 3pm Sears Woods**

Early spring brings with it an explosive growth within our woodlands. Spring blooming wildflowers must complete their life cycle before the trees leaf out and cut off the light necessary for photosynthesis. Meet Warren Uxley at the Sears Woods parking lot.

### **Recycled Project Display**

**Sat., April 22 - Sat., May 6 Lowe-Volk Park**

Miss Lisa Smith's 4<sup>th</sup> grade science classes at Colonel Crawford have been providing excellent examples of turning everyday items into usable projects for many years. Come to the Nature Center and see the students' creative ways to turn trash into treasure with their recycled projects.



# PROGRAMS



## April

### **Stewardship**

**Saturday, April 22 9am Lowe-Volk Park**

Join CPD staff for a stewardship program where the focus will be on woody species. There will be a brief introduction about stewardship and our target species before heading out into the woods. Closed-toe shoes, long sleeves, and pants are recommended. Some gloves and loppers will be available.

### **Earth Day Seed Swap**

**Saturday, April 22 10am-12pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Help us help the birds, and we'll help you help pollinators! Bring in a bag of bird seed to help our feeder visitors, and you'll get to take home a packet of



wildflower seed. The seed packets will contain native prairie species which are adapted to our north-central Ohio climate.

### **Wildflower Hike**

**Sat., April 22 1pm Heckert Nature Preserve**



What better way to celebrate the Earth than a hike investigating the beauty of spring wildflowers. Join Josh for this leisurely stroll through the trails of Heckert to discover the importance of

these early bloomers. Cameras are welcome!

**Did you know...** Violets are one of our most nutritious wild edibles? They contain twice as much vitamin C as oranges and twice as much vitamin A as spinach. Attend the Wild Edibles event to learn more.

### **Wild Edibles**

**Saturday, April 29 2pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Many of the plants (and fungi) growing in our local wild spaces are edible and tasty, and some of them can even be found in your own yard! Learn which wild plants are the most nutritious and delicious while foraging with Naturalist Chelsea



around the Nature Center. There will be opportunities to sample some of our best spring wild edibles. Please wear appropriate footwear for a walk through the woods. Fun for all ages!

### **Feeding Day**

**Sunday, April 30 1pm Lowe-Volk Park**



Our animal ambassadors get a variety of foods. Some prefer worms or mice, while others munch on leafy greens and vegetables. Stop by

to help prepare some of the animals' meals and then watch as they gobble it up.

### **Girl Scouts: Animal Habitats**

**Sunday, April 30 2:30pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Are you a Junior Girl Scout? If so, join Troop 4253 to learn all about animal habitats. We'll go on a hike looking for animals in their natural habitat, make observations of animals, and recreate a habitat for an animal. Junior Girl Scouts from all troops are welcome!

# PROGRAMS

## May

### **May Flowers Hike**

**May 1 – May 31 Lowe-Volk Park**



Take a stroll through Lowe-Volk Park looking for flowers as you go. Each one will have a line of a poem for you to read. Once you finish your hike, stop at the front desk of the Nature Center to collect your prize! (The poem will be out all the time; you can only collect your prize when the Nature Center is open.)

### **Full Moon Hike**

**Friday, May 5 8pm Sears Woods**

Join Naturalist Kaily on a hike under the full moon! Find out if Life Savers really spark when you bite them, and look for glowing squirrels gliding through the trees. We may hear some coyotes, but hopefully we won't run into a werewolf!

### **Bird Walk**

**Saturday, May 6 9am Sears Woods**

More migratory birds pass through Ohio in early May than at any other time of the year. This massive movement of warblers, tanagers, flycatchers, vireos, and thrushes (to name just a few) is truly spectacular. Meet Warren Uxley at the Sears Woods parking lot.

### **Face to Face: Turtles**

**Saturday, May 6 10am Lowe-Volk Park**

Join Naturalist Chelsea to learn about and meet the turtles of the Nature Center face to face! There will be opportunities to hold and/or touch a Midland Painted Turtle, a Common Snapping Turtle, a Yellow-bellied Slider, and a Woodland Box Turtle.



### **Girl Scouts: Pollinator Power**

**Saturday, May 6 1pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Are you a Brownie or Girl Scout? If so, join Troop 4253 and Naturalist Chelsea to learn all about our powerful pollinators and the work they do to help plants reproduce. We will also go on a hike to observe



pollinators in action, with a focus on searching for bumble bee queens and specialist bees. All levels of Girl Scouts from all troops are welcome!

### **Wildflower Walk**

**Sunday, May 7 2pm Sears Woods**



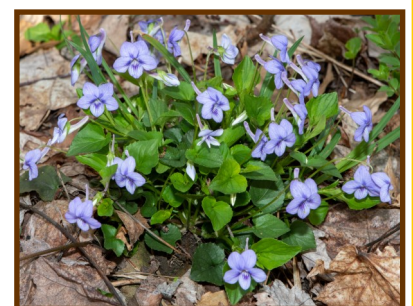
Join Naturalist Chelsea for a one-mile hike through the old growth forest to admire our spring blooming wildflowers. Our focus will be on identification, but photography will be encouraged. Tips for photographing flowers will be provided and interesting

natural history tidbits about specialist bees and myrmecochory will be shared.

### **Little Explorers: Flowers**

**Tuesday, May 9 5pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Little Explorers is an interactive program for young children, ages 0-5. Activities focus on stimulating infants' senses and developing toddlers' and preschoolers' fine motor skills. This month we'll explore all the parts of flowers! Dress for the weather!







# PROGRAMS



## May

### **Bird Banding**

**Saturday, May 13 7am-1pm Lowe-Volk Park**

In conjunction with the pancake breakfast, we'll be banding birds on the front porch of the Nature Center. Join Bob Placier and CPD staff for a morning of science! We'll be monitoring mist nets



to see which birds inhabit or pass through Lowe-Volk Park. Banding is used to track trends in bird populations, among other research applications. All ages welcome and grab some pancakes in support of your Park District!

### **Pancakes in the Park**

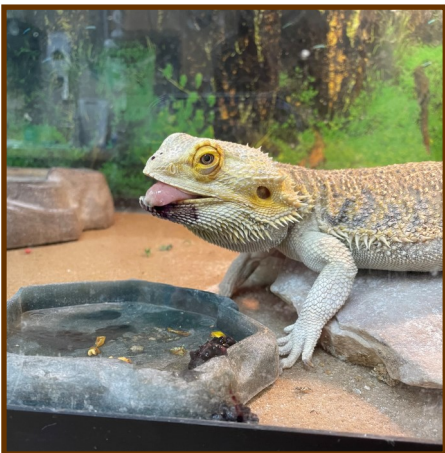
**Saturday, May 13 8am-1pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Come show your support while satisfying your appetite. For a donation, you can get pancakes topped with REAL maple syrup, a side of delicious ham, and a great morning enjoying and supporting your Park District!

### **Feeding Day**

**Wednesday, May 17 5pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Join Lisa to help feed some of the animals that reside



in the Nature Center. Help prepare food for the box turtles or dangle a worm for the snapping turtles to grab. Don't forget the snakes would love a mouse too!

### **Canine Love Triangle: Exploring the Presence of Wolf & Dog DNA in Ohio's Coyotes**

**Friday, May 19 7pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Have you ever wondered why our coyotes' appearance varies so much from the coyotes found in the western U.S.? Wildlife Biologist Eileen Wyza, from ODN's Division of Wildlife, will be sharing her research into the genetics and ancestry of Ohio's coyotes. She is currently writing her dissertation on landscape genetics and the behavior of hybrid coyotes, and her results are intriguing.

### **Midnight Mothing**

**Friday, May 19 9pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Ohio is home to thousands of species of beautiful moths, including the giant Cecropia Moth. We will use bright lights and UV lights to attract our nocturnal moths to a mothing sheet. Stop in any time after dark to get an up close look at these moths and other intriguing insects that fly in. There will even be opportunities to hold some of the bigger moths! This program is weather dependent and will be cancelled if it is rainy or too windy.



### **Nature Hike**

**Sunday, May 21 3pm Daughmer Savanna**

Many of the threatened plant species found at Daughmer are at their best in late spring. There is also an assemblage of colorful breeding birds, butterflies, and dragonflies. Meet Warren Uxley at the Daughmer parking lot.

### **Living History Days**

**Friday, June 2- Sunday, June 4**

Join the CPD and Colonel Crawford's Company to step back into the 18th Century. More event details will be shared in the coming weeks. Save the date!

# Crawford Park Astronomy Club

The Astronomy Club will meet on the 4th and 5th Saturday of every month, 30 minutes after sunset. Please dress for the weather. On rainy or cloudy nights, the program will be held in the Nature Center.

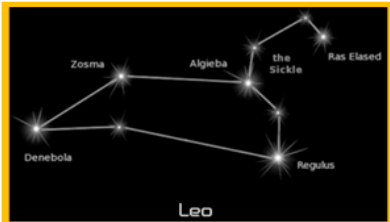
## Leo: "The Lion"

Leo the Lion is one of the 48 constellations described by Ptolemy and is still recognized as one of the 88 modern constellations. The head and mane of the lion are formed by an asterism that looks like a backwards question mark known as "the sickle". This aids in making Leo one of the easiest constellations to find in the night sky.



In Greek mythology, the first of the twelve labors that Heracles (Hercules to the Romans) had to complete was to bring back the hide from a lion that was terrorizing the village of Nemea. Heracles tried to kill the lion with arrows and clubs but failed because his hide was impenetrable to weapons. The only way Heracles could defeat the lion was to use his strength to strangle the lion to death. After defeat, Leo the Lion was placed in the sky to commemorate Heracles' victory.

Leo is a spring constellation best viewed in April and May. To view it, look for the 6 stars that make up "the sickle". If you are unable to find that, look



for the other easily found asterism, the Big Dipper. From there, look directly below the ladle, and you will find Leo!

### Full Moons

March 7  
(Worm Moon)

April 6  
(Pink Moon)

May 5  
(Flower Moon)

### Meteor Showers

No meteor showers to observe in March

Lyrids—April 15-29  
(Peak: April 21-23)

Eta Aquariids—April 15-May 27  
(Peak: May 5-6)

## Meeting Dates



March 25	8:00 pm
April 22	8:30 pm
April 29	8:30 pm
May 27	9:15 pm



## Targets for Spring

- Catching the last of the winter objects as they set in the west.
- **Winter Milky Way Arm** – looking out of our galaxy, we can view parts of the Milky Way.
- **Rosette Nebula (NGC 2237)** – an impressive cluster of stars and nebula 5,000 light-years away.
- **Bode's Galaxy (M81)** – a spiral galaxy, 11,000,000 light-years away, containing more than 200 globular clusters.
- **Pinwheel Galaxy (M101)** – found in Ursa Major, has 1 trillion stars, and contains more than 200 globular clusters.
- **Leo Triplet (M65, M66, NGC 3628)** – a group of 3 spiral galaxies, 35 million light-years away, and found in Leo.
- **Whirlpool Galaxy (M51)** – a spiral galaxy, 31 million light-years away, 76 light-years across in diameter, and an apparent magnitude of 8.4.

Whirlpool Galaxy: credits: NASA, ESA, S. Beckwith (STScI) and the Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/AURA)



## Did you know...

The Green Comet (C/2022 E3) was visible during the Stone Age, which was about 50,000 years ago? This past February, it passed by earth again. It may be another 50,000 years before it's visible again!

**WHY AREN'T ASTRONAUTS HUNGRY AFTER BLASTING INTO SPACE?**



**BECAUSE THEY HAD A BIG LAUNCH!**

PAINFULPUNS.com

# Moths of Lowe-Volk Park



Abbott's Sphinx



Azalea Sphinx



Canadian Petrophila



Giant Leopard Moth



Promethea Moth



Goldenrod Stowaway



Io Moth (female)



Io Moth (male)



Polyphemus Moth



Bog Lygropia

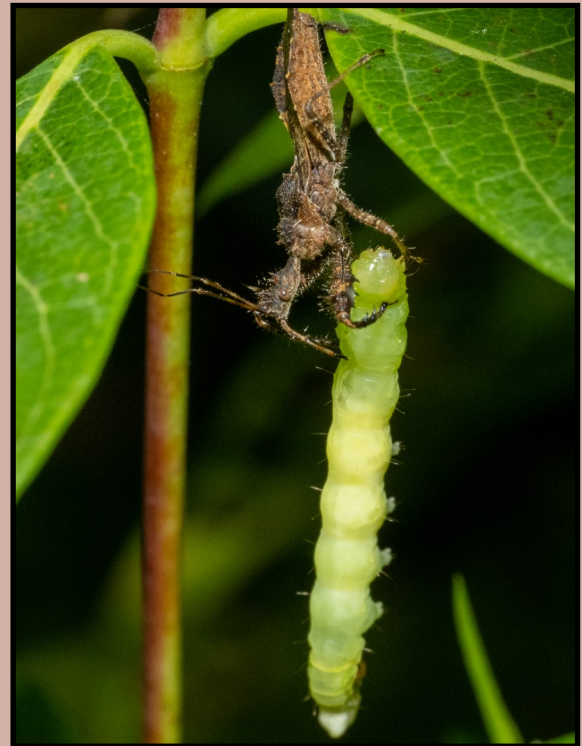


Beautiful Eutelia (a Poison Ivy specialist)

# Marvelous Moths

If asked to name the most important animals in an Ohio ecosystem, it is unlikely that moths would top people's lists. Many people would likely make the claim that moths and their caterpillars are pests, destructively consuming our clothes, food, and crops. However, the Common Clothes Moths, Indian Meal Moths, and Spongy (Gypsy) Moths responsible for much of this destruction are imports. Our 3000+ native moth species transfer more energy from plants to other animals than any other herbivores.

Moth caterpillars are essentially protein rich, nutrient filled sausages coveted by birds and a multitude of other insects. As just one example, approximately 1 million Red-eyed Vireos return to Ohio each spring from their South American wintering grounds. In the span of one day, just one of these birds is capable of devouring over 100 caterpillars. This means that 100 million caterpillars could potentially be consumed in a single day by Red-eyed Vireos alone. Because these caterpillars are a vital component of the diets of so many other animals as well, it is estimated only 1 in 100 lives to become an adult moth. Yet, even if a caterpillar is fortunate enough to reach adulthood, it is still the favored snack of many of Ohio's bat species and of Eastern Whip-poor-wills and their relatives. In addition, moths are also in danger of being picked off by birds, spiders, and other insects.



Moth caterpillars are food for many animals, including this Spined Assassin Bug.



Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid, a threatened species in the U.S., is only pollinated by sphinx moths.

Not only are moths and their caterpillars essential to food webs, moths are also important pollinators. In Ohio, we have only 137 species of butterflies compared to over 3000 moth species. We don't often notice moths visiting flowers because they regularly do so under the cover of darkness, and our few species of day flying, or diurnal, moths are often mistaken for butterflies. Moths are also typically "furrier" than butterflies, allowing pollen to stick to their bodies more readily than it would to butterflies. Thus, moths are likely more frequent flower visitors and more effective at pollinating than their butterfly cousins. Some of our flowers, including many orchids and night flowering plants, rely exclusively on moths for their pollination. In addition to providing these valuable ecosystem services, moths are some of our most beautiful and interesting insects (see the adjoining photo pages for a selection of the species seen in your CPD parks last summer).

Unfortunately, as is the case with many of our insects, moths are in decline. Unsurprisingly, the rates of decline for species that are dietary or ecological specialists are much steeper than those of generalist species. The caterpillars of 90% of our moth species are specialists, meaning they eat plants from only one genus or a few



A Gold Moth rests on the underside of a Wingstem leaf.

genera. An example is the Gold Moth, whose larvae only eat plants in the genus *Verbesina*. In Ohio, Wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia*) is the only common plant in this genus. Much like the Monarch with milkweeds, Gold Moth females must seek out Wingstem leaves on which to lay their eggs. When a species is this limited in what it can consume, it is much more vulnerable to environmental changes.

Choosing to add native plants to your landscape is a huge help to moths and the other creatures that depend on them. Our moths are adapted to eating plants native to Ohio and most of them simply cannot eat the exotic ornamentals offered for sale in most garden centers. Wondering what else you can do to help moths?



Not only is Wingstem the sole host for Gold Moths, it is also an excellent nectar source for insects, including this Canadian *Petrophila* moth.

- Reduce the size of your lawn by adding more native trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses to your landscape.
- Eliminate insecticide use.
- Reduce or eliminate herbicide use.
- Turn off your outdoor lights at night or put them on a motion sensor.
- Plant even more native plants!

For more information on which plants are native to our area and which are favored by moths, please join me for “Gardening for Moths” on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 10am or visit the Native Plant Finder website at [nwf.org/NativePlantFinder](http://nwf.org/NativePlantFinder).

### More Moths of Lowe-Volk Park



Glorious Habrosyne



Wavy-lined Emerald



Mint-loving Pyrausta



Waterlily Leafcutter Moth



Harris’s Three-spot



Harnessed Tiger Moth

# Thank you to the following who have donated to the Friends of the Crawford Park District:

November 18, 2022 through February 13, 2023



## **FRIENDS MEMBERSHIPS**

### **Kinglet (student/senior)**

Kenneth Klingelhafer  
Judy Close – In Memory of  
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Tom Garrett  
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**Bird Feed Donations:**  
 Joyce Roll

**Other Donations:**  
 Kohl's Cares for Kids  
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**\*Correction:** The last quarterly newsletter's donor recognition list had a typo under the Bur Oak Circle group. It should have read Jamie & Cindy Picou. We value all our donors and want to make sure we recognize the appropriate people.

## Recycling in Crawford County

Alas, the time has come. Recycling in Crawford County has moved to "single stream" recycling. What does this mean? Items placed within the recycling bins are sent to a Material Recovery Facility where they are separated and sent to end markets to be turned into something new. With single stream recycling, homeowners aren't burdened with the job of separating or sorting their recyclables. Ultimately, this convenience means more people participate, leading to an overall reduction in waste.

### Recycling Container Locations:

- Crawford County Fairgrounds  
610 Whetstone St • Bucyrus, OH 44820
- New Washington Village Hall  
119 E Mansfield St • New Washington, OH 44854
- East Park  
1231 E Walnut St • Galion, OH 44833
- Crestline Village Hall  
121 W Bucyrus St • Crestline, OH 44827
- Quality Inn  
1515 N Sandusky Ave • Bucyrus, OH 44820
- Lowe-Volk Park  
2401 St Rt 598 • Crestline, OH 44827
- Crawford County Solid Waste Facility/Landfill  
5128 Lincoln Highway E., Bucyrus, Ohio 44820
- Bucyrus City Hall  
500 S Sandusky Ave, Bucyrus, OH 44820

Recycle These

### PAPER



Cardboard should fit inside cart.

### PLASTICS

Bottles, jugs, tubs and cups



Reattach lid. Yogurt and fruit cups OK.

### METAL CANS & CUPS



Non-hazardous, non-flammable material only.

### GLASS BOTTLES & JARS



Any color.

### CARTONS



Remove caps and straws.

### DON'T RECYCLE

- Plastic bags
- Hazardous material such as batteries
- Tanglers such as clothing, dog leashes & garden hoses
- Scrap metal, including pots & pans

Visit [www.rumpke.com](http://www.rumpke.com) to learn more about our recycling program. Visit your local Solid Waste District to find where you can dispose of hazardous material.



[www.rumpke.com](http://www.rumpke.com) | 1-800-828-8171



Friends of the Crawford Park District  
 2401 State Route 598  
 Crestline, Ohio 44827  
 419-683-9000

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# Trails Newsletter



## Crawford Park District Abbreviated Calendar

### Park/Program Location Key:

LVP (Lowe-Volk Park); HNP (Heckert Nature Preserve); SW (Sears Woods);  
 SHP (Sandusky Headwaters Preserve); DS (Daughmer Savanna)

Date	Program/Event	Time	Park				
				Tues. April 18	Lil' Explorers: Frogs	5pm	LVP
Thurs. Mar. 2	Homeschool: Bird Beaks	10am & 2pm	LVP	Wed. April 19	Book Club	6pm	LVP
March 3-31	Clover Hike	All day	LVP	Sat. April 22	Stewardship	9am	LVP
Tues. Mar. 7	Lil' Explorers: Wood	5pm	LVP	Sat. April 22	Earth Day Seed Swap	10am-12pm	LVP
Tues. Mar. 7	Woodcock Walk	6:30pm	SHP	Sat. April 22	Wildflower Hike	1pm	HNP
Sat. Mar. 11	Artifact Expo	10am-2pm	LVP	Sat. April 22	Viewing the Night Sky	8:30pm	LVP
Sun. Mar. 12	Feeding Day	1pm	LVP	Sat. April 29	Wild Edibles	2pm	LVP
Wed. Mar. 15	Book Club	6pm	LVP	Sat. April 29	Viewing the Night Sky	8:30pm	LVP
Thurs. Mar. 16	Puppet Pals	6pm	LVP	Sun. April 30	Feeding Day	1pm	LVP
Fri. Mar. 17	Puppet Pals	11am & 2pm	LVP	Sun. April 30	Girl Scouts: Animal Habitats	2:30pm	LVP
Sat. Mar. 18	<i>Gardening for Moths</i>	10am	LVP	May 1-31	May Flowers Hike	All day	LVP
Sat. Mar. 18	Face to Face: Salamanders	2pm	LVP	Fri. May 5	Full Moon Hike	8pm	SW
Sun. Mar. 19	Nature Hike	3pm	HNP	Sat. May 6	Bird Walk	9am	SW
Sat. Mar. 25	Looking at Nature's Micro World	10am	LVP	Sat. May 6	Face to Face: Turtles	10am	LVP
Sat. Mar. 25	Vernal Pool Exploration	2pm	HNP	Sat. May 6	Girl Scouts: Pollinator Power	1pm	LVP
Sat. Mar. 25	Planetarium/Night Sky	8pm	LVP	Sun. May 7	Wildflower Walk	2pm	SW
Sun. Mar. 26	Eagle Watch	2pm	LVP	Tues. May 9	Lil' Explorers: Flowers	5pm	LVP
Sun. April 2	Hi-Tech Egg Hunt	1-3pm	LVP	Sat. May 13	Bird Banding	7am-1pm	LVP
April 3-30	April Showers Hike	All day	LVP	Sat. May 13	Pancakes in the Park	8am-1pm	LVP
Mon. April 3	Microgreens	6:30pm	LVP	Wed. May 17	Feeding Day	5pm	LVP
Thurs. April 6	Homeschool: Invasive Species	10am & 2pm	LVP	Wed. May 17	Book Club	6pm	LVP
Sat. April 8	Artifact Hunt	10am	LVP	Fri. May 19	Canine Love Triangle	7pm	LVP
Sat. April 8	Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches	2pm	LVP	Fri. May 19	Midnight Mothing	9pm	LVP
Sun. April 16	Spring Wildflowers	3pm	SW	Sun. May 21	Nature Hike	3pm	DS
Mon. April 17	Wildflower Walk	2pm	LVP	Sat. May 27	Viewing the Night Sky	9:15pm	LVP