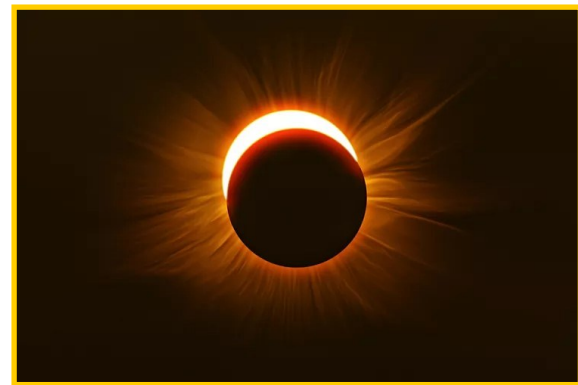


Newsletter of the
Crawford Park District
Spring 2024



A Total Eclipse of the Park

On Monday, April 8, Crawford Countians will be graced with a once-in-a-lifetime experience: a total solar eclipse! Ohio has not seen a total solar eclipse in over 200 years. The last one was in 1806, and the next one will not be until 2099! Beginning at 1:56pm, the Moon will start moving between the Earth and the Sun. For the next hour, the Moon will slowly cover the Sun, eventually covering it completely at 3:11pm. This totality will last until 3:15pm. The Moon will slowly move past the Sun and eventually be clear of it at 4:27pm.

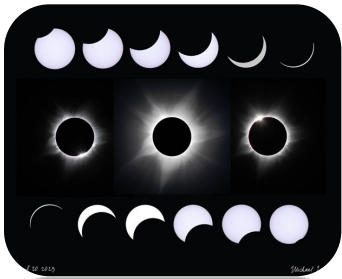


To celebrate this spectacular celestial event, your Crawford Park District has developed a weekend full of programming, culminating with the grand event on Monday. The Lowe-Volk Nature Center will have extended hours; CPD staff and Crawford Park Astronomy Club members will provide many activities and presentations for all ages including: astronomy lectures, solar observations, stargazing, fluorescent minerals display, meteorite display, space bingo, space tent, and much more!

Viewers of the eclipse **MUST** take measures to ensure proper eye safety. Parents especially should make sure their children are safely observing the eclipse. Special solar eclipse glasses will make their way to students via the Bucyrus Rotary. Solar glasses are also available at the Lowe-Volk Nature Center for \$2/pair with a four pair limit. Care should be taken not to scratch the lens of the glasses as this could affect their efficacy. Solar glasses should be kept in an envelope until used on the day of the eclipse.

We hope to see you on one, two, or possibly all three days of events. If not, safely enjoy time with family and friends for this extraordinary event!

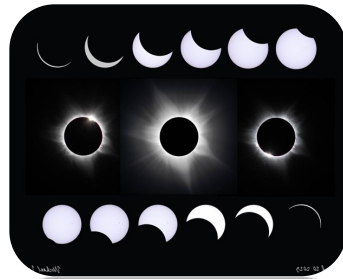




“A Total Eclipse of the Park”

Eclipse Event Weekend

Lowe-Volk Park
Saturday, April 6—Monday, April 8, 2024



Saturday, April 6

- 9:00am Nature Center Opens
- 1:00pm Astronomy Lecture: Astronomy Events in 2024*
- 2:00pm Solar Observations **or** Nature Story Time: Eclipse Edition*
- 3:00pm Astronomy Lecture: The Sun and the Eclipse*
- 4:00pm Solar Observations **or** Sun Soakers: Meet Our Heliophilous Animals*
- 5:00pm Break
- 6:30pm Raffle Drawing
- 7:00pm Astronomy Lecture: Our Solar System + Story: Sky Full of Stars*
- 8:00pm Night Observations (until 11pm)

Sunday, April 7

- 9:00am Nature Center Opens
- 1:00pm Astronomy Lecture: The Universe*
- 2:00pm Solar Observations
- 3:00pm Astronomy Lecture: The Sun and the Eclipse*
- 4:00pm Solar Observations
- 5:00pm Break
- 6:30pm Raffle Drawing
- 7:00pm Astronomy Lecture: Nebulae, Clusters, Galaxies + Story: How the Stars Fell into the Sky*
- 8:00pm Night Observations (until 11pm)

Monday, April 8

- 8:00pm Nature Center Opens
- 10:00pm Astronomy Lecture: The Sun and the Eclipse*
- 11:00pm Solar Observations **or** Face to Face: Nocturnal Animals*
- 12:00pm Break
- 1:00pm Astronomy Lecture: The Sun and the Eclipse*
- 1:56pm Eclipse Begins (moon touches the edge of the sun)
- 3:11:50 Beginning of Maximum Eclipse (moon covers the sun)
- 3:13:36 Maximum Eclipse (sun at maximum coverage by the moon)
- 3:15:22 Ending of Maximum Eclipse (edge of moon exposes the sun)
- 4:00pm Raffle Drawing
- 4:27pm Eclipse Ends (moon leaves the edge of the sun)
- 5:00pm Nature Center Closes



*These programs will take place in the Nature Center’s classroom.

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

March

Feeding Day

Monday, March 4 4:30pm Lowe-Volk Park

Lizards, turtles, bugs, snakes, and bunnies, oh my! We have lots of mouths to feed here at the Nature Center! Come by to help prepare diets and feed the critters. But that's not all! Captive animals require enrichment in their lives to relieve stress and boredom. Make fun puzzles, toys, and decorations for them as well!

Little Explorers: Bugs

Tuesday, March 5 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 bugs!



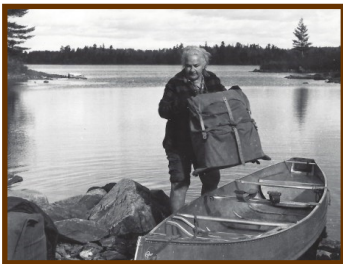
Homeschool in Nature: Vernal Pools

Thursday, March 7 10am & 2pm Sandusky Headwaters Preserve

Join us at Sandusky Headwaters Preserve to learn about vernal pools. We will take a hike down to the vernal pools and check the traps to see if we caught any animals on this late winter day. Call the Park District at 419-683-9000 to register your 5-12-year-old.

Women of the Wilderness

Friday, March 8 6pm Virtual



What better way to celebrate International Women's Day than by learning about some of the wonderful women who pioneered their way into being great naturalists, conservationists, park rangers, and more! Visit our website (crawfordparkdistrict.org) or call to register and receive a Zoom link.

Artifact Expo

Saturday, March 9 10am-2pm Lowe-Volk Park



If you are into prehistoric artifacts, this event is for you! Come out to see what other local collectors have found in the fields of Crawford County and other areas. 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!

Girl Scouts: Pets

Tuesday, March 12 6:15pm Lowe-Volk Park

Are you a Brownie Girl Scout? If so, join Troop 4253 to learn all about pets and work on earning your badge. We'll look at different animals that you could have as a pet and all the care that goes into taking care of that animal. Brownie Girl Scouts from all troops are welcome!

Face to Face: Frogs

Saturday, March 16 11am Lowe-Volk Park



Join Chelsea to come face to face with... frogs! Kids will get to touch or hold a Gray Tree Frog, a Northern Leopard Frog, an American Toad, a Spring Peeper, and a Western Chorus Frog, as we learn all about the life cycles and unique adaptations of Ohio's native frog species. We will even venture outside to listen for calling frogs, honing our spring frog call identification skills!



PROGRAMS



March/April

Puppet Pals: Stream Life

Thursday, March 21 6pm Lowe-Volk Park

Friday, March 22 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. The puppet show

will be followed by a fun activity. For kids ages 3-7 and their parents.

Stewardship: Invasive Species

Saturday, March 23 9am-12pm Heckert

Help protect our parks from invasive species such as honeysuckle and barberry. Join Mike to improve these special habitats. Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather and bring gloves. Loppers and other special equipment will be provided.

Hi-Tech Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 24 1-3pm Lowe-Volk Park

Borrow a GPS unit from us or use your smartphone to scan QR codes to go on 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!



Girl Scouts: Animal Observers

Tuesday, March 26 5:45pm Lowe-Volk Park

Are you a Daisy Girl Scout? If so, come earn your Animal Observer badge! We will begin by taking a hike on our trails in search of animal tracks and other signs. Then, we'll play a game to hone our skills at spotting camouflaged animals. Finally, we'll practice recording field notes by observing our animals in the Nature Center. Daisy Girl Scouts from all troops are welcome!

Artifact Hunt

Sat., March 30 Meet at 10am Lowe-Volk Park

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



Little Explorers: Plants

Tuesday, April 2 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 be outside exploring green growing plants!



Goodnight Sun:

What Nature Does During a Total Eclipse

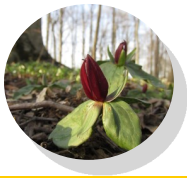
Wednesday, April 3 6pm Virtual

The total eclipse next week will make the sky look like nighttime in the middle of the day! Find out how wild animals (and plants!) behave during eclipses. Visit our website (crawfordparkdistrict.org) or call to register and receive a Zoom link.

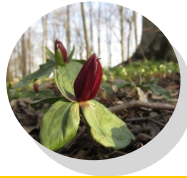
Find a Rainbow Day

Wednesday, April 3 5:30pm Lowe-Volk Park

It's National Find a Rainbow Day *and* National Walking Day—two perfect reasons to come out and look for rainbows while taking a walk through the park. We will also learn about how rainbows are made and have an opportunity to make some too!



PROGRAMS



April

Homeschool in Nature: Riddles

Thursday, April 4 10am & 2pm Lowe-Volk Park

Wrapping up this school year, we are going on a hunt... a hunt to solve a riddle! Our clues will lead us throughout the park. Call the Park District at 419-683-9000 to register your 5-12-year-old.

“A Total Eclipse of the Park”:

Solar Eclipse Event Weekend

Sat., April 6—Mon., April 8 Lowe-Volk Park

We are celebrating the full solar eclipse! Please see page 2 in this newsletter for the complete schedule.

Face to Face: Rabbits

Saturday, April 6 11am Lowe-Volk Park



Join Chelsea to meet one of the most popular animals residing in our Nature Center—Sylvi, a Netherland Dwarf. We will learn all about Eastern Cottontails (the wild rabbits of Ohio) and other crepuscular animals. Kids will have the opportunity to pet Sylvi and feed her some treats!

Nature Story Time: Eclipse Edition

Saturday, April 6 2pm Lowe-Volk Park

Why is the sky getting dark?! Join Chelsea for a special story time all about the upcoming solar eclipse! This will feature a story and an activity to help children understand what they will observe during the eclipse as well as the reason that it happens. Kids will also get to meet and hold a surprise animal visitor—one who depends on the sun for warmth!

Sun Soakers: Meet Our Heliophilous Animals

Saturday, April 6 4pm Lowe-Volk Park

Celebrate the upcoming solar eclipse by meeting some of the sun loving animals that call the Nature Center home. We will learn about the sun’s importance to turtles, snakes, and lizards, and program participants will be able to touch or hold the animals!



Face to Face: Nocturnal Animals

Monday, April 8 11am Lowe-Volk Park

From salamanders, to treefrogs, to tarantulas, we will meet and learn about some of the nocturnal creatures residing in the Nature Center. Kids (and adults!) will have the opportunity to touch and hold these darkness dwellers!



Recycled Project Display

Friday, April 19—Sunday, May 5 Lowe-Volk Park

Miss Lisa Smith’s 4th grade class at Colonel Crawford has been providing excellent examples of using everyday items and turning them 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.

Stewardship: Invasive Species

Saturday, April 20 9am-12pm Heckert

Help protect our parks from invasive species such as honeysuckle and barberry. Join Mike to improve these special habitats. Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather and bring gloves. Loppers and other special equipment will be provided.

Feeding Day

Monday, April 22 4:30pm Lowe-Volk Park

Lizards, turtles, bugs, snakes, and bunnies, oh my! We have lots of mouths to feed here at the Nature Center! Come by to help prepare diets and feed the critters. But that’s not all! Captive animals require enrichment in their lives to relieve stress and boredom. Make fun puzzles, toys, and decorations for them as well!





PROGRAMS



April/May

Wildflower Walk

Monday, April 22 5:30pm Lowe-Volk Park



What better way to celebrate Earth Day than by taking a leisurely hike to admire our spring blooming wildflowers? We will learn how to identify common

spring wildflowers, and participants can take home a free Wildflowers of Ohio guidebook. Hopefully, we'll catch some of our more uncommon flowers in bloom, such as Dwarf Larkspur, Large-flowered Bellwort, and Braun's Violet. While Drooping Trilliums are typically white, we'll also search for some of this flower's rarer color form: maroon!

Celebrate Trails Day

Saturday, April 27 9am Sears Woods

Today is "Celebrate Trails Day"! The CPD has 7 parks with hiking trails for you to explore. Whether you take to a trail on your own or join Lisa for a leisurely stroll through Sears Woods, get out there and hike a trail!

Wild Edibles

Saturday, April 27 11am-1pm Lowe-Volk Park

Many of the plants 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 Chelsea. We will begin with a hike to practice identification and ethical harvesting and will then work together to prepare a feast from nature in the classroom of the Nature Center. This program is limited to 25 participants, so please call the Park District at 419-683-9000 to register!



Spring Fungus Among Us

Saturday, April 27 3pm Lowe-Volk Park



Which mushrooms are safe to eat? How can mushrooms be responsibly collected? Join fungus expert Bob Antibus for a stroll through the woods, hunting for and identifying mushrooms. A retired biology professor, Dr. Antibus is well known in the field of mycology for his expertise in identification.

Stewardship: Invasive Species

Saturday, May 5 9am-12pm Heckert

Help protect our parks from invasive species such as honeysuckle and barberry. Join Mike to improve these special habitats. Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather and bring gloves. Loppers and other special equipment will be provided.

Feeding Day

Monday, May 6 4:30pm Lowe-Volk Park

Lizards, turtles, bugs, snakes, and bunnies, oh my! We have lots of mouths to feed here at the Nature Center! Come by to help prepare diets and feed the critters. But that's not all! Captive animals require enrichment in their lives to relieve stress and boredom. Make fun puzzles, toys, and decorations for them as well!

Little Explorers: Mud

Tuesday, May 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 mud! We will be outside in the nature playscape this month, so be sure to dress in clothes that can get muddy!





PROGRAMS

May

Box Turtles

Wednesday, May 8 5:30pm Lowe-Volk Park

Box turtles aren't the only turtles that have a hinged plastron, but they are the only ones that can completely close up their shell. Stop out to meet our box turtles, make a craft, and learn a little about these remarkable reptiles. It's time to "shellebrate" National Box Turtle week!



Family Hike

Wed, May 15 5:30pm Heckert Nature Preserve

Today is International Day of Families! I plan to celebrate by bringing one of my four-legged family members to join me on a hike through Heckert. Families of all sizes are welcome to come and enjoy an evening out in nature.



Bird Banding

Saturday, May 11 7am-1pm Lowe-Volk Park



In conjunction with our 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 enjoy some pancakes in support of your Park District!

Girl Scouts: Animal Habitats

Tuesday, May 21 6:15pm Lowe-Volk Park



Are you a Junior Girl Scout? If so, join Troop 4253 to learn all about animal habitats and work on earning your badge. 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!

Creek Walk

Saturday, May 25 1pm Lowe-Volk Park

The Sandusky River is 133 miles long and ends all the way up in Sandusky Bay, but did you know that it starts right here at Lowe-Volk Park?! Come out to explore Allen Run and Paramour Creek, the tributaries that make up the mighty Sandusky headwaters! Wear your creek-walkin' shoes!



Pancakes in the Park

Saturday, May 11 8am-1pm Lowe-Volk Park

Come and support your parks 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! And don't forget to stop by the bird banding station!

Living History Days

Friday, May 31- Sunday, June 2 Lowe-Volk Park

Join the CPD and Colonel Crawford's Company to step back into the 18th Century. See page 12 for a tentative schedule. Save the date!



American Fly Agaric



Bear's Head Tooth



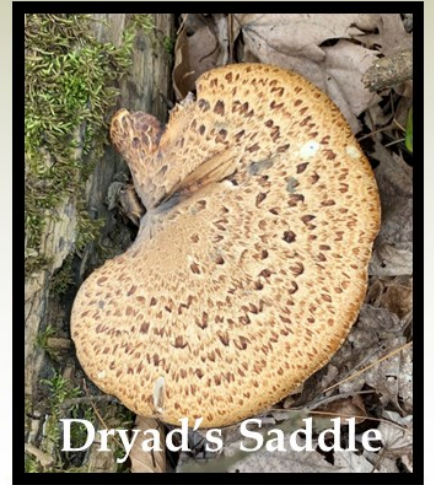
Trichaptum sp.



Lycoperdon sp.



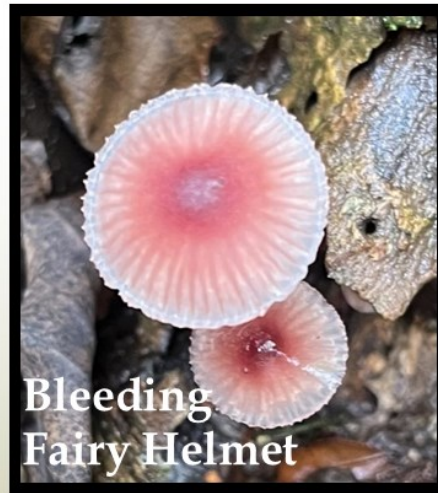
Orange Faint Foot Mushroom



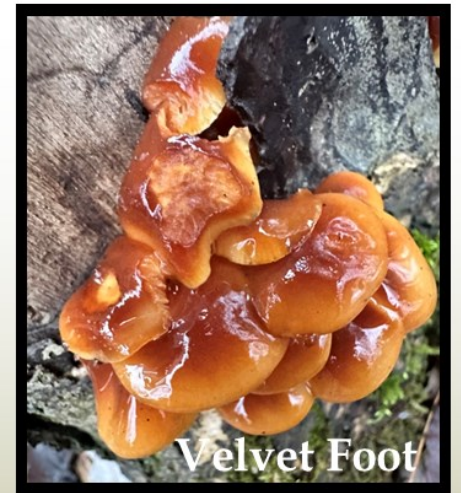
Dryad's Saddle



Collared Parachute



Bleeding Fairy Helmet



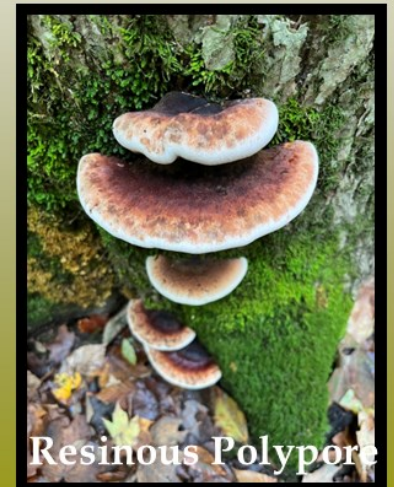
Velvet Foot



Crowded Parchment



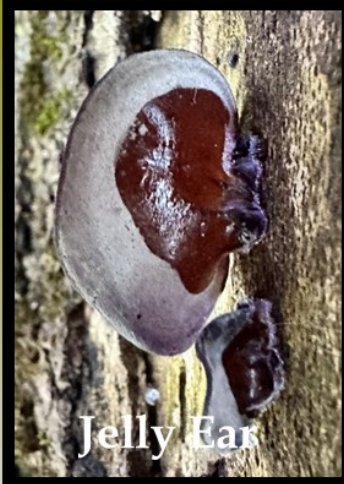
Dead Man's Fingers



Resinous Polypore



Chicken Fat Mushroom



Jelly Ear



Chicken of the Woods



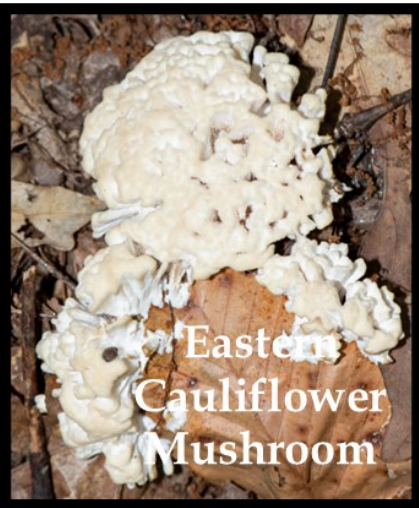
Hexagonal-pored Polypore



Shaggy Mane



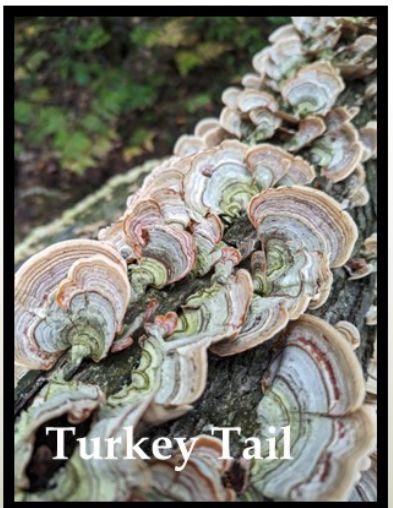
Oyster Mushroom



Eastern Cauliflower Mushroom



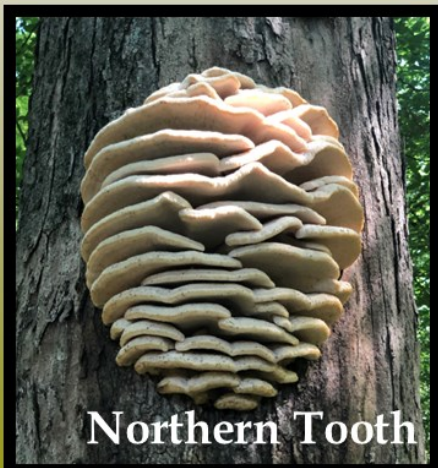
Scarlet Elfcup



Turkey Tail



Coral Tooth Fungus



Northern Tooth



Orange Mycena

Creature Feature: Spring Peeper

By Kaily Vitullo

What better creature to feature this spring than the Spring Peeper!? The Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*) is one of the most common frogs in Ohio (their range runs across the eastern U.S. and southeast Canada). This can be quite evident on a rainy spring day when the air close to small, fishless ponds and wetlands is filled with loud, high-pitched *peeps*! Peepers are very small—only about an inch long (males are slightly smaller)—and have a distinct “X” marking on their backs. Their species name *crucifer* means “cross-bearer.” This cross distinguishes them from their Ohio native cousins, the chorus frogs. Spring Peepers, Western Chorus Frogs, Mountain Chorus Frogs, Blanchard’s Cricket Frogs, and Gray Treefrogs are all part of the treefrog family Hylidae, meaning they have round, sticky pads at the end of each toe and are able to climb (some better than others). While Spring Peepers can climb, they prefer to spend their time in the leaf litter next to wetlands, hiding under leaves and logs until dark, when it’s time to hunt! Peepers are insectivores, eating small bugs and spiders (they love spiders!). They find a good spot, then sit still, patiently waiting for unsuspecting prey to come within range. The peeper snatches up the unlucky bug with impressive



This peeper is showing off the classic “X” or “cross” marking on the back. Look at those rounded toes, too!

speed, using its own **eyeballs** to push down and swallow its meal! Predators like birds, snakes, lizards, and larger frogs would never turn down a Spring Peeper snack, so these little frogs have to be ready to jump (up to 17 inches!) at a moment’s notice. In the winter, peepers hibernate (called

brumation in amphibians). Sometimes the temperature drops so low in the peeper’s brumation spot (usually just under some leaves or loose bark) that the poor frog nearly freezes solid! Luckily these guys (and some other species) have natural “anti-freeze” in their blood, called glycogen, that prevents ice crystals from forming inside their cells. Spring Peepers can safely remain frozen for up to three days!

A handsome male in breeding colors. Males and females are impossible to tell apart except during the breeding season.



While Spring Peepers are elusive and rarely encountered most of the year, they advertise their large populations in early spring, when the males sing all night (and maybe all day if the conditions are right!) trying to attract a mate. Ideal vernal pools (fishless wetlands that dry up in the summer) can hold hundreds of peepers, and their sound can be deafening! A single *peep* rings out at 90 decibels - about the sound of a motorcycle running 20 feet away - and peepers peep about once every three seconds. This chorus of peeps is sometimes interspersed with a short trilling, fingernail-on-a-comb sounding aggressive call, especially when there is a high density of males in one breeding pool. The male with the loudest, fastest peeps wins a female first. She swims up to her chosen



A male calling with a fully inflated vocal sac. Females do not have vocal sacs, so they can't peep!



Two males call from the same log. Large choruses can be deafening!

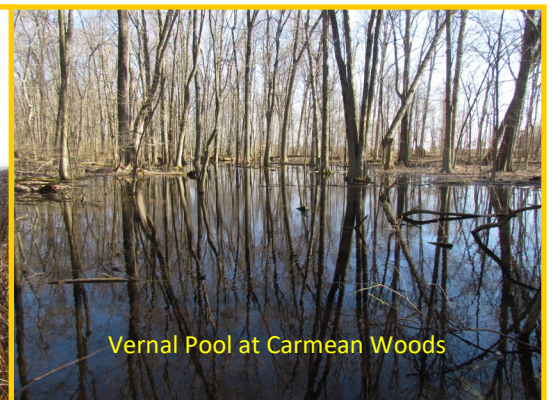
mate and he climbs on her back, hitching his front feet under her “armpits” and his back legs above her hips. This position is called amplexus, and it’s how all frogs and toads mate. The female deposits one to three eggs at a time, attaching them to vegetation under the water, until all 900-1,000 eggs have been laid! The male fertilizes the eggs externally as she lays them. The tiny eggs hatch in a matter of a couple days to a couple weeks, depending on the temperature. Peeper tadpoles spend the next month and a half to three months eating algae, plankton, and other microorganisms until they’ve grown enough to start metamorphosis. Their back legs will sprout first, followed by the front, and their gills and tail start to disappear (a process called apoptosis - “programmed” cell death in which cells shrink, break up, and are then digested by phagocytes in the body). This coming-of-age

story ends when the peeper-pole’s tail is gone, its lungs are fully developed, and its legs are ready to hop! The young frog makes its way out of the only home it’s known and ventures into the surrounding forest, finding an ideal spot to spend the next year growing until it’s time to migrate back to the same pool it hatched in to find a mate!

If you want to look for Spring Peepers this spring, head for the woods and follow your ears! Be respectful of the land, watch your step, and make sure to take some earplugs with you!



Vernal Pool at Daughmer



Vernal Pool at Carmean Woods

Unger Park Multi-Use Trail Update

The Unger Park Multi-Use Trail project is making strides! Clearing, grubbing, and some grading have occurred. Culverts have been installed. The parking lot, while not paved, is cut in and has stone. While it is unsightly now, the benefits of the trail will outweigh the temporary “ugliness”. With the construction ongoing, the western portion of Unger Park is closed to the public. The project is slated for completion by October 2024. We look forward to adding this trail to the many benefits the Crawford Park District provides to area residents.

(We are currently finalizing the funding for the trail. If you would like to sponsor a portion of the trail, contact the park office.)



Living History Days

The following is a tentative schedule for Living History Days and is subject to change. Check our website and other social media closer to the event. The dates of the event are Friday, May 31-Sunday, June 2.

Friday, May 31

-8pm War Council

Saturday, June 1 & Sunday, June 2:

-9am Opening Ceremony

-10am Shequonur – Native Storyteller

-11am Battle Island Reenactment

-12pm Lunch

-1pm Lou Tommelleo – Weapons of the 18th Century

-2pm Tami Cory – Dressing the 18th Century

-3pm Capture of Colonel Crawford

-4pm Close

iNaturalist Citizen Science Update!

So far, 104 citizen scientists have contributed 5,185 observations of 1,672 unique species on the CPD's 11 properties (the newly acquired Kurtz-Etter Wildlife Area property has not yet been added). These observations include a handful of species listed by the state as endangered or species of concern as well as other species seemingly uncommon in the state. Awesome work! We are hoping the observations continue, and if you haven't yet contributed, please try to! Snapping pictures when you're out on a hike is easy—many of us already do this. Taking the extra step to upload your photos to iNaturalist after your hike is also super simple, and it's fun and educational to be able to give names to the plants, animals, and fungi you're observing. Let's make our goal this year to reach 200 contributors, 10,000 observations, and 2,500 species! Please help us reach this goal!!



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 Lowe-Volk Nature Center.









Meeting Dates



March 23	8:15 pm
March 30	8:30 pm
April 6	8:00 pm
April 7	8:00 pm
April 27	9:00 pm
May 25	9:00 pm



Targets for Spring

-  **Beehive Cluster (M44)** – also known as Praesepe, an open cluster of about 1,000 stars, about 600 million years old, 550 light-years away, and found in the constellation Cancer.
-  **Betelgeuse** – a giant red carbon star or red supergiant, 700 light-years away, about 10 million years old, 600 times the size of our sun, and when viewed from earth, it is the left shoulder of Orion.
-  **Crab Nebula (M1)** – an expanding remnant of a star's supernova explosion, 6,500 light-years away, found in Taurus, about 10 light-years wide (which equals about 10 trillion miles), and is still growing at over 600 miles per second.
-  **M65** – an intermediate spiral galaxy under the belly of Leo the Lion, 35 million light-years away, and part of the Leo Triplet.
-  **M66** – another spiral galaxy found below Leo, 35 million light-years away, part of the Leo Triplet, and in 1780, it was discovered the same night as M65 by Charles Messier.
-  **Orion Nebula (M42)** – a beautiful, large, local nebula, only 1,300 light-years away, (yes, that is local in astronomical terms), about 2 million years old, and is the middle star of Orion's sword.
-  **Polaris** – the North Star, the 48th brightest star in the sky, always visible, and the end of the Little Dipper's handle.
-  **Sirius** – found in Canis Major, the brightest star in our sky, also called the Dog Star, and it follows Orion the Hunter.



Last summer, our Nature Campers had a morning filled with playing astronomy games and going into the inflatable planetarium.

Full Moons

March 25
(Worm Moon)

April 23
(Pink Moon)

May 23
(Flower Moon)

Other Events

Vernal (Spring) Equinox
March 19

Penumbral Lunar Eclipse
March 25
Starts at 12:53 am
Maximum at 3:12 am
Ends at 5:32 am

Total Solar Eclipse
April 8
Starts at 1:56 pm
Maximum at 3:13 pm
Ends at 4:27 pm

Lyrids Meteor Shower
April 15-29
(Peak: April 21-22)

Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower
April 15-May 27
(Peak: May 4-5)



The sun during an eclipse: "I'm just going through a phase where I don't want to see anyone."

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

November 21, 2023 through February 18, 2024



FRIENDS MEMBERSHIPS

Kinglet (student/senior)

Bob & Colleen Jackson
Shirley Hehr
Dave & Jackie Cochran

Cardinal (individual)

Vicky Weber
James Carpenter
Rod & Sue Streib
Loretta Oberschlake – In Memory of Wendy Oberschlake
Phyllis Cole
Kim Felkey
Jane Garrett – In Memory of Tom Garrett
Marge Carnahan
Julie Helmke
Kit Walter
Jane Miller

Flock (family)

Tom & Joanne Miller
Martha Flohr
Donald & Judith Smith
John & Amy Cauvel – In Memory of Terry Cooper
Suzanne Hawkins
Chuck & Julie Huggins
Hazel & Dean Hunter
Kyle & Anne Hartman
Guy Denny
Arthur & Patricia Rank
Larry & Linda Morrison
Cathy & Barry Moneysmith
Charles & Kathy Yaussy
Dwight & Patty Lust
Tammy Siclair-Erlsten & Family – In Memory of Sam Siclair
Denny & Cindy Davis

Bur Oak Circle (supporting)

Carl Dovenbarger
Carolyn Helbert
Paul & Joyce Hartschuh
Dick & Kay Stowe
Michael Schimpf
Donald Walter
Richard & Anita Shackelford
Charles & Jean Pratt
Tom & Jan Pfeifer

Jaime & Cindy Picou
Kevin Stepro
John & Jackie Wingert
Dr. Peter & Susan Maynard
Daniel Ritchey
Harry & Debbie Bloomfield – In Memory of Noah Lear

Bald Eagle Club (sustaining)

Jim & Ruth Ann Crabaugh – In Memory of Our Parents & Grandparents
Phil & Michelle Feik
Robert & Pat Trout
Kathy Lowe & Casey Kerr – In Memory of Charles Lowe
Nancy Stauffer
James & Janet Pry
Randy & Terri Lady
Mary Ann & Alan Basinger
Dave Sharrock – In Memory of William Sharrock
Bill & Marilyn Stepro
Mark & Pat Murphy
Jim & Jeanne Thompson
Randy Shull – In Memory of Pam Shull
Jim & Helen Luidhardt
Oberlander's Tree & Landscaping
Dale & Vicki Hartschuh
David & Jane Brause

Tallgrass Prairie Club (sponsoring)

Todd & Becky Strickland
People's Savings & Loan Co.
Mike & Nancy Kolehmainen
Candace Jones
Bob & Judy Grochowalski

Sycamore Club (promoting)

Jim & Linda Leyda
Jason & Erin McMullen
Galion Elks #1191

Natural Resource Partner (corporate)

James & Ida Fink

thank you!

In Memory of Elmer Kafer

Nick & Sarah Kafer Mill
Bob & Rhonda Palenshus

Other Memorials

Bill & Carol Porter – In Memory of Duane Davy
David & Carla Koepke – In Memory of Bob Norris
St. Paul U.M.C. – In Memory of Emerson Eckstein

Bird Seed Donation

Taffy Kleman

Other Donations

The Kroger Co.
Amy Reed & Kathy Zaborowski – In Honor of Gary Cole
Roxanne Hiler
Arthur J. Freese Foundation
Greg & Kim Gabriel
Jim & Nancy Gillenwater
Colonel Crawford Lions

GIVING TUESDAY

Richard & Loyce Carpenter
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Dostal
Dr. & Mrs. Glen McMurray
Eric & Shelly Kocher
Ron & Carolyn Sand
Jan Maddy
Dr. Peter & Susan Maynard
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Shadeed
Tamara Robinson – In Memory of Paul Robinson
Tim & Pat Simmermacher
Earth, Wind, & Flowers Garden Club
James & Patty Neff
James & Paula Brown
Gary Cole
Jim & Janet Pry
Jim & Linda Leyda
Ken & Deb Cameron
Thad & Sarah Metzger
Eugene & Faye Toy
Denny & Pat Armstrong
Steve & Carolyn Helbert
Jack & Barb Koschnick
Dale & Marline Garverick

(GIVING TUESDAY cont.)

Dave & Carol Rowland
David & Karen Halsey
Charles Christman
Raymond & Wanda Trash
Martha Kozik
Jami & Judi Slayton
Crestline Chiropractic Clinic
Kevin & Elizabeth Cotsmire
Chuck & Lisa Clark
Anthony-Lee Screen Printing

Penny Pumphrey
Gene & Mendi Toy
Beverly Whaley
Mr. & Mrs. Adam Paynter
Gary & Lesley Lawson
Crestline Historical Society – In
Honor of Jan Maddy
Caleb Miller
Mark Schneider
Carol Rhodebeck
Dan & Patricia Everly

Kathy Lowe
Susan Kerr
Chelsea Gottfried
Kari Schenz
Christy Zender

***Correction:** In the Winter 23/24 Issue of the *Trails* newsletter, under the Flock memberships, Danny & Sherry Phillips was misspelled.

A Forgotten Thank You



As we've moved forward from the opening of Sandusky Headwaters Preserve toward the purchase of two new properties, the subject of signs for the new properties arose. It then dawned on me... I never publicly thanked Trinity

Monuments and Signs for their donation of the sign at Sandusky Headwaters Preserve. Specifically, thank you Mr. Mike Robinette for creating and donating the entry sign that draws visitors to the wonderful preserve that is SHP. Thank you, Mike! Regards, Josh

Spring Break Open House



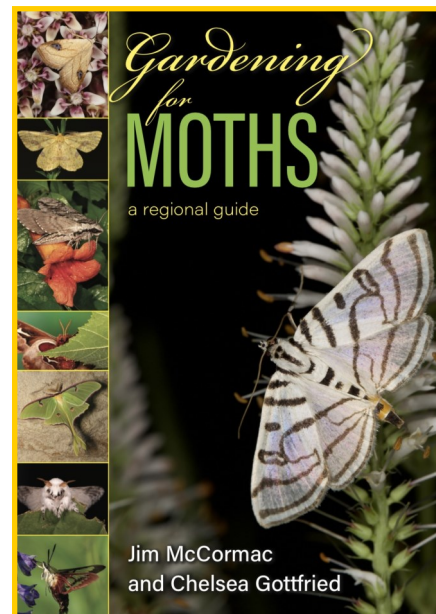
Looking for something to do with your kids while school is closed? Bring them out to the Nature Center on **Monday, April 1 from 10am-2pm!**

Naturalists will be available to bring out animals (including the AXOLOTLS!) and to answer questions. Kids will be able to touch and hold the animals. Our indoor treehouse and interactive kids' area is the perfect place to enjoy the day off school!

CPD Partners with Earth, Wind, and Flowers

Thursday, April 18 6:30pm @ Lowe-Volk Park

Our enchantment with butterflies isn't surprising—these daytime flyers are easily observed and collectively encompass a rainbow palette of colors punctuated with ornate patterns. However, their close relatives the moths overwhelm butterflies in species diversity and sheer numbers. Most moths are nocturnal and largely out of sight and mind. Nonetheless, they are one of the most important animal groups. Moths are inextricably intertwined with native plants, bats, birds, and the whole of the eastern deciduous forest ecosystem. They play an enormous role in the pollination of native plants. In addition, they are often far more interesting than butterflies, both visually and behaviorally. This talk will be a pictorial journey into an intriguing and little-known world that unfolds all around us. We can greatly benefit the ecosystem around us by "moth-gardening" in our yards. Join the Earth, Wind, and Flowers Garden Club and the CPD as they welcome the authors of *Gardening for Moths: A Regional Guide*. After the presentation, Jim and Chelsea will be available to answer questions and sign copies of their book.



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

NONPROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 ZIP CODE 44820
 PERMIT NO. 10

Trustees:
 Joshua Dyer
 Martha Kozik
 Dan Everly
 Kyle Hartman
 Barb Koschnick

Board of Park Commissioners:
 Jan Maddy
 Kyle Hartman
 Dave Rowland

Park Staff:
 Director — Joshua Dyer
 Secretary — Patti Schiefer
 Naturalists — Lisa Bogard,
 Chelsea Gottfried, Kaily Vitullo
 Land Managers — Mike Fruth
 Program Asst. — Joy Etter-Link
 Receptionist — Patti Gervais

Trails Newsletter

Crawford Park District Abbreviated Calendar

Park/Program Location Key:

LVP (Lowe-Volk Park); HNP (Heckert Nature Preserve); SHP (Sandusky Headwaters Preserve);
 SW (Sears Woods); V (Virtual)



Date	Program/Event	Time	Park	Date	Program/Event	Time	Park
Mon. March 4	Feeding Day	4:30pm	LVP	Sat. April 6	Meet our Heliophilous Animals	4:00pm	LVP
Tues. March 5	Little Explorers: Bugs	5:00pm	LVP	Sat. April 6	Viewing the Night Sky	8:00pm	LVP
Thurs. March 7	Homeschool: Vernal Pools	10am & 2pm	SHP	Sun. April 7	Viewing the Night Sky	8:00pm	LVP
Fri. March 8	Women of Wilderness (Virtual)	6:00pm	V	Mon. April 8	Face to Face: Nocturnal Animals	11:00am	LVP
Sat. March 9	Artifact Expo	10am-2pm	LVP	Thurs. April 18	Gardening for Moths	6:30pm	LVP
Tues. March 12	Girl Scout: Pets	6:15pm	LVP	Sat. April 20	Stewardship	9am-12pm	HNP
Sat. March 16	Face to Face: Frogs	11:00am	LVP	Mon. April 22	Feeding Day	4:30pm	LVP
Thurs. March 21	Puppet Pals: Stream Life	6:00pm	LVP	Mon. April 22	Wildflower Walk	5:30pm	LVP
Fri. March 22	Puppet Pals: Stream Life	11am & 2pm	LVP	Sat. April 27	Celebrate Trails Day	9:00am	SW
Sat. March 23	Stewardship	9am-12pm	HNP	Sat. April 27	Wild Edibles	11am-1pm	LVP
Sat. March 23	Viewing the Night Sky	8:15pm	LVP	Sat. April 27	Spring Fungus Among Us	3:00pm	LVP
Sun. March 24	Hi-Tech Egg Hunt	1pm-3pm	LVP	Sat. April 27	Viewing the Night Sky	9:00pm	LVP
Tues. March 26	Girl Scouts: Animal Observations	5:45pm	LVP	Sat. May 4	Stewardship	9am-12pm	HNP
Sat. March 30	Artifact Hunt	10:00am	LVP	Mon. May 6	Feeding Day	4:30pm	LVP
Sat. March 30	Viewing the Night Sky	8:30pm	LVP	Tues. May 7	Little Explorers: Mud	5:00pm	LVP
Mon. April 1	Nature Center Open House	10:00am-2:00pm	LVP	Wed. May 8	Box Turtles	5:30pm	LVP
Tues. April 2	Little Explorers: Plants	5:00pm	LVP	Sat. May 11	Bird Banding	7am-1pm	LVP
Wed. April 3	Find a Rainbow Day	5:30pm	LVP	Sat. May 11	Pancakes in the Park	8am-1pm	LVP
Wed. April 3	Goodnight Sun (Virtual)	6:00pm	V	Wed. May 15	Family Hike	5:30pm	HNP
Thurs. April 4	Homeschool: Riddles	10am & 2pm	LVP	Tues. May 21	Girl Scouts: Animal Habitats	6:15pm	LVP
April 6—April 8	Total Eclipse of the Park	See page 2	LVP	Sat. May 25	Creek Walk	1:00pm	LVP
Sat. April 6	Face to Face: Rabbits	11:00am	LVP	Sat. May 25	Viewing the Night Sky	9:00pm	LVP
Sat. April 6	Nature Story Time: Eclipse Edition	2:00pm	LVP	May 31-June 2	Living History Days	See page 12	LVP