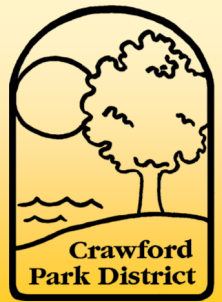


Newsletter of the  
Crawford Park District  
Summer 2019



## Scholarship Winners are Passionate About the Environment

The Dr. Laurie Anne Rhodebeck Memorial Scholarship was established to honor the legacy and life's work of Dr. Rhodebeck. Due to Dr. Rhodebeck's Bequeathment amount, the Friends of the Crawford Park District decided to award two \$1,000 scholarships per year. The scholarships are awarded in association with the Community Foundation for Crawford County. The recipients of the 2019 scholarships are Callie Wildenthaler of Galion and Caitlin Harley of Crestline. The scholarship awards were presented during the annual Pancakes in the Park event.

Callie is a 2017 graduate of Galion High School and will be entering her third year at Ohio Wesleyan University this fall. She is majoring in Zoology and Environmental Studies. When asked "What can humans do to improve, protect, or more fully experience the environment?" Callie responded "One of the best ways... is by immersing ourselves in the outdoors and helping others learn about and experience the environment as well." She also knows that protection starts within each of us. "We must understand how activities we incorporate into our day-to-day lives impact the environment... (and) Being knowledgeable and informed about nature is the best way to improve and protect our environment."



Caitlin is a 2019 graduate of Crestline High School. She will be attending Hocking College in the fall where she plans to major in Ecotourism and Adventure Travel. In Caitlin's opening statement of her essay, she fully understands the interruptions technology can create when it comes to more fully experiencing the environment: "The easiest way...is simply by putting their phones down." She also cited research touting the effects of nature on mental health. Caitlin closed with, "Therefore, go outside, educate yourself, and take care of our environment. Overall, you don't have to go far, because you can get the same benefits in your backyard as you would (in) a local park"

In reading the numerous applicants' essays, it became clear that Callie and Caitlin have a more personal relationship, and thus understanding, with the environment. We congratulate these fine young ladies and wish them well in their future endeavors of learning about and sharing the joys of nature. Congratulations Callie Wildenthaler and Caitlin Harley!

## Volunteer Spotlight: Susan Keller

# PARK NEWS

Nature Center volunteers are integral for weekend operations. One volunteer has been a staple for as long as the Nature Center has been open: Susan Keller. Over the 17 years of operation, Susan was a familiar face on Sunday afternoons or during large events when 2 behind the desk is better than 1. Earlier this year, Susan relocated to Colorado to be closer to family. She had some wonderful words to share about her time volunteering for the Park District.

“I enjoyed helping the Crawford Park District for many years by opening the Nature Center on Sunday afternoons. It was a pleasure to spend time in such a lovely place, and especially to meet all the visitors. So many told me they had been past Lowe-Volk many times and were so very pleasantly surprised when they stopped in, and how lucky our county was to have the Nature Center. I heartily agreed with them, encouraging them to take a hike and made sure they were aware of the other parks of the Crawford Park District. I always liked sharing the newsletters to be sure they were aware of the many, many programs available. It was especially fun to see, and listen to, the young children’s amazement at seeing the animals, climbing the treehouse, and examining the nature toys, books, and puzzles. I always encouraged the parents to consider the summer day camp for their kids, and to sign up early before spots were filled. The Park District has grown so much since its very early beginnings. The pond brings many families out for a pleasant



afternoon of introducing kids to the joys of waiting for that bite or just watching the fish and frogs. In recent years I noticed a great increase in family picnics, a beautiful way to spend a Sunday afternoon, which I am sure, will increase as more people become aware of the picnic area.

“One amusing incident I had when opening the center ....I was always in a hurry to get into the office to turn off the alarm correctly. So one Sunday afternoon I was rounding the corner to the office, intent on the alarm, when out of the corner of my eye I caught sight of a new item to the desk, the bobcat! I jumped back, and it took a minute to recognize it wasn’t alive and ready to make for a very interesting afternoon!”

The staff of Crawford Park District sincerely appreciates Susan’s time and dedication to the mission of the CPD; and we wish her well in this new chapter of her life. In chatting with Susan about highlighting her volunteerism, she commented about her new view: “It’s amazing! I look out my window and see mountains! It’s so beautiful!” Thank you, Susan Keller, for your support of the CPD! You’ll be missed!

# 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)

## June

### Youth Fishing Derby

**Saturday, June 8 9am-11am Lowe-Volk Park**

Join volunteer, Rob Farson, for a great morning of fishing. Kids who are between the ages of 5 and 12 years old can enjoy this outdoor activity at the Lowe-Volk pond. Prizes will be awarded for biggest fish, smallest fish, and more. Must provide own fishing pole, bait, and tackle. Make it a family event!



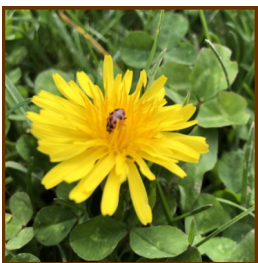
### Nature at Night: Frogs

**Saturday, June 8 9pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Join Naturalist Abby for a night learning about the different frog calls you can hear during the summer. We will also take a night hike back to the wetland to try and catch frogs! Wear boots if you plan to get messy.

### Delightful Dandelions

**Monday, June 10 6pm Lowe-Volk Park**



This yellow flower is the “bees knees” to our early pollinators. Join Joy Etter-Link to explore the many ways dandelions are beneficial. For kids up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade accompanied by an adult.

### Canoeing

**Tuesday, June 11 6pm Pines Reservoir**

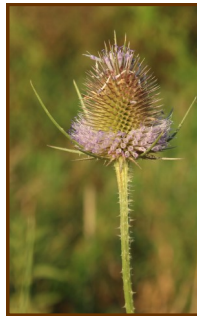
Join Josh and Lisa for an evening paddle around the Pines Reservoir. Learn some canoeing basics and take to the water! Pre-registration is required by June 10.

**Book Club Meetings:** The CPD Book Club meets the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at Lowe-Volk Park.. Call the Nature Center for more info.

### Teasel Pull

**Saturday, June 22 10am Daughmer Savannah**

Help eradicate teasel at one of the best natural areas in the Midwest! Teasel crowds out our native plants, affecting Daughmer’s botanical diversity. You’ll be teaming up with members from our partner group, ONAPA (Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association) to rid Daughmer of the invasive species. Bring work gloves and bug repellent. Shovels and water will be provided.



### Salem Prairie

**Sunday, June 23 2pm Salem Cemetery  
Intersection of Lower Leesville Rd & Parcher Rd**

Restoration of native habitats is a long process that is fraught with unexpected challenges and complications. Warren Uxley has spent the last decade restoring a tallgrass prairie at the Salem Cemetery and will be sharing the successes and analyzing the problems he has encountered during this project.

### Purple Martins

**Wednesday, June 26 7 pm Unger Park**

The Purple Martin colony at Unger Park is a major success story. In addition to learning how to start a Martin colony of their own, participants will get to look inside the Unger apartment complex and take part in the ongoing monitoring program. Meet Warren Uxley in the Unger parking lot.





# PROGRAMS



## June/July

### **Mud Day**

**Saturday, June 29 11am-1pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Current science points to many positive attributes of playing in the dirt. Why not help the CPD celebrate International Mud Day! There will be opportunities to just get your toes or hands muddy...or to get completely covered in mud! Jefferson Twp. Fire Department will be on hand to give you a rinse. Fun for the whole family!



### **Civil War Encampment**

**Saturday, June 29 & Sunday, June 30 Unger Park**

Stroll through army encampments of the North and South and watch a battle reenactment. There will be period demonstrations, interactive activities, and kids can be “recruited” into a soldier’s life. Enjoy this fun filled event for all ages. See page 14 for more information.

### **Feeding Day**

**Sunday, June 30 2pm 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? Stop out to see who eats what and help Lisa feed some of the animals!



### **Canoeing**

**Tuesday, July 9 6pm Neff Reservoir**

Join Lisa and Josh for an evening paddle around the Pines Reservoir. Learn some canoeing basics and take to the water! Pre-registration is required by July 8.



### **Animal Extravaganza**

**Saturday, July 13 12pm-3pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Animal lovers are in for a treat! Come experience snakes, salamanders, turtles, and much more. Various pet owners will be on hand to answer your questions and allow you to “hold and touch” when appropriate. Get your face painted! Make a craft! A great family event you won’t want to miss! Food concessions will be available.



### **Nature at Night: Flying Squirrels**

**Saturday, July 13 9pm Lowe-Volk Park**

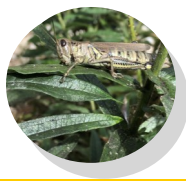
Join Naturalist Abby to learn about Ohio’s most common but seldom seen squirrel species. Did you know, scientist just discovered that the flying squirrel glows pink under UV lights? We will be taking a night hike with black lights to find these elusive nocturnal creatures.

### **Dragonfly & Damselfly Walk**

**Sunday, July 14 2pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Dragonflies and Damselflies are extraordinary but largely unappreciated insects. Beautiful, predatory and fascinating to watch, Dragons and Damsels offer a highly instructive window into the principals of ecology. Meet Warren Uxley at Lowe-Volk Park.





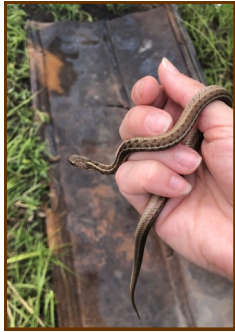
# PROGRAMS



## July/August

### **Sneaky Snakes**

**Thursday, July 18 5:30pm Unger Park**



Join Lisa and help check the snake cover boards and tins at Unger Park. These ectothermic reptiles depend on the environment to regulate their body temperature. Snakes and other animals will use boards to find safety and warmth. What will we uncover?

### **Pond Life**

**Monday, July 22 6pm Lowe-Volk Park**

What or which animals thrive in ponds? Join Joy Etter-Link to find out. Then take a stroll around the pond and use aquatic nets to see what you can catch! For kids up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade accompanied by an adult.



### **Toddler Trot: Sticks and Stones**

**Tuesday, July 23 6pm Lowe-Volk Park**

People say they'll break your bones, but they are so much fun to play with! Join Josh and McKinley in using sticks and stones to construct anything our hearts desire. Towers, shelters, fairy houses...with sticks and stones, the possibilities are endless! For kids not quite old enough for school and younger.



### **Archery**

**Thursday, July 25 6pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Whether for sport, food, or fun, archery is a great outdoor activity that gets us away from the hustle and gadgets of life, allowing us to focus on one thing: hitting the target. Join Josh, Lisa, and Abby for an evening archery shoot that will include an introduction to archery safety and shooting basics. All equipment will be provided. No registration required.

### **Canoeing**

**Saturday, July 27 10am Neff Reservoir**

Join Lisa and Josh for a late morning paddle around the Neff Reservoir. Learn some canoeing basics and take to the water! Pre-registration is required by July 26.



### **Family Tent Camping**

**Friday, August 2 7pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Come any time after 5pm to set up your tent around the pond at Lowe-Volk Park. Registration will begin at 7pm, with programs starting at 7:30pm. Bring a treat or a dish to share with other campers. Yard games, fishing, campfire, woodland night hike, and more are on the agenda. Continental breakfast will be provided on Saturday morning. Please call the Nature Center to reserve your spot. All youth must be accompanied by an adult.

### **Water Carnival**

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

The Water Carnival is a great way to appreciate the importance of water in an ecosystem and also to have a great time getting wet during water games! There will be fire trucks, an inflatable ball that floats on the water, a slip and slide, water balloons, and much more! Come ready to get wet and have fun with the entire family!



**Did you know:** August 17, 2019 is National Honey Bee Day? Bees are responsible for about 1/3 of the food that we consume!



# PROGRAMS



## August

### **Nature at Night:**

**Crickets, Katydid, and Cicadas, Oh My!**

**Saturday, August 10 8:30pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Join Naturalist Abby to learn about the different insect sounds you can hear at the end of summer. We will take a night hike to try to identify and catch the types of insects making calls around the park!



### **Sights and Sounds of Nature**

**Monday, August 12 6pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Joy Etter-Link will put your senses to the test! Do you know your sights and sounds of nature? For kids up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade accompanied by an adult.

### **Canoeing**

**Tuesday, August 13 6pm Neff Reservoir**

Join Abby and Josh for an evening paddle around the Neff Reservoir. Learn some canoeing basics and take to the water! Pre-registration is required by August 12.

### **Feeding Day**

**Sunday, August 18 2pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Will it be fruit, vegetables, leafy greens, shrimp, worms, or mice? Can you guess what's on the menu for the animals in the Nature Center? Stop out to see who eats what and help Lisa feed some of the animals!



### **Toddler Trot: Pickin' Prairies**

**Tuesday, August 20 6pm Unger Park**

The tall grasses and blooming flowers make prairies fun landscapes to explore. Join Josh and McKinley as they stroll the winding trails of Unger Park. Using our five senses, the prairie world will come alive! For kids not quite in school and younger.



### **Schanzenbach Prairie**

**Thursday, Aug. 22 6pm 4924 Henry Cooper Rd.**

For several years, Mark Schanzenbach has been establishing a tallgrass prairie. Mark has gathered botanical specimens from all over Ohio, and he is eager to share the many spectacular and unusual species he has collected. He has also added a wetland to start his own piece of Crawford County natural history: a planting of native cranberry. Join Mark at his house to hear his story of starting a prairie.

### **Daughmer Savannah**

**Sunday, August 25 2pm Daughmer Savannah**

Daughmer is a remnant of one of North America's most endangered ecosystems: the Bur-Oak Savannah. Daughmer has more threatened and endangered plants than any other spot in Crawford County and they are visible in late August. Meet Warren Uxley in the parking lot.





# PROGRAMS

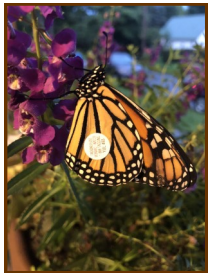


## August

### **Monarch Tagging**

**Tuesday, August 27 5:30pm Unger Park**

Learn about the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly, its need for milkweed plants, and their amazing



migration to Mexico. You will have an opportunity to help Kansas University with Monarch migration and population research by attempting to capture, tag, and release Monarch butterflies. All ages welcome. Nets will be provided.

### **Wild Wednesday**

**Wed, August 28 10am & 2pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Come to the Nature Center and enjoy an hour of nature exploration! Program topics will vary and may include a story, short hike, craft, or a visit from an animal. For pre-schoolers and their parents. Come dressed for the weather.

### **Hunting Lottery**

**Wednesday, August 28 7pm Lowe-Volk Park**

Call 419-683-9000 for more details.

### **Archery**

**Thursday, August 29 6pm Unger Park**

Whether for sport, food, or fun, archery is a great outdoor activity that gets us away from the hustle and gadgets of life, allowing us to focus on one thing: hitting the target. Join Josh, Lisa, and Abby for an evening archery shoot that will include an introduction to archery safety and shooting basics. All equipment will be provided. No registration required.



## **New Addition at Unger Park**



A pavilion has been constructed at Unger Park. The goals of this addition are to provide an area to conduct programs and for visitors to relax in the shade. This project was made possible through the generous donation of Dr. Laurie Anne Rhodebeck. The Friends of the CPD allocated those funds for various projects, including this pavilion, the scholarship fund, and Unger Barn renovations. Stop by and utilize this new asset at Unger Park! Based on feedback from users and park supporters, the CPD will consider adding pavilions to Heckert Nature Preserve and the newly acquired property across from Lowe-Volk Park.

# Spring Programs 2019



Conservation Heroes: Box Turtles



Hi-Tech Easter Egg Hunt



Just Hike it!



Conservation Heroes: Hellbenders



Toddler Trot



Earth Day Fair



Volunteer Work Day



Eagle Watch



Artifact Hunt





# Bird Word Search

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle all of the bird names. They may be horizontally, vertically, or diagonally placed.

ALBATROSS  
BLUE JAY  
CANARY  
CARDINAL  
COCKATOO  
CRANE  
DOVE  
EAGLE  
EMU  
FALCON  
FLAMINGO  
HAWK  
HERON  
HUMMINGBIRD  
IBIS  
KIWI  
MAGPIE  
MOCKINGBIRD  
OSTRICH  
PARAKEET  
PARROT  
PARTRIDGE

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | B | X | M | J | Y | V | D | R | I | B | G | N | I | K | C | O | M | X |
| F | P | Q | K | H | H | R | E | P | M | J | Z | I | S | C | W | A | C | E |
| H | I | X | I | K | W | L | L | U | O | G | N | I | M | A | L | F | W | S |
| E | Q | W | W | J | G | S | B | F | M | X | C | C | V | N | K | O | O | U |
| X | G | A | I | A | I | B | P | T | A | E | G | A | U | A | B | Q | O | M |
| Y | H | D | E | B | M | Q | L | E | A | Z | V | R | L | R | N | N | D | S |
| P | Z | F | I | G | B | L | U | E | J | A | Y | D | T | Y | A | I | P | I |
| L | E | N | O | R | E | H | N | K | O | N | L | I | U | G | C | U | E | H |
| E | N | Z | Q | M | T | A | I | A | H | A | P | N | R | B | I | G | C | U |
| I | M | R | J | R | R | R | P | R | C | R | X | A | E | V | L | N | K | M |
| P | W | E | X | C | O | L | A | A | I | U | Z | L | F | P | E | E | E | M |
| G | E | N | Y | U | C | B | W | P | R | Z | O | A | O | A | P | P | R | I |
| A | L | N | C | E | D | D | I | N | T | U | L | T | O | R | A | V | E | N |
| M | N | U | K | A | T | O | J | N | S | C | Q | D | T | R | R | E | V | G |
| S | H | R | I | K | E | V | B | D | O | U | U | S | A | O | Y | S | T | B |
| Y | X | D | D | B | Y | E | S | N | Z | E | A | H | K | T | W | T | L | I |
| I | F | A | O | L | B | P | N | O | E | G | I | P | C | D | T | O | V | R |
| S | S | O | R | T | A | B | L | A | L | P | L | J | O | R | F | R | K | D |
| S | W | R | U | S | R | E | X | Y | W | K | M | Z | C | R | F | K | W | Y |

PELICAN  
PENGUIN  
PIGEON  
QUAIL  
RAVEN  
ROADRUNNER

ROBIN  
SHRIKE  
STORK  
TOUCAN  
VULTURE  
WOODPECKER

# Crawford Park Astronomy Club

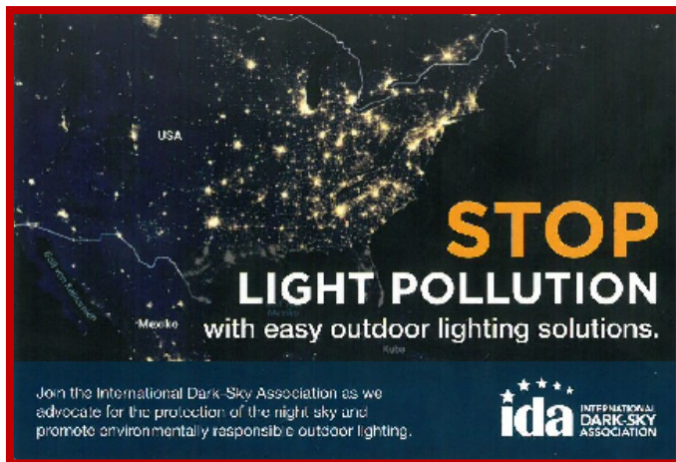
**Meeting Dates & Times** (4th & 5th Saturdays of each month; note start time changes; programs held regardless of sky conditions so please dress for the weather. If the skies are cloudy we will meet in the Nature Center.)

|           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| June 22   | 9pm    |
| June 29   | 9pm    |
| July 27   | 9pm    |
| August 24 | 8:30pm |
| August 31 | 8:30pm |



The Sombrero Galaxy (m-104)  
NASA and the Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/AURA)

## Help Stop Light Pollution



## Targets for Summer:

Summer skies are famous for viewing galaxies. We will show you several of them this quarter.

\*m-87 is the giant elliptical galaxy and they recently took a photo of its super massive black hole. This black hole is 6.5 billion times the mass of our sun. Unfortunately, we can't see the black hole with our telescopes.

\*m-104 is the Sombrero Galaxy. It is a lenticular galaxy, giving us a nearly edge-on view. They also resemble a lens. The Sombrero Galaxy is 29.3 million light years away. It is found above the constellation Corvus.

\*m-44 is an open cluster called the Beehive Cluster. It can be viewed with binoculars or even your naked eye! It is only 520 light years away and found in the constellation Cancer. The Beehive Cluster has been known since ancient times, and was one of the first objects Galileo studied. It is very pretty.

\*Mizar and Alcor, also called "The Horse and Rider", are found in the handle of the Big Dipper. They are a binary star system, which means the two stars orbit around a central mass.

Please dress for the weather. We meet at sunset. If needed, we will meet inside and show videos.

### Protecting the night sky starts with YOU!

- 1 Light only what you need**  
A spotlight illuminating a person standing in a dark area.
- 2 Use energy efficient bulbs and only as bright as you need**  
A 5-watt LED light bulb.
- 3 Shield lights and direct them down**  
A lamp with a shade that directs light downwards.
- 4 Only use light when you need it**  
A circular automatic timer with numbers 1-12.
- 5 Choose warm white light bulbs**  
A standard incandescent light bulb.
- 6 Join IDA!**  
We need your help to continue the fight against light pollution.  
The International Dark-Sky Association logo with the website darksky.org.

## Special Thanks to: The Cabin Guys!



After completing the cabin located on the grounds of the Colonel Crawford Schools, the Cabin Guys wanted to continue their love of work and service. They approached the CPD wanting to help with something. They started first on constructing the Natural Playscape, which incorporates local sandstone, some which presumably came from the quarry at Lowe-Volk Park. After completing that project, they continue to

lead the charge in finalizing the clean-up efforts of the newly acquired properties across the road from the Nature Center. The CPD is indebted to the hard work and dedication of the Cabin Guys and offer them a huge THANK YOU! And if you haven't seen it yet, check out the new Natural Playscape! It is located just north of the Lowe-Volk parking lot, adjacent to the wooded picnic area.



## Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District

Be sure to check out Soil and Water's website and Facebook page for more programs that landowners can utilize. [www.crawfordswcd.org](http://www.crawfordswcd.org)

**June 11th:** Conservation Camp

**June 11th:** Crawford SWCD Board Meeting at 5:30 P.M.

**July 9th:** Crawford SWCD Board Meeting at 5:30 P.M.

**July 14th-20th:** Crawford County Fair in the Old Merchants Building

## Bucyrus City Storm Water Management Program

This program is a cooperative partnership between the City of Bucyrus Wastewater Treatment and the Crawford SWCD. The Crawford SWCD provides voluntary assistance through educational programs and Best Management Practices to city residents. The goal of the program is to raise citizen awareness of local storm water runoff related issues and provide the necessary tools for individual residents to reduce the amount of storm runoff in the cities storm water system. Items include rain barrel information, rain garden design information, professional presentations for adults and children, and a variety of associated backyard conservation practices.

The Crawford SWCD office is located at 3111 State Route 98, Bucyrus, OH. Phone #: (419)-562-8280

## Recycling @ the Nature Center

Here is what you can bring: #1 & #2 plastics, glass, paper products & cardboard, steel & aluminum cans, CFL bulbs, batteries, old eye glasses, cell phones, tablets, & laptops.

**NO OTHER ELECTRONICS, MONITORS, ETC. WILL BE ACCEPTED!**



### DROP-OFF DATES

**Saturday, June 8, 9am-Noon**  
**Saturday, July 13 9am-Noon**  
**Saturday, August 10, 9am-Noon**

# Bountiful Backyards

By Josh Dyer

I recently increased my confidence in today's young adults and their perceptions of the environment after reading essays for the Dr. Laurie Anne Rhodebeck Memorial Scholarship. In particular, the concept of the final statement from Caitlin Harley rang loud and true: The benefits of nature can be experienced in our own backyard. In reflection of that idea, I harken back to my childhood where siblings, cousins, and friends played, explored, and imagined all sorts of wild scenarios...all in our backyards. Even today, as I further reflect on that statement, it's still true. My little 2-acre piece of dirt – or anyone's for that matter – is a bounty of natural history experiences.

As a wannabe avid birder, I am always on the lookout for who is nesting in my yard. Northern Cardinals, House Wrens, Barn Swallows, Brown Thrashers, Chipping Sparrows, Baltimore Orioles, Yellow Warblers, and more... that's only part of the list. The other part is the birds I've heard but not confirmed: Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Mourning Dove, White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpeckers, and others I've invariably missed. As for passersby, the migrants make springtime super fun! Of all the migrants though, one was particularly a surprise. While heading out for the day, I heard an unfamiliar sound, although mildly reminiscent of an Allard's Ground Cricket. Knowing the crickets would not be



Blackpoll Warbler photo taken by Bill Perine

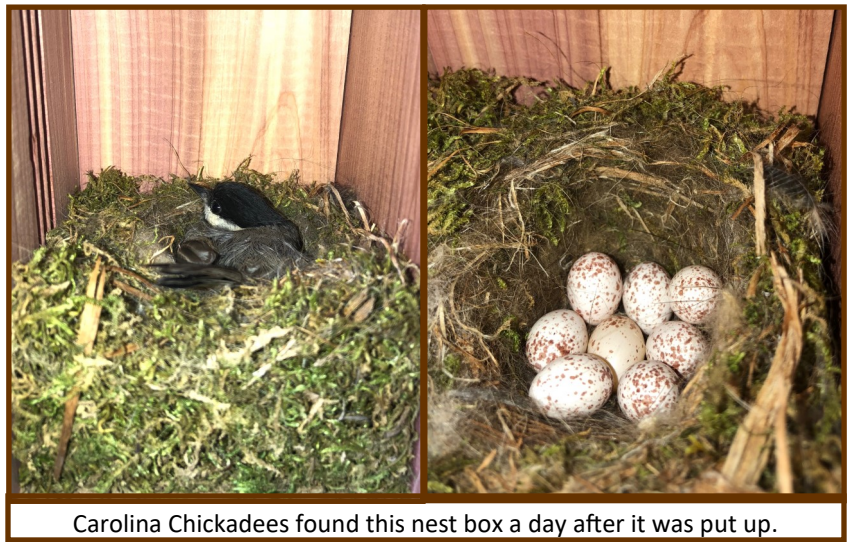
out for some time, I retrieved my binoculars to scour the White Oak limbs in hopes of finding the songster. Aha! I see him! What?! A Blackpoll Warbler! Life List – Check! Yard List – Check! And what's more, these warblers have the longest over-water flight of any songbird: 1800 miles in three days while migrating over the Atlantic Ocean! Wait, there's more! While in college, my ornithology professor (also a great photographer) bestowed photos he'd taken upon those that got 100% on quizzes. Can you guess the subject of my first photo? Yup, a Blackpoll Warbler. Serendipity has a great way of manifesting itself.



Chrisha showing her cousin Ena, House Wren nestlings.

While we're talking birds, how about bird boxes. In a day where dead trees or limbs are more of a problem than an asset, they are a great way to provide habitat for cavity nesting birds. They can also contribute to a child's understanding of the development of various organisms, in this case birds. During weekly checks of our bird box, my daughters are able to watch House Wren nestlings hatch, grow feathers, hold their mouths agape in anticipation of food, and finally, to fledge. My oldest even takes cousins out to view our nesting residents. From the construction of the bird box to the continued monitoring, backyard natural history experiences abound for my littles.

The CPD's newest bird box monitors at Lowe-Volk (thank you Olmstead Family!) were excited about what they would find within the boxes at the park. This excitement spilled over to their own property: they put out their own boxes. The very next day, lo and behold, a Carolina Chickadee decided to construct a nest in the man-made cavity. And yes, to their amazement, eggs were laid...not the typical 6, but 8! The old mantra "if you build it, they will come" held true.



Carolina Chickadees found this nest box a day after it was put up.

While birds are fabulous to watch and listen to, plants also help make a backyard diverse and a joy to explore. Living a "green" life, I'm not into applying chemicals on my yard; and my mowing frequency is cut down to as less as possible. Especially in the spring, this allows those marvelous Dandelions the chance to bloom, providing a great nectar source for early pollinators. After pollination, the flower head becomes a seed head, allowing the plant to move to other locales. Aside from great pollinator habitat, those Dandelions are fun to play with. While in flower, I've been given many bouquets of Dandelions from my daughters, usually tucking a couple over my ear. We've made bracelets and necklaces from the stems. And who doesn't enjoy a child's love of blowing the seed heads to the wind? To

see my daughter emerge from the bus after school, go straight to the yard, kneel down and peer at a blooming Dandelion, is well worth the clumps of grass that will accompany the next mowing. Did she see something peculiar in the flower? Was there an insect on the flower head that piqued her curiosity? I'm not sure; but the chance for her to explore nature in something as simple as a Dandelion is well worth the clumpy clippings. Given the fact that so many people scorn the little "weed" and try to eradicate it, I say "Choose Dandelions, not pesticides!"



Along with some "typical"

landscaping, I've incorporated a native woodland wildflower patch in a shady part of the bed. Virginia Bluebells, Dwarf Larkspur, Wild Geranium, and Foam Flower emerge in the spring to provide a burst of color and foliage, while again providing valuable nectar for early pollinators. To reduce my mowing and create habitat, I have also recently converted some of my yard to a prairie. (I'll write more on this as the prairie develops in the coming years.) There is already some milkweed growing and these native plants also engage my offspring in observing Monarchs. Scouring the leaves for caterpillars, collecting them, and watching them develop are joys to share with my children. With seeds and plants, this will become a small mecca of plant and animal diversity and offer more opportunities of backyard exploration.



All of our backyards offer many opportunities. From the social and physical of barbeques and pick-up games of kickball and playing in the snow, to engaging our youth in nature exploration, backyards are a great way to enjoy the outdoors without leaving the house. While the CPD is here to provide natural experiences within our parks, Caitlyn's assessment is spot-on: You don't have to go far to enjoy our natural world.

# Daughmer Smartphone Tour

Something new is happening this summer at the Daughmer Prairie Savannah State Nature Preserve in southwest Crawford County. Visitors will be able to access a series of videos on their smartphone as they walk through the preserve. The videos will provide interesting information about the history, and unique environment of one of the last, and arguably best, patches of prairie land left in Ohio.

The project was conceived from a discussion at Lowe-Volk Park between Mick McCarthy and Bill Fisher (former Director of the CPD) about the changing way that people get information since the advent of social media. How do you share the natural history knowledge of the Park District's staff? How can we use technology to share that knowledge with each individual park visitor, without investing hundreds of thousands of dollars in dedicated multi-media displays? Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube are all platforms that people have become familiar with over the last few years and videos could be created to provide a personal experience for anyone with a smartphone. Bill suggested that the Daughmer Prairie Savannah would be a great candidate for a pilot project because of its uniqueness and the fact that it is unstaffed. He felt that there is so much great information about the habitat, the way it is managed, and why it has survived for thousands of years while all the surrounding area changed. Visitors would really benefit from the ability to have a virtual, personal tour while walking through the preserve.



From that conversation, a series of 12 videos was produced to greatly enhance the experience of a visit to Daughmer Savannah. A large sign at the south end of the parking lot shows the location of 12 individual sign posts throughout the preserve, and explains how to access the videos. This project was funded by the Friends of the Crawford Park District. Stop out to Daughmer Savannah this summer for your own personal tour right in the palm of your hand.

**Crawford Park District**  
**Daughmer Prairie Savannah Video Tour**

This project, initiated in 2017 and funded by the Friends of the Crawford Park District, was created to enhance the experience of visiting this preserve by sharing key facts and the rich history of this unique landscape through short video segments.

Scattered throughout the preserve, as indicated on the map at right, are signposts that have linked videos that can be viewed on your smartphone.

**To view the videos:**

- 1) Flip open the top panel on the signpost.
- 2) Download the Scan App from the App store.
- 3) Launch the app.
- 4) Center the QR code in the scan window.

Scan the code at left to test.

- 5) Enjoy the videos.

Follow the Crawford Park District on Facebook: [crawfordparkdistrict.org](https://www.facebook.com/crawfordparkdistrict.org)

A map of the Daughmer Prairie Savannah preserve showing 12 numbered signpost locations. A QR code is shown on the left side of the map.

Map of the sign locations throughout the preserve.  
This map is located in the parking lot on a kiosk.

## Civil War Encampment

**June 29-30 @ Unger Park**

Enjoy a fun filled event for all ages as you take a step back in time. Stroll through army encampments of the North and South and watch a battle reenactment. There will also be period demonstrations, interactive activities, and kids can be "recruited" into a soldier's life. Stay tuned as complete event details and presentations are being finalized.



**Saturday, June 29**

- 8:00-10:30am:** Company Drill
- 11:00am:** Battle Reenactment
- 12:00pm:** Spectator Volunteer Drills & Visit camps
- 1:00pm:** A Soldier's Accoutrements
- 3:00pm:** Event is closed to the General Public

**Sunday, June 30**

- 8:00-10:30am:** Company Drill
- 11:00am:** Battle Reenactment
- 12:00pm:** Spectator Volunteer Drills & Visit camps
- 1:00pm:** Event ends. Travel Safely!

# Thank you to the following who have donated to the Friends of the Crawford Park District: February 19, 2019 through May 18, 2019



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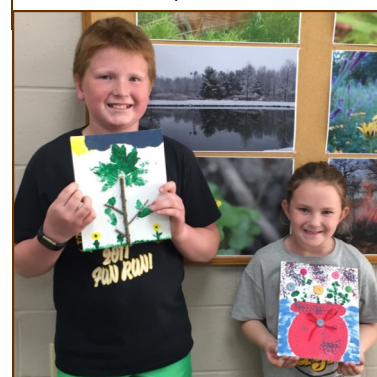
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Your donation helps fund program materials and speaker fees. Thanks!



# Trails Newsletter

## Crawford Park District Abbreviated Calendar

### Park/Program Location Key:

**LVP** (Lowe-Volk Park); **UP** (Unger Park); **NR** (Neff Reservoir); **PR** (Pines Reservoir)  
**SP** (Salem Prairie); **DS** (Daughmer Savannah); **MSP** (4924 Henry Cooper Rd.)



|                |                                   |          |     |                |                                 |            |     |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----|----------------|---------------------------------|------------|-----|
| Sat. June 8    | Recycling                         | 9am-Noon | LVP | Tues. July 23  | Toddler Trot: Sticks and Stones | 6pm        | LVP |
| Sat. June 8    | Youth Fishing Derby               | 9am-11am | LVP | Thurs. July 25 | Archery                         | 6pm        | LVP |
| Sat. June 8    | Nature at Night: Frogs            | 9pm      | LVP | Sat. July 27   | Canoeing                        | 10am       | NR  |
| Mon. June 10   | Delightful Dandelions             | 6pm      | LVP | Sat. July 27   | Viewing the Night Sky           | 9pm        | LVP |
| Tues. June 11  | Canoeing                          | 6pm      | PR  | Tues. July 30  | Book Club                       | 6:30pm     | LVP |
| Sat. June 22   | Teasel Pull                       | 10am     | DS  | Fri. Aug. 2    | Family Tent Camping             | 7pm        | LVP |
| Sat. June 22   | Viewing the Night Sky             | 9pm      | LVP | Sat. Aug. 10   | Recycling                       | 9am-Noon   | LVP |
| Sun. June 23   | Salem Prairie                     | 2pm      | SP  | Sat. Aug. 10   | Water Carnival                  | 11am-2pm   | LVP |
| Tues. June 25  | Book Club                         | 6:30pm   | LVP | Sat. Aug. 10   | Nature at Night                 | 8:30pm     | LVP |
| Wed. June 26   | Purple Martins                    | 7pm      | UP  | Mon. Aug. 12   | Sights and Sounds of Nature     | 6pm        | LVP |
| Sat. June 29   | Mud Day                           | 11am-1pm | LVP | Tues. Aug. 13  | Canoeing                        | 6pm        | NR  |
| Sat. June 29   | Viewing the Night Sky             | 9pm      | LVP | Sun. Aug. 18   | Feeding Day                     | 2pm        | LVP |
| Sat. June 29   | Civil War Reenactment             | 8am-3pm  | UP  | Tues. Aug. 20  | Toddler Trot: Pickin' Prairies  | 6pm        | UP  |
| Sun. June 30   | Civil War Reenactment             | 8am-1pm  | UP  | Thurs. Aug. 22 | Schanzenbach Prairie            | 6pm        | MSP |
| Sun. June 30   | Feeding Day                       | 2pm      | LVP | Sat. Aug. 24   | Viewing the Night Sky           | 8:30pm     | LVP |
| Tues. July 9   | Canoeing                          | 6pm      | NR  | Sun. Aug. 25   | Daughmer Savannah               | 2pm        | DS  |
| Sat. July 13   | Recycling                         | 9am-Noon | LVP | Tues. Aug. 27  | Monarch Tagging                 | 5:30pm     | UP  |
| Sat. July 13   | Animal Extravaganza               | 12pm-3pm | LVP | Tues. Aug. 27  | Book Club                       | 6:30pm     | LVP |
| Sat. July 13   | Nature at Night: Flying Squirrels | 9pm      | LVP | Wed. Aug. 28   | Wild Wednesday                  | 10am & 2pm | LVP |
| Sun. July 14   | Dragonfly & Damselfly Walk        | 2pm      | LVP | Wed. Aug. 28   | Hunting Lottery                 | 7pm        | LVP |
| Thurs. July 18 | Sneaky Snakes                     | 5:30pm   | UP  | Thurs. Aug 29  | Archery                         | 6pm        | UP  |
| Mon. July 22   | Pond Life/Fish                    | 6pm      | LVP | Sat. Aug. 31   | Viewing the Night Sky           | 8:30pm     | LVP |

Friends of the Crawford Park District  
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