

Newsletter of the
Crawford Park District
Spring 2021



Keep It Wild!!!

If you are reading this newsletter, it can be safely assumed you are a fan of wildlife. And as a fan, concern for their well-being naturally manifests itself. Invariably, staff at the CPD receive inquiries regarding an orphaned or injured animal. What should one do if a seemingly orphaned animal is found? Where does one take an injured animal? The answers to these questions are dependent upon many variables.

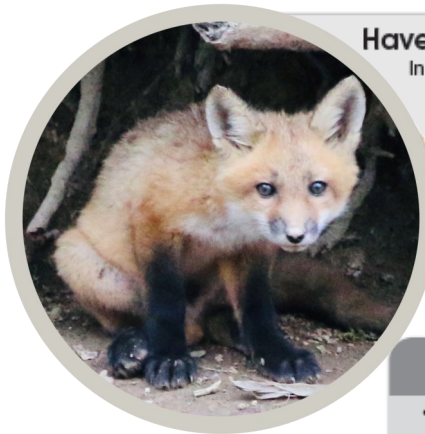
An injured wild animal may seem easy to discern; however, just because a bird is hopping on the ground, or a raccoon is wandering around during the day, does not necessarily equate to injury. A bird that strikes a window, lying alertly on the ground, may only be stunned. A bird in this state can be gently placed in a lidded box and brought indoors. After a few hours, the stunned bird typically regains its senses and can then be released. Other times though, an animal may be noticeably injured: a bird trying to fly but one wing is not working; a raccoon staggering around in the daytime; a turtle with a cracked shell lying next to the road...obvious signs that something is awry. At this point, it is time for professionals to intervene. (While we do consider ourselves professionals in our field, CPD staff are not professional rehabilitators.) An individual has two options: call your county wildlife officer or call a local wildlife rehabilitator (contact info on next page).



Now, what if you see an "orphaned" animal? Unless you can verify that the mother is deceased, chances are the animal is not orphaned. A hatchling turtle emerging from its nest, for example, is not an orphan. After eggs are laid, the mother leaves the nest never to return. Turtles can be safely and carefully taken to the closest body of water. Birds sometimes do fall from their nest. If the bird has little to no feathers, locate the nest. If possible, safely return the bird to its nest. Human scent on baby birds is a myth – the parents will still care for it. If the bird cannot be safely returned (nest is too high to reach), a rehabilitator should be contacted. If a young bird found on the ground has feathers, it is trying to "spread its wings"...literally. Once feathers have developed, the fledglings (as they're called at this stage) are learning to fly. Even though the bird is on the ground, the parents still care for the bird as it tries to fly. At this stage, it is important that pets, if possible, are kept inside. If the pet needs to be outside, they should be leashed for a period of time to allow the bird(s) to safely gain their wings. Lastly, if a whole bird nest with young falls from a tree, safely gather the hatchlings and nest and place them in an appropriate tree branch/shrub. Calls from the young will signal their location to the parents, who will then proceed with their continued care.

Mammals, as with birds and reptiles, that are seemingly “orphaned”, are usually not. From rabbits and squirrels to raccoons and deer, many baby mammals will be observed this spring. Scentless fawns are secreted (concealed) each morning by their mother in a safe spot. The fawn knows not to move. The mother, while not immediately visible, is nearby. Once evening sets in, she will locate her fawn(s) and they will commence their nightly foraging. Baby squirrels occasionally fall from nests. Do not fear! The mother will recover her young and take it back to the nest. Should you discover a rabbit nest in your lawn, again leave them alone if the young appear healthy. If the nest has been disturbed, rebuild the nest by pushing grass and other material around them. However, do not linger; staying around the nest may leave your scent, which could attract predators. Raccoons can also pose a dilemma. Cuddly and cute, people are frequently tempted to scoop up a litter that may be seen roaming around. While these small raccoon kits may appear orphaned, typically they are not. Much like deer and other mammals, the mothers secrete their young while they amble off to find food or rest for themselves. Here's where raccoon kits get into trouble. Similar to humans, who tell their child, “Wait right here – I’ll be back in a minute”, the child, left to their own devices and curiosity, wanders off to investigate something. Raccoon kits are very similar: curious and ready to explore no matter what mother says!

Wildlife is meant to be, well, wild. Statistics show that animals removed from the wild only have a 1-in-10 chance of survival. Animals are programmed to survive and carry on their species. Please remember to keep wildlife wild. (For more information on orphaned or injured wildlife, visit wildlife.ohiodnr.gov)



Have you found a baby wild animal?

In the spring and early summer you may have the good fortune of observing a baby animal in the wild. Often, the baby you see will be unattended by a parent. Unless something seems amiss, keep your distance and leave it alone. Human intervention is always a wild animal’s LAST resort for survival, NEVER its best hope. Assess the situation by answering the following questions.

Do any of these apply?

- It is bleeding, has an open wound, or has a broken bone.
- It is covered in fly eggs (look like small grains of rice).
- It has been crying for more than one day.
- It appears weak AND is lying on its side.
- It was attacked by a pet.

It is natural for young wildlife to be left alone.

YES

The baby is likely injured or orphaned. Contact the nearest permitted wildlife rehabilitator for treatment.

Go to wildohio.gov/staywild for specially trained rehabilitators.

NO

Is it in a dangerous location?

The more time you spend in the area the more likely YOU are to attract predators to the location.

YES

The baby can be moved a short distance to a safer location. After moving the baby animal, quickly leave the area. Do not linger. If possible, you can monitor from afar with binoculars.

When moving a fawn, the young deer may try to follow you as you leave. Face it away from the direction in which you plan to leave so it cannot watch you.

NO

Leave the baby animal alone!

The baby animal is healthy and waiting for mom to return. Keep children and pets away. Monitor from a distance and reassess the situation the next day. Mothers will usually return and move the baby to a new location.

Visit wildohio.gov/staywild for more specific information on how to best help each species.

Caring about wildlife means understanding it is born to live in the wild - not in a house or a cage.

If you cannot reach a baby bird’s nest, try placing the baby into a makeshift nest, like a basket, off of the ground.

- Some young are born nearly scentless.
- To avoid attracting predators adults do not stay with their young.
- The mother is likely nearby; only returning for quick feedings.

It is illegal to keep wildlife without a rehabilitators permit.

Wildlife Rehabilitators:

- Wildlife Haven: 419-683-3228
- Ohio Bird Sanctuary: 419-884-4295
- Wyandot Co. Humane Society: 419-294-4477
- Back to the Wild: 419-684-9539
- Ohio Wildlife Center: 614-793-9453
- Nature’s Nursery: 419-877-0060

Ohio Division of Wildlife:

- District 2 Office, Findlay: 419-424-5000
- Crawford Co. Wildlife Officer: 419-429-8380

(Graphic adapted and used with permission from Ohio Div. of Wildlife)

PROGRAMS

Special Note Regarding Programming...

Pre-registration is required for all programs. All programs are free of charge, unless otherwise noted. For more information or questions about programs, call 419-683-9000, or visit www.crawfordpd.org

As COVID-19 remains omnipresent in our lives, please note that programming is very much subject to change. Please follow any mandates or guidelines set forth by the State of Ohio, CDC, and the Crawford County Public Health Department while visiting your parks.

March

Clover Hike

Mon., March 1 - Wed., March 31 Lowe-Volk Park

Take a stroll at your convenience looking for 4-leaf clovers as you go. Each one will have a tidbit of information for you to read. Once you finish your hike, stop at the front desk of the Nature Center between 8am and 4pm, Mon-Sat, to claim your prize!

Habitat Hike Storybook Trail

Mon., March 1-Wed., March 31 Heckert NP

The Secret Pool by Kimberly Ridley. Take a spring hike each month to find a Storybook Trail that will explore different habitats and what animals you can find there. For each Storybook Trail you complete, you can send a picture of the last page of the book to aditomassi@crawfordpd.org or message Crawford Park District on Facebook to receive a button.

Homeschool in Nature: GPS

**Thurs., Mar. 4 or Mar. 11 9am, 11am, & 2pm
Lowe-Volk Park**

This month we will learn how to use GPS units while locating specific waypoints throughout the park. Dress for the weather because we will be outside. Classes are limited to 10 students per session. Please call the Park District at 419-683-9000 to reserve a spot for your 5-12 year old.

Gettin' Froggy: Wood Frogs

Sat., March 20 2pm Heckert Nature Preserve

Join Naturalist Abby for a froggy adventure to Heckert Nature Preserve's vernal pools. We will be learning all about Wood Frogs and hoping to use their vocalizations to find them in the woods. We will also have traps set to see if we can catch them or

other animals that visit the vernal pools in early spring. Dress for the weather and bring waders or rain boots if you have them. Call the Park District to register.

Feeding Day

Sunday, March 21 1pm Lowe-Volk Park

Will it be fruits, vegetables, leafy greens, shrimp, worms, or mice? Can you guess what's on the menu for the animals in the Nature Center? If you want to help feed some of the animals, call the Park District to register.

Infant Explorers: Insects

Wednesday, March 24 5pm Lowe-Volk Park

Your first instinct may be to keep your babies indoors, but research tells us that infants in outdoor spaces benefit from access to a wide variety of sensory stimuli which they just can't experience indoors. Join Naturalist Abby and baby Vincenzo for a program about insects that will engage your infants' senses and get parents and baby out of the house for some fresh air! Dress for the weather, we will be outside for at least part of the program. Call the Park District to register.

Vernal Pool Exploration

Sat., March 27 1pm 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. Call the Park District to register.





PROGRAMS



March/April

Hi-Tech Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 28 1-3pm Lowe-Volk Park

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

Heckert Nature Preserve Bioblitz

Sun., March 28 2pm Heckert Nature Preserve

This first bioblitz will focus on the early spring wildflowers, insects, and amphibians of Heckert Nature Preserve. Heckert is a hidden gem featuring 43 acres of woods harboring vernal pools and wetlands. Join Chelsea to learn how to use iNaturalist to document your park's diversity of life. Fun for all ages—all you need is a camera or phone and a willingness to explore! Maybe you will discover a county record salamander or a rare insect! For additional information, see the "Bioblitz Bonanza" article on page 15. Call the Park District to register.



April Shower Hike

Thurs., April 1- Fri., April 30 Lowe-Volk Park

Take a stroll through at your convenience looking for rainclouds 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 between 8am and 4pm, Mon-Sat, to claim your prize!

Habitat Hike Storybook Trail

Thursday, April 1-Friday, April 30

Buckeye Central Outdoor Learning Lab

Creatures of the Woods by Toni Eugene. Take a spring hike each month to find a Storybook Trail that will explore different habitats and what animals you can find there. For each Storybook Trail you complete, you can send a picture of the last page of the book to

aditomassi@crawfordpd.org or message Crawford Park District on Facebook to receive a button.

Homeschool in Nature: Wildflowers

Thurs., April 1 or April 8 9am, 11am, & 2pm Lowe-Volk Park

This month we are going to learn about the importance of our early blooming wildflowers and then go on a hike looking for them. Dress for the weather. Classes are limited to 10 students per session. Please call the Park District at 419-683-9000 to reserve a spot for your 5-12 year old.

Artifact Hunt

Sat., April 10 10am Meet @ Lowe-Volk Park

Join other artifact collectors to walk nearby farm fields looking for remnants of prehistoric 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.

Gettin' Froggy: Spring Peepers and Chorus Frogs

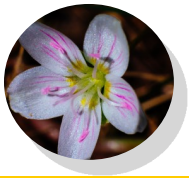
Saturday, April 10 2pm Carpenter's Bottom

Join Naturalist Abby for a froggy adventure to the vernal pools at Carpenter's Bottom. We will be learning all about Spring Peepers and Chorus Frogs and hoping to use their vocalizations to find them in the woods. We will also have traps set to see if we can catch them or other animals that visit the vernal pools in early spring. Dress for the weather and bring waders or rain boots if you have them. Call the Park District to register.

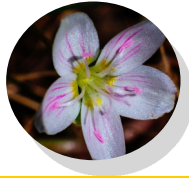
Spring Wildflowers

Sunday, April 11 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. Call the Park District to register.



PROGRAMS



April

Wrens

Wednesday, April 14 8pm Lowe-Volk Park

Six different Wren species have been recorded in Ohio – two of those species are in trouble and a third has disappeared altogether. Meet Warren Uxley at Lowe-Volk Park and learn the good, the bad, and the interesting facts about Wrens. Call the Park District to register.

Earth Day Challenge

Sunday, April 18-Sunday, May 2

Location of Your Choice

Earth Day is April 22, and we want you to celebrate! Our Earth Day Challenge for you is to make the earth a healthier place. Submit a picture showing how you helped make the earth a better place to live. Send your picture to lbogard@crawfordpd.org to earn an Earth Day button.

Toddler Trot: Wildflowers

Sunday, April 18 2pm Heckert Nature Preserve

Wildflowers are beautiful and fun to explore. Join Josh and McKinley to investigate the colors, numbers, and textures of our gorgeous natural landscape. For kids not yet in kindergarten and their parents. Call the Park District to register.

Golden Buckeye Wildflower Hike

Thurs., April 22 1pm Heckert Nature Preserve

Spring wildflowers take advantage of the sun to flower and produce seeds. Join Josh and take a leisurely stroll that will focus on the importance of these spring ephemerals and their role in our woodlands. Call the Park District to register.

Volunteer Day: Planting a Prairie

Saturday, April 24 10am

Sandusky Headwaters Preserve

As work on developing your new preserve continues, we need your help! Hundreds of prairie and wetland plugs need planted! This is a great community service opportunity for your club, civic group, and family. This planting will help finalize the CPD's H2Ohio grant project. Some tools will be provided,

but you may bring a trowel or shovel. Call the Park District to register your family or club. **Rain Date: May 1.**

Feeding Day

Sunday, April 25 1pm Lowe-Volk Park

Will it be fruits, vegetables, leafy greens, shrimp, worms, or mice? Can you guess what's on the menu for the animals in the Nature Center? If you want to help feed some of the animals, call the Park District to register.

Sears Woods Bioblitz

Sunday, April 25 2pm Sears Woods



Many of our gorgeous spring wildflowers have *oligolectics*, like the Spring Beauty Miner to the left. These are harmless bees that specialize in collecting pollen from only one or

a few flower species. For April's bioblitz, we will be searching Sears Woods for wildflowers and their visiting pollinators. Join Chelsea as you use iNaturalist to document your park's diversity of life and to assist with the Ohio Bee Survey. Fun for all ages—all you need is a camera or phone and a willingness to explore! For additional information, see the "Bioblitz Bonanza" article on page 15. Call the Park District to register.

Infant Explorers: Water

Wednesday, April 28 5pm Lowe-Volk Park

Your first instinct may be to keep your babies indoors, but research tells us that infants in outdoor spaces benefit from access to a wide variety of sensory stimuli which they just can't experience indoors. Join Naturalist Abby and baby Vincenzo for a program about water that will engage your infants' senses and get parents and baby out of the house for some fresh air! Dress for the weather, we will be outside for at least part of the program. Call the Park District to register.

PROGRAMS

May

Flower Hike

Sat., May 1-Mon., May 31 Lowe-Volk Park

Take a stroll at your convenience 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 between 8am and 4pm, Mon-Sat, to claim your prize!

Habitat Hike Storybook Trail

Saturday, May 1-Monday, May 31 Unger Park

Around the Pond: Who's Been Here? by Lindsay Barrett George. Take a spring hike each month to find a Storybook Trail that will explore different habitats and what animals you can find there. For each Storybook Trail you complete, you can send a picture of the last page of the book to aditomassi@crawfordpd.org or message Crawford Park District on Facebook to receive a button.

Ohio's Ancient Fossils

Saturday, May 1 10am Lowe-Volk Park

Retired Galion teacher Bryan Summer will present about Ohio's prehistory, focusing on our fossil record. Around 500 million years ago, Ohio was an ancient shallow seabed with trilobites, squid, corals, and a variety of shelled animals. The Ohio Glacial Period that started 1.8 million years ago, exposed Ohio's shale and limestone sediments containing these ancient fossils. Come learn about Ohio's ancient fossils and discover places in Ohio where you can go to collect them and learn about Ohio's prehistory! Call the Park District to register.

Gettin' Froggy: Gray Treefrogs

Saturday, May 1 2pm Lowe-Volk Park

Join Naturalist Abby for a froggy adventure at Lowe-Volk Park's wetland. We will be learning all about Gray Treefrogs and hoping to use their vocalizations to find them in the woods. We will also use dip nets to catch treefrog tadpoles and other animals that visit the wetland. Dress for the weather and bring waders or rain boots if you have them. Call the Park District to register.



Toddler Trot: Wetland Exploration

Sunday, May 2 2pm Lowe-Volk Park

Wetlands make for a fun exploration opportunity! Join Josh and McKinley to hopefully catch frogs, tadpoles, and anything else our nets can capture. After we investigate the different animals, we will safely return them to their aquatic home. For kids not quite in kindergarten and their parents. Call the Park District to register.



Golden Buckeye Bird Hike

Thursday, May 6 9am Sears Woods

Many birds are passing through Crawford County on their way to breeding grounds much further north. Some of these migrants may also stay and raise young right here. Join Josh on this leisurely stroll to listen for and observe our feathered friends as they flit about, fueling their journey northward. Call the Park District to register.

Bird Banding

Saturday, May 8 7am-1pm Lowe-Volk Park

Join Bob Placier and CPD staff for a morning of science! Banding is used to track trends in bird populations, among other research applications. We will be banding birds on the front porch of the Nature Center. Fun for all ages! Call the Park District to register.

Bird Hike

Saturday, May 8 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. Call the Park District to register.



PROGRAMS



May

Native Plant Hike

Mon., May 10 - Thurs., June 3 Lowe-Volk Park

Take a walk at your convenience along scenic trails, learning about Ohio's native plants as you go. Native plants are the foundation of most ecological food webs and make a beautiful addition to your landscape! A variety of trees, shrubs, and perennial flowers will be featured along with the pollinators, birds, or other animals they benefit. Once you finish your hike, stop at the front desk of the Nature Center, 8am-4pm, Mon-Sat, to claim your native plant!

Ohio's Ancient Fossils

Saturday, May 15 10am Lowe-Volk Park

Retired Galion teacher Bryan Summer will present about Ohio's prehistory, focusing on our fossil record. Around 500 million years ago, Ohio was an ancient shallow seabed with trilobites, squid, corals, and a variety of shelled animals. The Ohio Glacial Period that started 1.8 million years ago, exposed Ohio's shale and limestone sediments containing these ancient fossils. Come learn about Ohio's ancient fossils and discover places in Ohio where you can go to collect them. This is not a program series; both dates will be the same program. Pick a date and come learn about Ohio's prehistory! Call the Park District to register.

Feeding Day

Sunday, May 16 1pm Lowe-Volk Park

Will it be fruits, vegetables, leafy greens, shrimp, worms, or mice? Can you guess what's on the menu for the animals in the Nature Center? If you want to help feed some of the animals, call the Park District to register.

Lowe-Volk Park Bioblitz

Sunday, May 16 2pm Lowe-Volk Park

May's bioblitz focus will be documenting aquatic insects and migratory birds at Lowe-Volk Park. Dragonflies and damselflies will be emerging from their nymphal pond, wetland, and river habitats. At the same time, warblers and other birds returning to their northern breeding grounds may stop for a rest in the woods. Join Chelsea as you use iNaturalist to

document your park's diversity of life. Fun for all ages—all you need is a camera or phone and a willingness to explore! For additional information, see the "Bioblitz Bonanza" article on page 15. Call the Park District to register.

Infant Explorers: Flowers

Wednesday, May 26 5pm Lowe-Volk Park

Your first instinct may be to keep your babies indoors, but research tells us that infants in outdoor spaces benefit from access to a wide variety of sensory stimuli which they just can't experience indoors. Join Naturalist Abby and baby Vincenzo for a program about flowers that will engage your infants' senses and get parents and baby out of the house for some fresh air! Dress for the weather, we will be outside for at least part of the program. Call the Park District to register.

The Moths of May

Friday, May 28 9pm-12am Lowe-Volk Park

With gradually warming temperatures and lengthening days, many moths emerge from their overwintering cocoons in spring. However, only a fortunate few glimpse these beauties during the day since moths are primarily nocturnal. Stop in to see which moths and other intriguing insects are attracted to our mothing sheet. Cecropia caterpillars have been found at Lowe-Volk, so with luck (and a very bright light) a giant Cecropia Moth may fly in! Call the Park District to register.

Springtime at Daughmer

Saturday, May 29 2pm Daughmer Savannah

Most of the prairie plants at Daughmer will flower in mid to late summer, but several plants listed as threatened species will flower in late spring. Meet Warren Uxley and learn about Daughmer's rarest plants. Call the Park District to register.

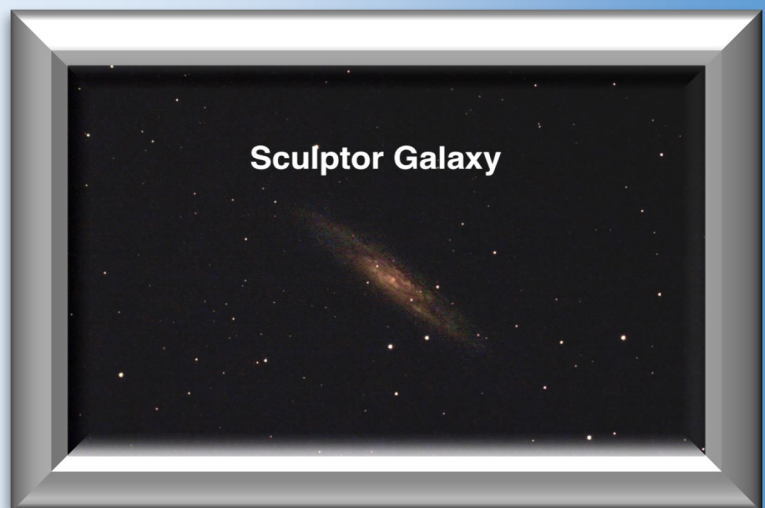
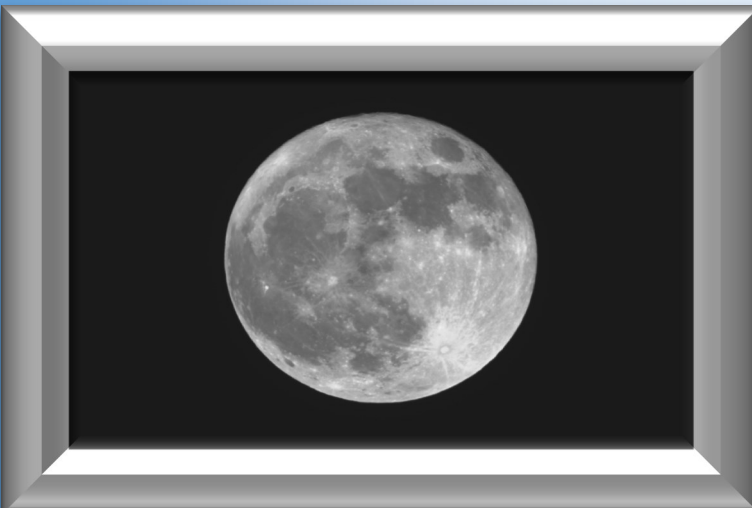
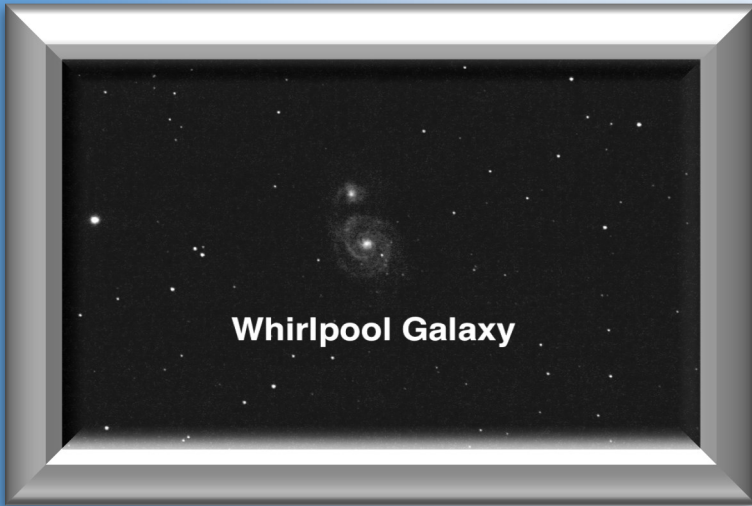
Living History Day

Friday-Sunday June 4-6 Lowe-Volk Park

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!

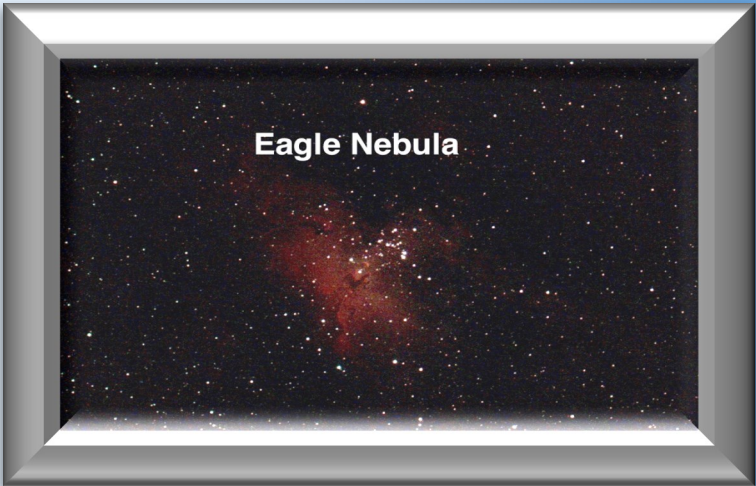
Out of this World

There are trillions of phenomena in our universe from stars to nebulas to galaxies and more. We can see some with the naked eye or binoculars, while others can only be viewed with a telescope. The following images were captured with the Stellina Telescope during several of the Night Sky programs. Participants can have images like these sent to their phone when they attend each program. For more information on the Crawford Park Astronomy Club, please see page 11.

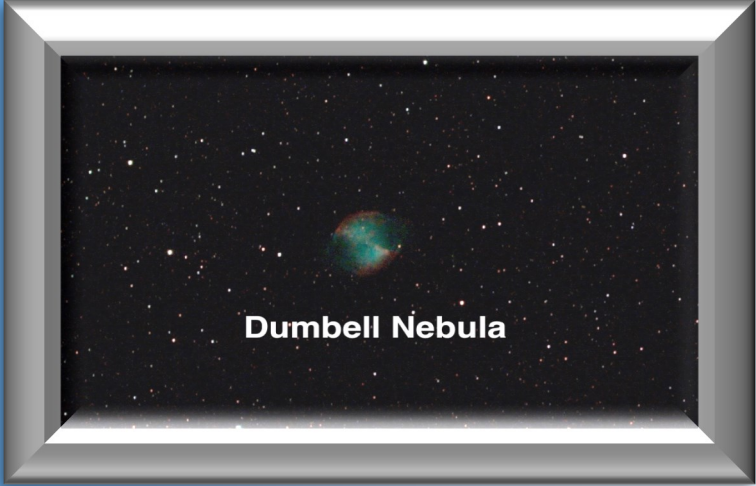




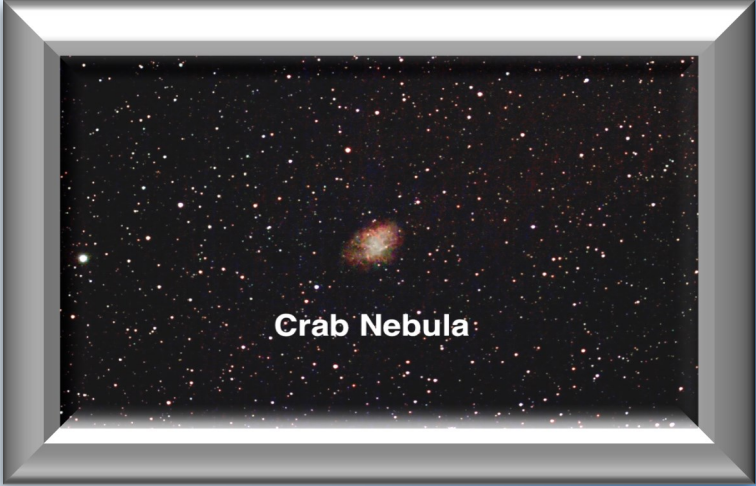
Andromeda Galaxy



Eagle Nebula



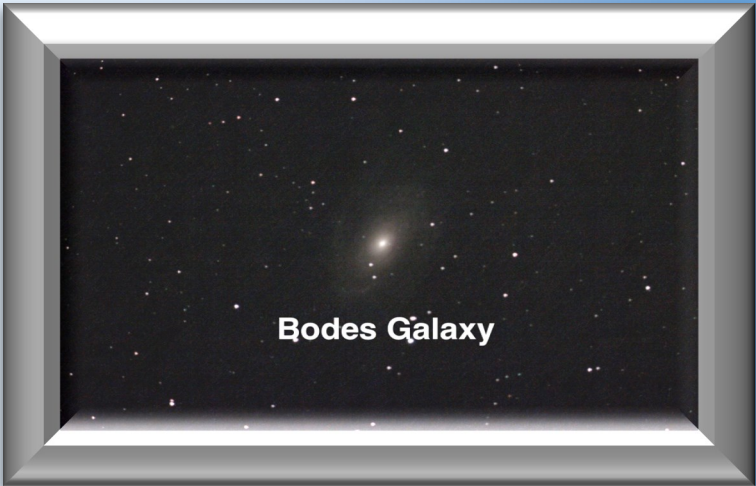
Dumbbell Nebula



Crab Nebula



Omega Nebula



Bode's Galaxy



Hercules Star Cluster



Lagoon Nebula

Chert: A Choice Rock

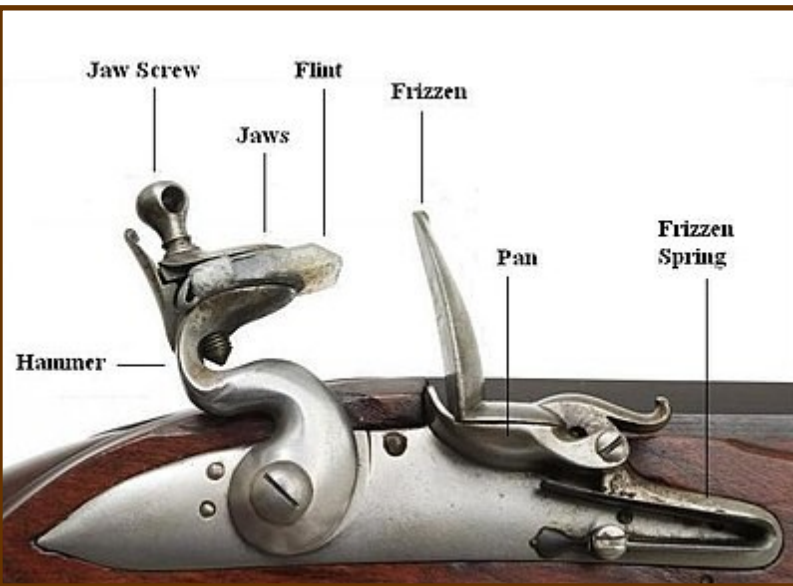
Chris Rothhaar

Chert is a widely dispersed rock, found not only throughout the United States and Canada, but in Europe as well. It is present in many different regions, displaying a variety of colors and textures. The discovery of its useful properties contributed to the survival of many cultures throughout history, from prehistoric times to the Industrial Revolution.

Chalcedony, flint, and chert, which are arguably different names for the same rock, are found throughout the Midwest in limestone and dolomite deposits. Many of these deposits are massive beds, measuring hundreds of yards thick and ranging laterally for many miles. These beds were once part of the deep ocean floor that formed when ancient fossil remains were replaced by silica, making them sedimentary rocks. From the erosion of chert beds, cobble stones formed and are widely dispersed in river and gravel beds.

Made up of microscopic crystals, chert is chemically the same as crystalline quartz (SiO_2). On a streak plate, it leaves a white mark, and often has a waxy or resinous luster. Its specific gravity is around 2.6 and scores a 7 on the Mohs Hardness Scale. Chert can be black, white, gray, translucent, opaque, purple, orange, or brown; in many types, combinations of these colors occur in bands throughout the rock. The wide range of the colors in chert are due to the impurities incurred during formation. Inclusions of fossils, quartz crystals, iron oxide, pyrite, calcite, and clay minerals can be found in many examples.

Chert's ability to fracture in conchoidal flakes, which also produces sharp edges, made it one of the first materials used for mass production. After striking off flakes from a nodule or core, prehistoric people used the flakes as they were, or chipped them in a predictable way for a symmetrical knife blade or projectile point used for hunting and butchering. This skill, called flint knapping, was used for thousands of years until European contact, after which trade began for implements/tools made of steel and other alloys.



Use of chert in mass production continued with the invention of the flintlock firearm. Not only is it sharp-edged and hard, chert also produces sparks when struck against steel. The chert, or flint, is chipped into a square, approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inches square and $\frac{3}{8}$ inches thick with beveled edges. It is then clamped in the hammer on the lock of the gun. Black powder is poured into the flash pan, just ahead of the hammer. The frizzen is then closed over the pan. When the trigger is pulled, the hammer falls forward, and the flint strikes the frizzen producing sparks. Simultaneously, the frizzen opens, allowing the powder to ignite in the flash pan. This ignition travels through a small hole (touch hole) that leads to the charge in the breech of the barrel, which ignites the charge causing the gun to fire.

In early historic times, chert was also used to start fires. A piece of steel called the "striker" was held in one hand while the chert, or flint, was held in the other hand – striking them

together to produce sparks. Sparks were directed onto a piece of charred cotton cloth that began to smolder. The cloth was then placed in dry tinder and was blown on to start a fire.

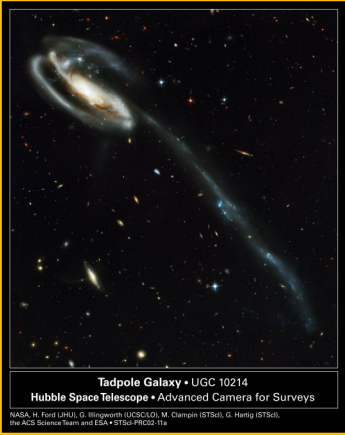
Some of the most beautiful chert in the world is found at Flint Ridge Memorial Park in Newark, Ohio, operated by Ohio History Connection. Flint Ridge chert (or chalcedony, as some refer to it) was quarried for thousands of years by indigenous people. It is still quarried today on private property by modern flint knappers and jewelry makers. This specific chert can be cut, polished, tumbled, and made into beautiful pendants and other jewelry. Flint Ridge chert is also Ohio's state gemstone.

(This quarter's guest essayist is Chris Rothhaar. His personal interest in chert goes back to his childhood when he found his first arrowhead. Having grown up in Liberty Township, Crawford County, he's roamed the farm fields of north central Ohio, surface hunting artifacts for over 4 decades. Chris also participates in historical re-enactments, and has built his own flintlock rifle and started many flint and steel fires. Thank you to Chris for providing this essay on chert, a very important rock for Crawford County residents, past and present.)

Crawford Park Astronomy Club

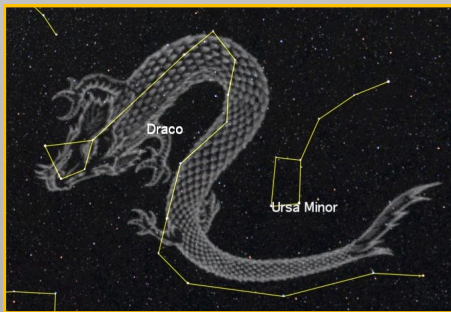
The Astronomy Club will meet on the 4th and 5th Saturday of every month 30 minutes after sunset. Please dress for the weather. On rainy or cloudy nights, the meeting will be held in the Nature Center. Please call 419-683-9000 to register.

Dragons and Tadpoles in the Sky



Tadpole Galaxy • UGC 10214
Hubble Space Telescope • Advanced Camera for Surveys

In our night sky, there are 88 constellations, that can be seen. The 8th largest is Draco. It is 420 million light years away from Earth. While we can see about 20 stars representing the dragon, there are so many more objects that call Draco home. This includes three galaxies. One of those is a barred spiral galaxy called the Tadpole Galaxy. It is thought that more than a hundred million years ago, there was a galactic collision with a smaller, compact galaxy. This “hit and run” interaction caused stars, gas, and dust to be pulled away from the larger spiral galaxy forming the tail of the Tadpole Galaxy. The smaller galaxy can be seen moving away from the Tadpole. The tail that was formed is quite massive, stretching to about 280 thousand light years long. Scientists predict that as the galaxy gets older, it will lose its tail, just like the tadpoles we know here on earth.



A special thank you to the following for making donations for the observatory.

- Freese Foundation
- Patrick Hord Family
- The Mahoney Family

These donations/grants are greatly appreciated, and we're excited for the great things to come!

Meeting Dates



March 27	8:00 pm
April 24	9:00 pm
May 22	9:30 pm
May 29	9:30 pm



Targets for Spring

- ➡ **M41** – 2,300 light years away is Canis Major, an open cluster 4 degrees south of Sirius
- ➡ **Mars** – is very favorable for awhile longer
- ➡ **Castor** – is 370 million years old, 50 light years away, consists of multiple stars, and contains the 20th brightest star in the sky
- ➡ **NGC 2392** – discovered in 1787 by William Herschel, the Clown Face Nebula is 5000 light years away; found in Gemini
- ➡ **NGC 2632** – a very pretty sight is the Beehive Cluster, sometimes referred to as the Northern Jewel Box
- ➡ **M50** – an open cluster in Monoceros, 2,870 light years away, and contains 508 stars
- ➡ **M42** – the great nebula of Orion is 1,300 light years away and 12 light years across; it is the birthplace of stars
- ➡ **Andromeda Galaxy** – the closest major galaxy to the Milky Way, a real sight to behold
- ➡ **Pleiades** – 410 light years away, visible with binoculars, and very young at only 20 million years old
- ➡ **Hyades** – open star cluster 153 light years away, moving away from us at 100,000 mph
- ➡ **Crab Nebula** – super nova remanent
- ➡ **Sirius** – the brightest star in the sky is the Dog Star
- ➡ **North Star** – also known as Polaris, is a double star
- ➡ **Asterism** – Three Leaps of the Gazelle, once it is shown to you, you'll wonder why you didn't notice it before!
- ➡ **Asterism** – Big Dipper, our guide to the North star, includes a double star

There are a lot of other objects to view. What we see will depend on what the clouds are doing.

Gettin' Froggy

All over Ohio, amphibians like frogs and salamanders, will be emerging from their wintering grounds. Frogs will be migrating to a suitable body of water for calling, mating, and laying eggs. For some frogs, this body of water may be a vernal pool surrounded by woodlands; for others it may be a wetland, pond, roadside ditch, or even a pool tarp or coy pond in your very own backyard. This migration can start as early as January, but usually starts in mid-March in Crawford County. Once the last pile of snow has melted and there is an increase in soil temperature, precipitation, and humidity, these amphibians are ready to make their move. To learn more, join Naturalist Abby for Gettin' Froggy programs on March 20th, April 10th, and May 1st.



Wood Frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*)

Wood Frogs can be identified by their **dark facial masks**. During Breeding season, many wood frogs can be seen in **amplexus**, the frog mating method where the smaller darker male grasps on to the larger, salmon colored female. This mating takes place in vernal pools.



Western Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*)

The Western Chorus Frog can be identified by the **three dark stripes** running down its back. The chorus frog will call from roadside ditches, meadows, and floodplain forests. Their call resembles the sound of drawing your finger down the teeth of a comb.



Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)

Spring Peepers can be identified by the dark markings that create an **"x"** on the back. One of the smallest frogs, but the loudest; spring peepers can be heard "peeping" from a mile away. You can find them in any semi-permanent body of water, usually within forests.



Gray Treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*)

The treefrog is the frog most adapted to suburban life, where they cling to your siding, hoping to catch some insects attracted to your porch lights. Pictured is the **vocal sac** that inflates to produce the frog call. Treefrogs have been found to lay eggs in pool tarps and coy ponds.

Junior Naturalist Club

The Crawford Park District's Junior Naturalist Club has monthly meetings for 12-18 year-olds who are interested in nature. Meeting topics change each month and will vary based on interests of the members. The goal of the club is "To foster and encourage excitement for nature and nature related careers within a community of young adults, giving them tools they need to excel in the pursuit of their interests." Along with meetings, other opportunities to assist with CPD events and programming are available. For more information about the CPD's Junior Naturalist Club, or if you know a 13-18 that would like to join, contact Naturalist Abby Ditomassi by calling the park office at 419-683-9000; or you can send her an email: aditomassi@crawfordpd.org.

Meeting Dates: March 20, April 10, May 1

Meetings start at 5:00pm and are held at the Lowe-Volk Nature Center

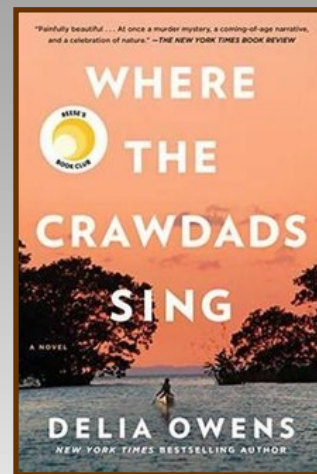
CPD Book Club

Do you love nature and also love to read? With the abundance of books available for nature lovers, sometimes it's hard to choose the next great book to read. Join the Crawford Park District's Book Club and we will figure it out together! Pre-registration is required. So come armed with your favorite book about nature or a nature centered book you want to read and be ready to make your case to the club!

Book Club Meeting Dates:

March 30, April 27, May 25

Book Club meetings take place at the Lowe-Volk Nature Center and start at 6:00pm.



Forest Friends Pre-K Program @ Lowe-Volk Nature Center

Register now for the 2021/2022 school year!

Sessions are held Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays

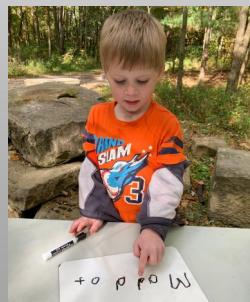
Morning Session: 9-11:30 or Afternoon Session: 1-3:30

For: 4 & 5-year-olds entering Kindergarten in 2022

Nature is our classroom! We learn & explore outside in sunshine, rain, & snow!

This program incorporates outdoor learning with Ohio's Early Learning & Development Standards, which focus on math, science, social studies, language & literacy as well as social/emotional & physical development. It is led by a licensed Pre-K teacher/naturalist.

Registration forms can be found on Crawford Park District's website, crawfordpd.org or can be picked up at Lowe-Volk Nature Center.



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

November 15, 2020 through January 31, 2021



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#Giving2sday

The Community Foundation for Crawford County (CF4CC) held their annual fundraising effort for local funds held in their trust on December 2, 2020. Many thanks to all that helped make this past Giving Tuesday a success! Initial donations to the Friends of the CPD's Endowment Fund totaled \$11,940.25; pro-rated match funds from CF4CC added \$2,336.14, with an additional \$500.00 added due to the "FC Bank Power Hour". The Friends Endowment final total was \$14,776.39. This total placed the Friends Endowment, again, in the top three for total contributions. The donations to this endowment demonstrate overwhelming community support and the value they place in the mission of our organization. Thanks again to all who contributed!

Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District

Spring Tree and Fish Sale

Tree Sale: Available species include White Oak, Black Walnut, Sweetgum, various evergreens, wildlife and wildberry packs, and raspberry species. Deadline for ordering trees is **April 9**. Pick-up will be April 21 from 3:00-6:00pm and April 22 from 7:30am-6:00pm.

Fish Fingerling Sale: Available species include Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Hybrid Bluegill, Channel Catfish, and White Amur, among others. Deadline for ordering is **April 22**. Pick-up will be April 23 from 2:00-3:00pm.

SWCD Contact: For more information regarding the Tree and Fish Sale and other SWCD programs, visit their website, crawfordswcd.org. You can also call their office at 419-562-8280 ext. 2. The SWCD office is located at 3111 SR 98, Bucyrus, Ohio.



Bioblitz Bonanza

In recent years, Spotted Salamanders were discovered at Heckert Nature Preserve, a record for Crawford County. While last summer, a rare Slender Baskettail dragonfly was spotted at Unger Park. What else is living in our parks that we don't know about? We are seeking citizen scientists to help us discover the biodiversity in all of our parks and preserves. How can you help? Simply create an account on the iNaturalist website/app, head to one of your parks, take pictures of the living, wild (not the neighbor's cow!) things you find, and upload them to iNaturalist using your phone or computer. Your observations will automatically be added to our "Bioblitz Project" based on the location your photos were taken! These Bioblitz Projects on iNaturalist will serve as inventories of the species found in each park and will be accessible to everyone for reference or research.

Beginning in March, Naturalist Chelsea Gottfried will lead one Bioblitz a month, focusing on specific animal/plant groups at each park. See our program write-ups for details. Chelsea will demonstrate how to add observations to iNaturalist and will highlight some of the coolest features of using the website/app. She will also cover some important photo-taking strategies to maximize getting observations identified by the experts on iNaturalist. You do not need a science background to contribute to our Bioblitz—anyone with a phone or camera and a desire to explore nature can make a difference!



Friends of the Crawford Park District
 2401 State Route 598
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Trails Newsletter

Crawford Park District Abbreviated Calendar

Park/Program Location Key:

LVP (Lowe-Volk Park); **UP** (Unger Park); **HNP** (Heckert Nature Preserve);
SW (Sears Woods); **DS** (Daughmer Savannah); **SHP** (Sandusky Headwaters Preserve);
BOLL (Buckeye Central Outdoor Learning Lab); **CB** (Carpenter's Bottom)



Mar. 1– Mar. 31	Storybook Trail	All Day	HNP	Sun. April 25	Feeding Day	1:00pm	LVP
Mar. 1– Mar. 31	Clover Hike	All Day	LVP	Sun. April 25	Bioblitz—Sears Woods	2:00pm	SW
Thu. Mar. 4 & 11	Homeschool: GPS	9, 11 & 2pm	LVP	Tues. April 27	Book Club	6:00pm	LVP
Sat. March 20	Getting' Froggy: Wood Frogs	2:00pm	HNP	Wed. April 28	Infant Explorers: Water	5:00pm	LVP
Sun. March 21	Feeding Day	1:00pm	LVP	May 1—May 31	Storybook Trail	All Day	UP
Wed. March 24	Infant Explorers: Insects	5:00pm	LVP	May 1—May 31	Flower Hike	All Day	LVP
Sat. March 27	Vernal Pool Exploration	1:00pm	HNP	Sat. May 1	Ohio's Ancient Fossils	10:00am	LVP
Sat. March 27	Viewing the Night Sky	8:00pm	LVP	Sat. May 1	Getting' Froggy: Treefrogs	2:00pm	LVP
Sun. March 28	Hi-Tech Easter Egg Hunt	1-3pm	LVP	Sun. May 2	Toddler Trot	2:00pm	LVP
Sun. March 28	Bioblitz—Heckert NP	2:00pm	HNP	Thurs. May 6	Golden Buckeye Bird Hike	9:00am	SW
Tues. March 30	Book Club	6:00pm	LVP	Sat. May 8	Bird Banding	7am-1pm	LVP
April 1– April 30	Storybook Trail	All Day	BOLL	Sat. May 8	Bird Hike	9:00am	SW
April 1– April 30	April Shower Hike	All Day	LVP	May 10-June 3	Native Plant Hike	All Day	LVP
Thu. Apr. 1 & 8	Homeschool: Wildflowers	9, 11 & 2pm	LVP	Sat. May 15	Ohio's Ancient Fossils	10:00am	LVP
Sat. April 10	Artifact Hunt	10:00am	LVP	Sun. May 16	Feeding Day	1:00pm	LVP
Sat. April 10	Getting' Froggy	2:00pm	CB	Sun. May 16	Bioblitz—Lowe-Volk Park	2:00pm	LVP
Sun. April 11	Spring Wildflowers	3:00pm	SW	Sat. May 22	Viewing the Night Sky	9:30pm	LVP
Wed. April 14	Wrens	8:00pm	LVP	Tues. May 25	Book Club	6:00pm	LVP
April 18-May 2	Earth Day Challenge	Anytime		Wed. May 26	Infant Explorers: Flowers	5:00pm	LVP
Sun. April 18	Toddler Trot: Wildflowers	2:00pm	HNP	Fri. May 28	The Moths of May	9pm-12am	LVP
Thurs. April 22	Golden Buckeye Hike	1:00pm	HNP	Sat. May 29	Springtime at Daughmer	2:00pm	DS
Sat. April 24	Volunteer Day	10:00am	SHP	Sat. May 29	Viewing the Night Sky	9:30pm	LVP
Sat. April 24	Viewing the Night Sky	9:00pm	LVP	June 4-6	Living History Days		LVP