

Newsletter of the
Crawford Park District
Winter 2020-21



H2Ohio Project Underway

The Crawford Park District was awarded a grant through the H2Ohio program to construct seasonal wetlands at Sandusky Headwaters Preserve. Funding for H2Ohio was approved by the Ohio General Assembly in 2019 to ensure safe and clean water for all Ohioans. To provide this, three major areas are the focus of H2Ohio: creation of wetlands, the reduction in phosphorus runoff, and access to clean drinking water and quality sewer systems. The



Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency are the three agencies allocating the funding necessary to accomplish these priorities. The CPD's Sandusky Headwaters Nutrient Reduction project was one of twenty-four projects selected by the ODNR for the creation of wetlands to reduce phosphorous and nitrogen loads flowing into Lake Erie.

The Sandusky Headwaters Nutrient Reduction project was initiated in late 2019. After proposals were accepted and scopes of work approved, wheels

started moving. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) were brought on board to develop wetland plans for the site. Through their engineer and design, approximately 3 acres of seasonal wetlands will be constructed. Per NRCS wetland construction specifications, a tile search also needed conducted to decommission any tile that would otherwise impact the water holding capacity of the seasonal wetlands. During the summer, a contractor was selected; Crawford Construction, Inc. of Galion was awarded the project contract and a tentative start date of late September was set. As weather conditions set back the anticipated start date, the first week of November showed promise.

Crawford Construction mobilized equipment to the site on November 3. After a leaky hydraulic line was repaired, the tile search was conducted with no tile being found. (Due to the inaccessibility of the site and its

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sparse farming history, Josh was quoted saying he would “eat a skunk” if they find a tile. Whew! or Pew?) With wetland construction imminent, a date was set for a groundbreaking ceremony. On November 12, the Board of Park Commissioners, CPD Advisory Board members, SWCD staff, Crawford Construction, and CPD staff dug the first shovelsful of soil that will be part of the Sandusky Headwaters Nutrient Reduction seasonal wetlands. After construction of the wetlands is complete, a variety of native prairie and wetland seeds, plugs, shrubs, and trees will be planted in and around the wetlands in the spring.

Nutrient reduction is crucial for the health of our waterways and Lake Erie. Located at the headwaters of the Sandusky River, this project is the first line of defense in reducing phosphorous loads in the River’s 130-mile journey to the lake. The CPD is pleased to be part of this landscape-scale effort to keep our lake great! For more information about this and other H2Ohio projects, visit h2.ohio.gov.



Project Site: Water will be diverted from an intermittent stream (lower portion of picture) into the two larger wetlands. The wetland to the left was added to not only assist with nutrient reduction, but also soil erosion; water spills out of the ditch to the west and has washed out some of the field. The smaller wetlands in the upper right corner are to act as vernal pools, holding water temporarily. The main portion of the field has subsoil that is not is not conducive to wetland construction. (Sandusky River is top-left; SR 598 to the right.)

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.

December

Homeschool in Nature: Winter Birds

**Thurs., Dec. 3 or Dec. 10 9am, 11am, & 2pm
Lowe-Volk Park**

Winter is a great time for spying birds that are often hidden during other seasons by the foliage of the trees. This month we will study the birds that inhabit the park in winter. 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.



Pinecone Decorations

Sunday, December 6 2pm Lowe-Volk Park

Let's get festive! Come make a pinecone holiday decoration for your home. We will provide the pinecones, pine boughs, ribbon, glue gun, wreath forms, and miscellaneous items from nature. If you have other items you wish to add to your decoration or a certain ribbon you prefer, bring those with you! Call the Park District to register.

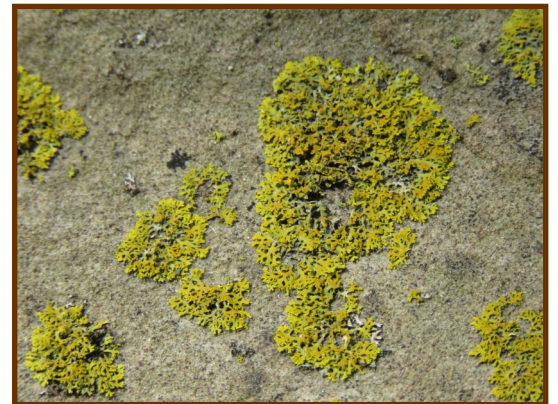


Hikin' for Lichen

Saturday, December 12 2pm Lowe-Volk Park

Join retired OSU professor and botanical enthusiast

Bob Klips as he leads us on a hike to learn about one of the most widely distributed, yet frequently overlooked organisms



on the planet. A lichen is an unusual entity that is made up of a symbiotic relationship between a fungus and alga. This symbiotic relationship means that both partners are benefiting from the association. Join us to learn more and to see what species of lichen you can find at the park. Call the Park District to register.

Candy Cane Hike

**Monday, December 14 - Sunday, December 27
Lowe-Volk Park**

Take a stroll at your convenience through Lowe-Volk Park looking for candy canes 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!





PROGRAMS



December/January

Snowy Owls... in Ohio!!

Wednesday, December 16 6pm Lowe-Volk Park

Join Naturalist Chelsea to learn all about the majestic Snowy Owl. Although we typically think of this bird as a resident of the Arctic, every few years some individuals make their way down to our area of the world—even to Crawford County! We will also cover some tips for finding Snowy Owls around here in the winter. Call the Park District to register.



Nature Hike

Sunday, December 20 3pm Sears Woods

Each winter brings with it a new set of challenges for all life forms. Food supplies vary from year to year and of course the weather patterns play a key role in determining the makeup of winter bird communities. Meet Warren Uxley at Sears Woods State Nature Preserve and find out what this winter will bring. Call the Park District to register.

Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Sun., Jan. 3 7am Meet @ Bob Evans in Bucyrus

The classic example of citizen science, the Audubon Christmas bird count collects data on bird populations throughout North America. Those who wish to participate should meet Warren Uxley at the

Bucyrus Bob Evans at the intersection of US Route 30 and State Route 4 at 7am. Call the Park District to register.



Infant Explorers: Christmas Trees

Wed., Dec. 16 or Thurs., Dec.17 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 evergreen trees that will engage your infant's 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.

Movie in the Park

Friday, December 18 5:30pm Lowe-Volk Park



The holiday season is always a busy time for everyone. Why not plan for a relaxing night and watch a holiday movie at the park? Wear your pajamas, bring your pillow and blanket, and settle in for a fun evening. We will have an activity, popcorn to snack on, and hot chocolate too. Call the Park District to register.

Homeschool in Nature: Trail Cameras

Thurs., Jan. 7 or Jan. 14 9am, 11am, & 2pm
Lowe-Volk Park

This month we are going to learn why and how researchers use trail cameras to study animals. After making some predictions of our own, we will set up a bait station and camera to monitor who or what visits our park. 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.





PROGRAMS



January

Animals of the Ice Age

Saturday, January 9 2pm Lowe-Volk Park

During the Ice Age, there were mammals that we all know of today, like deer, foxes, and squirrels. However, there were many unusual mammals that roamed the earth approximately 10,000 years ago, most of them very large, that are now extinct. OSU's Orton Geological Museum Curator, Dale Gnidovec, will be bringing fossil specimens and leading a talk on these impressive animals. We will also have a small craft for the children after the presentation. Call the Park District to register.



Winter Night Hike

Wednesday, January 13 6pm Sears Woods

Cold, crisp nights are great way to experience the natural world around us. Join Josh for a hike through Sears Woods to watch and listen for nighttime sights and sounds. Call the Park District to register.

Bird Feeders on the "Fly"

Thurs., Jan. 14 - Mon., Jan. 18 Lowe-Volk Park

Overwintering birds would love a tasty treat, while overwintering kids want something fun to do. We will provide all the items you need to make a bird feeder at home. Call the Park District at 419-683-9000 to pre-order your "feeder in a baggie" by January 13. Pick up will be from Thursday, January 14 - Monday, January 18 from 8am- 4pm except there will be no pickup on Sunday, January 17.



Snowman Hike

Friday, January 15 - Sunday, January 24

Lowe-Volk Park

Take a stroll at your convenience through Lowe-Volk Park looking for snowmen as you go. Each one will have a line of a story 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!



Terrific (or Terrifying!) Tarantulas

Wed., January 20 5:30pm Lowe-Volk Park

Do you think tarantulas are terrific? Or, maybe you find them terrifying? Either way, join Naturalist



Chelsea to learn about the fascinating lives of tarantulas. Who knows? Maybe you will change your mind about these awesome arachnids. This

program will include a meet and greet with some live tarantula friends! Call the Park District to register.

Feeding Day

Sunday, January 24 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? If you want to help feed some of the animals, call the Park District to register.

Did you know...

The largest snowflake on record with the Guinness World Records was 15 inches wide and 8 inches thick? It was found in Montana in 1887.

PROGRAMS

January/February

Infant Explorers: Pinecones

**Wed., January 27 or Thursday, January 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 pinecones that will engage your infant's 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.

Toddler Trot: Snow Snoopin'

Saturday, January 30 10 am Unger Park

While winter can be unpredictable, we'll still plan for snow! Join Josh and McKinley to explore fun activities to do when snow is on the ground. Even if there is



not snow, exploring a winter wonderland is loads of fun! For children not yet in kindergarten. Call the Park District to register.

Homeschool in Nature: Trail Cameras Continued

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

Smile, you're on camera! This month is a follow up to setting up our trail cameras in January. After retrieving our cameras, we will view the footage and see how close we were to our predictions. 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.

Heart Hike

**Friday, February 12 – Sunday, February 21
Lowe-Volk Park**

Take a stroll at your convenience through Lowe-Volk Park looking for hearts as you go. Each one will have an interesting fact 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!



Owls

Wednesday, February 10 7pm Lowe-Volk Park

Charismatic and fascinating, Owls cast their spell over all of us. Warren Uxley will present a PowerPoint program that looks into their lives: habitat, breeding biology, ecology and their haunting calls will be examined in depth. Call the Park District to register.

Love Bugs

Saturday, February 13 2pm Lowe-Volk Park

Join Naturalist Abby for an adults-only program where we will explore the tug-of-war in nature that has created some very intriguing mating habits in insects. Just in time for Valentine's Day, come prepared with a great sense of humor! Call the Park District to register.



Puppet Pals: A Walk in the Woods

**Thursday, February 18 6pm Lowe-Volk Park
Friday, February 19 11am Lowe-Volk Park**

Our Puppet Pals are exploring a forest! Join them in finding clues to discover the many animals that call a forest "home". With a Great-horned Owl, a Raccoon, and many more, our Puppet Pals are sure to please. Puppet show will include a kid's activity. For kids ages 3-7 and their parents.

PROGRAMS

February

Toddler Trot: Animal Signs

Saturday, February 20 10am Lowe-Volk Park

Whether snow, mud, or frozen ground, join Josh and McKinley for a stroll around the wetland and down the trails of Lowe-Volk Park looking for signs of animals. From tracks to burrows, animals leave many signs that live in the park, including their “calling card”! For children not yet in kindergarten. Call the Park District to register.



Snow Insect Hike

Sunday, February 21 2 pm Lowe-Volk Park

Some insects are most active on warm winter days when the ground is still snow covered. Join Naturalist Chelsea to discover which insects are active in winter and why they are most comfortable in the cold. This program will include a brief indoor presentation, concluding with a hike down to the Sandusky River to search for insects. If we are lucky, we may find the elusive Snow Scorpionfly! Call the Park District to register and come dressed for the weather.



Infant Explorers: Snow

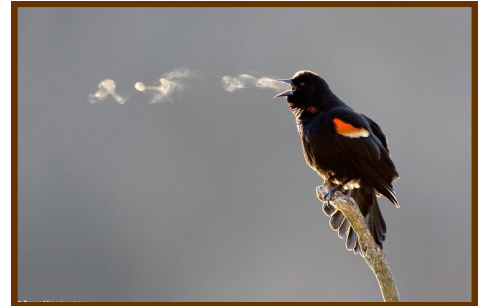
Wed., February 24 or Thurs., February 25 5pm Lowe-Volk Park

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 snow that will engage your infant's 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.

Nature Hike

Sat., February 27 3pm Heckert Nature Preserve

By late February winter is starting to loosen its grip. Winter bird flocks are breaking up and the first courtship calls can be heard. Warm days can bring out overwintering butterflies. Meet Warren Uxley at Heckert Nature Preserve to see what this year's season of transition will bring. Call the Park District to register.



Feeding Day

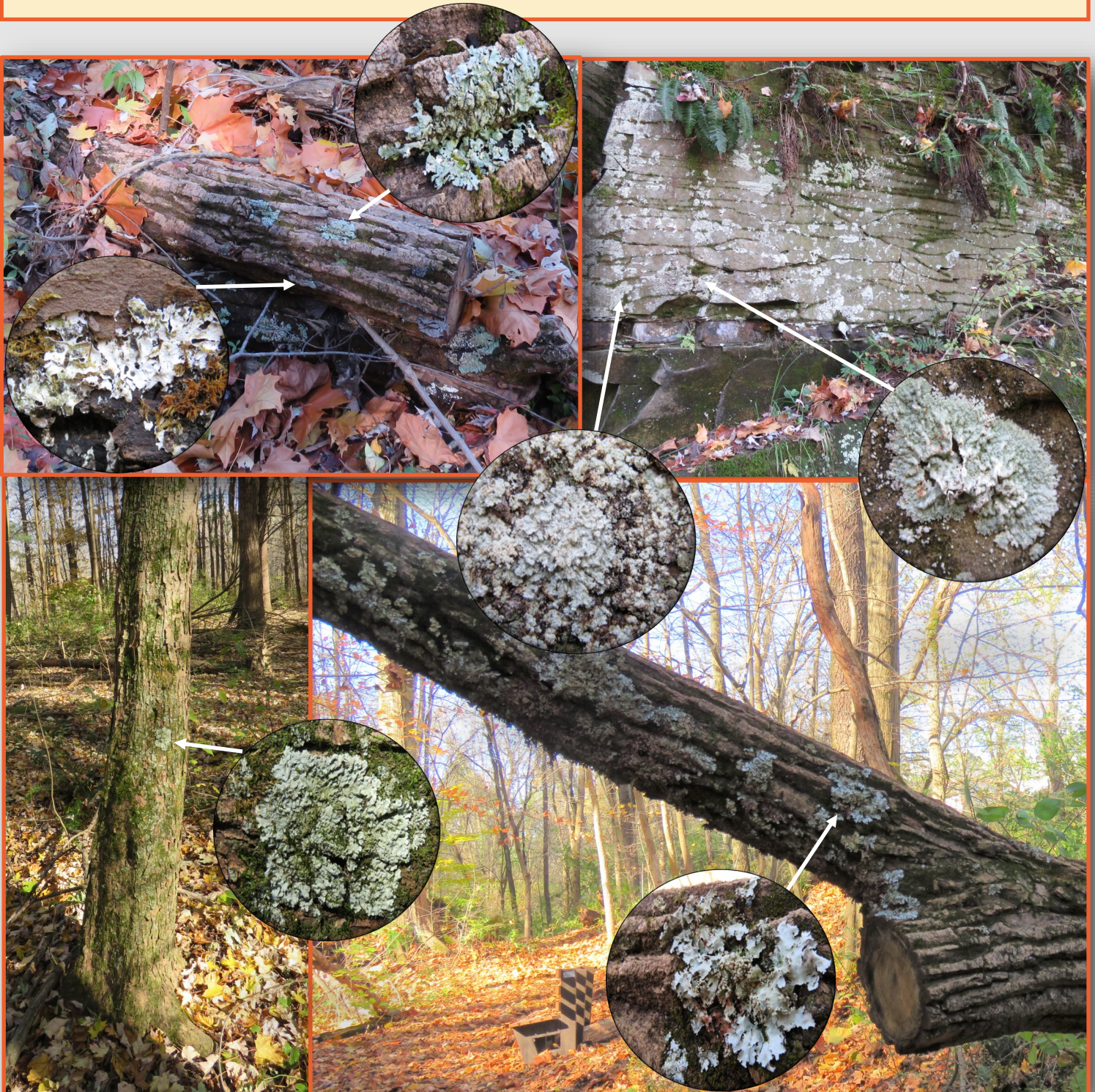
Sunday, February 28 2pm Lowe-Volk Park

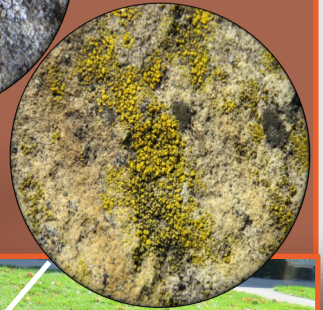
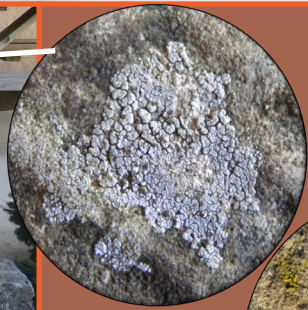
Will it be fruits, vegetables, leafy greens, shrimp, worms, or mice? Can you guess what's on the menu for the animals in the Nature Center? If you want to help feed some of the animals, call the Park District to register.

Some Bird Nerd Info....While loons may be thought to have been named for their crazy calls, the term actually is a corruption of the word “loom” which means “lame” in the language of the Shetland islands, which refers to the birds awkwardness on land. (Taken with permission from “The Birder's Handbook.”)

Lichens at Lowe-Volk Park

You have probably walked by a few thousand lichens in your lifetime and may have never noticed this widely-distributed organism. When you focus your eyes, you can find many of these fungi and algae that live together to create an organism that looks very different from a mushroom or slimy algae. Take a look at some intriguing lichens found at Lowe-Volk Park and register for a hike on December 12th at 2pm to learn more about these interesting entities.



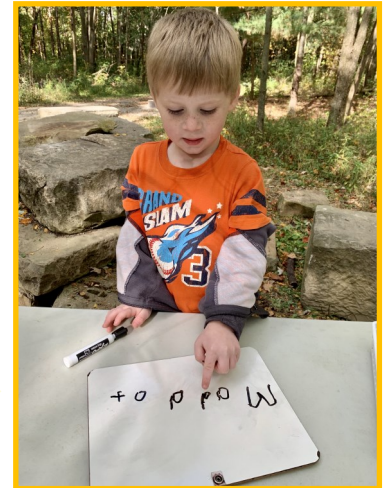


Forest Friends

The CPD's new pre-kindergarten program, Forest Friends, is going well! Led by new naturalist, Chelsea Gottfried, 4 & 5-year-olds are immersing themselves in the outdoors. From exploring the creeks and woodlands, to playing in leaves and learning about everything nature, the Forest Friends – and Chelsea – are having a grand time!

Developing the Forest Friends program was spearheaded by Chelsea to offer a “natural” alternative to typical classroom setting pre-schools. Interaction with nature is essential in meeting the social, physical, emotional, and cognitive needs of children. This program combines early childhood and environmental education to: foster curiosity, inspire confidence & independence, encourage problem solving & reflection, and strengthen balance, coordination, & concentration. Learning takes place at Lowe-Volk Park and is inquiry-based and student-centered. Kindergarten readiness skills such as letter recognition, counting, and writing are also incorporated.

Our little Forest Friends love coming to hang out with Miss Chelsea (Madi's favorite thing about “school” is Miss Chelsea.) Whether in the woods, creek, or wetland, they have fun learning about nature and developing their school readiness skills. Finding animals in the park is one of their favorite things that happens during Forest Friends sessions, but Isaac says it best: “I like just being outside!” Grant's Mom, Emily says, “He LOVES school! Every day when he wakes up, he asks if he has school today.”



Forest Friends meet three days a week from September through April, with morning and afternoon sessions available. While this year's sessions are underway, there still is availability. For more information about Forest Friends and how to register your four or five-year-old, contact the park office at 419-683-9000. Look for registration information for next year's classes in our spring newsletter.



New H2Ohio Incentive Program Helps Improve Water Quality

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is offering a new incentive program to encourage farmers to aid in conservation and improve water quality. ODNR will be accepting applications for its Water Quality Incentive Program (WQIP) from December 1, 2020 through January 29, 2021.

The new program is being offered in combination with the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP is a USDA conservation program that offers farmers and landowners financial compensation for taking cropland out of production and establishing conservation practices. The H2Ohio Water Quality Incentive Program will offer a one-time payment of \$2,000 per acre for new Lake Erie CREP wetlands and forested riparian buffers (buffer strip with trees) to help improve water quality in the Lake Erie watershed. Wetlands and riparian buffers act as filters to reduce nutrient loading into waterways and help reduce flooding. Riparian buffers also stabilize streambanks to reduce soil erosion.

“This program gives farmers a unique opportunity to benefit the environment and themselves,” ODNR Director Mary Mertz said. “The program will let farmers boost Ohio’s environmental health while receiving fair compensation.”

To qualify for the H2Ohio Water Quality Incentive Program, interested farmers and landowners must be eligible for CREP and submit an H2Ohio WQIP application during the announced sign-up period prior to their CREP contract approval. Applicants do not have to sign up for CREP prior to applying for the H2Ohio WQIP. However, if the applicant is approved for the WQIP, an approved CREP contract will be required to receive the WQIP payment. Applications will be scored and selected based on criteria to prioritize the best projects to improve water quality.

Farmers and other eligible landowners interested in additional program details, project planning assistance, and help with the application process can contact ODNR technical staff at 419-424-5000, or the Crawford County Soil and Water Conservation District at 419-562-8280.

Fall Bird Banding Update

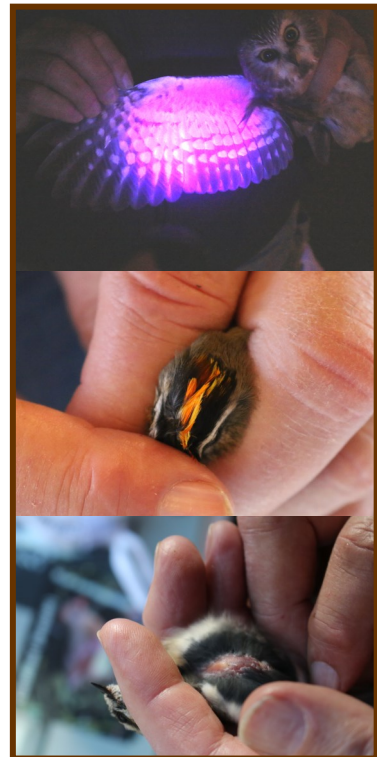
On November 6 & 7, Bob Placier brought his mist nets to Lowe-Volk Park in hopes of capturing Northern Saw-whet Owls (Friday night) and resident/migratory songbirds (Saturday morning). Friday evening’s owl banding was a success with 3 Saw-whets being captured. Being migratory, these diminutive owls’ numbers are higher this year due to a successful breeding season, which in turn is affected by food availability. Boom years are cyclical, with every fourth or fifth year being a boom year that brings more of the Saw-whets into Ohio – and other areas well outside of their typical breeding range. This cycle held true for the banding activity at Lowe-Volk Park: four years ago, we also captured three Saw-whet Owls.



Jesse Swindle is ready to release the recaptured Carolina Chickadee. The chickadee and Jesse are only a few months apart in age.

On Saturday morning, the nets were opened again for the songbirds. A total of 16 birds (14 banded, 2 recaptured) were processed and released, representing 8 species. The most abundant were Golden-crowned Kinglets (4 banded) and Tufted Titmice (3 banded, 1 recapture). Bob was very surprised about one of the recaptures – a Carolina Chickadee. Weighing about as much as two nickels, these small songbirds struggle to live past three years. The recaptured chickadee caught on November 7, was first captured and banded on May 10, 2014. At that time, it was aged as a second-year bird (plumage is used in aging birds). A little math and voila! The Carolina Chickadee has beaten many odds and is well over seven years old. Bob was excited and said, “That is the oldest one I have in my records!” Our hope is that the chickadee survives one more winter and we can recapture it once more. We will see! And thanks again to Bob Placier for coming to band birds and sharing his wealth of bird knowledge at Lowe-Volk Park!

(Right three photos...Top: Blacklight used to age Saw-whet Owls; Middle: Plumage can be used to determine gender; Bottom: Checking for fat deposits.)



Recycling Update

Recycling is an important practice that eliminates waste in our landfills and allows materials to be reused for similar or other materials. At the onset of shutdowns, recycling in Crawford County came to a screeching halt with trailers and bins pulled from various locations. As restrictions were relaxed and guidelines set forth, as with many other aspects of life, recycling came back. There were a few changes however. No longer will Crawford County provide trailers for group recycling. (This means that the CPD will no longer receive funds from the recycling trailer.) However, the recycling trailers are placed throughout the county offering many locations for environmentally-conscience citizens to do their part. The following is a list of these locations. Please note that these trailers are only set out Monday-Friday, except Lowe-Volk Park which is Monday-Thursday. Trailers are not left out over the weekend.



Bucyrus City Hall
Quality Inn (Bucyrus)
Galion East Park
Crestline Village Hall
Lowe-Volk Park
New Washington (Behind Village Hall)



If you have a large amount of recyclables, please consider taking them to the Crawford County Recycling Center, located at 5128 Lincoln Highway East, between the hours of 8am-4pm, Monday-Friday.

Common Household Items that can be Recycled at the Recycling Center

- **PLASTICS** – Look on the bottom of the container, locate the recycling symbol and then the number within.
 - a. **#1** (PETE) “CLEAR” (Please rinse first, labels and caps do not need removed) • Soda Bottles • Water Bottles • Creamers • Vitamins
 - b. **#2** (HDPE) “NATURAL” (Please rinse first, labels and caps do not need removed) • Milk Jugs • Water Jugs • Juice • Shampoo • Laundry Soap and Bleach
 - c. **#3-#7** Can Be Mixed Together (Please rinse first, labels and caps do not need removed)
- **BOXBOARD**
 - a. Shoe Boxes
 - b. Cereal Boxes
 - c. Soda Cartons
 - d. Dry Food Packaging Boxes – fruit snacks, pop tarts, noodles, etc.
- **CARDBOARD** (corrugated)
 - a. Pizza Boxes – Clean, no crumbs or liner paper
 - b. Packaging Boxes
- **PAPER** • NEWSPAPER (Ad slicks are ok) • OFFICE AND COMPUTER PAPER • JUNK MAIL • TELEPHONE BOOKS • MAGAZINES and CATALOGS • PAPERBACK BOOKS (No hardbacks, please!)
- **GLASS** - BROWN, GREEN OR CLEAR (Please rinse first and separate by color, labels do not need removed)
- **ALUMINUM CANS ONLY** (Please rinse first) NO aluminum foil or food trays are accepted.
- **STEEL CANS** (Please rinse first but labels may stay on)
 - a. Soup
 - b. Vegetable

(This list was taken and adapted from Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District and Crawford County Solid Waste District. Visit their websites for more on recycling and conservation practices.)

www.crawfordswcd.org

www.crawfordcountysolidwaste.com

The Dr. Laurie Anne Rhodebeck Memorial Scholarship

The Dr. Laurie Anne Rhodebeck Memorial Scholarship was established by the Friends of the Crawford Park District in memory of Dr. Laurie Anne Rhodebeck. Applicants can be entering any level of their educational attainment, attending any college, university, technical or vocational school, and entering any field of study. Preference is given to those studying environmental sciences or other studies that correlate with the mission of the Crawford Park District and to those who can display community services activities. An essay on the environment is required. This scholarship is renewable for the entire time a student is in school as long as they reapply each year. Interested applicants must visit the Community Foundation for Crawford County's website at www.cfcrawford.org/scholarships. Deadline to apply is March 1, 2021 by 5pm.

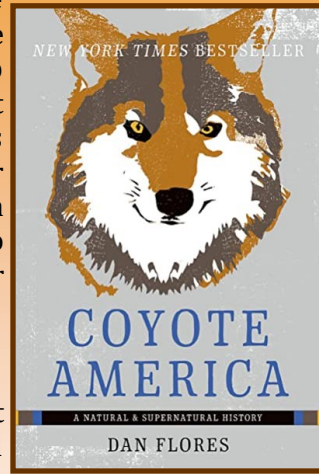
CPD Book Club

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:

Dec. 29; Jan. 26; Feb. 23

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



Colonel Crawford FFA Assists with Seed Collection

Over 20 FFA students donated their lunch break to help collect prairie seeds at Salem Prairie. With many helpful hands, Lisa and Josh led the group in gathering large



quantities of Indian Grass, Riddell's Goldenrod, Tall Sunflower, Little Bluestem, Rattlesnake Master, and Stiff Goldenrod seeds. It was a great way for the students to contribute to land conservation in a maskless, socially distant manner. The seeds will be used at Sandusky Headwaters Preserve and to augment existing prairies on CPD properties. Many thanks to Mr. Josh Schieber for instilling a great land stewardship model in his students.



Nature Camp 2021

<u>Ages</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Cost</u>
5-6 Year Olds	June 14 – June 18	9AM - Noon	\$50
7-9 Year Olds	June 21 – June 25	9AM - 3PM	\$100
7-9 Year Olds	June 28 – July 2	9AM - 3PM	\$100
10-12 Year Olds	July 5 – July 9	9AM - 3PM	\$100
10-12 Year Olds	July 12 – July 16	9AM - 3PM	\$100
7-9 Year Olds	July 19 – July 23	9AM - 3PM	\$100
7-9 Year Olds	July 26 – July 30	9AM - 3PM	\$100
5-6 Year Olds	Aug 2 – Aug 6	9AM - Noon	\$50

The CPD staff are hopeful that Nature Camp will be back in full swing this summer, but please be aware there may be some changes. We want you to have as many details as possible so you can be prepared. As in the past, we are opening camp registration on March 1, 2021 at 8 am. You can print the registration forms (available January 5) from our website; or, stop by the Nature Center to pick them up. Payments (cash, check, or credit card) must be made at the Nature Center to reserve your child's spot in camp. We will not take any over the phone payments until March 2, 2021.

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

August 16, 2020 Through November 14, 2020



FRIENDS MEMBERSHIPS

Kinglet (student/senior)

Frances Baldasare
Emma Boles
Quinten Boles
Paula Howell
 In Memory of Hourly, the cat
Maxine Keller
 In Memory of Darl Keller
Gilbert Ross Jr.
Robin Sirl

Cardinal (individual)

Denise M. Bell
 In Memory of Richard C. Bell
Martha Cellini
Ronald Hedges
Kenneth Klingelhafer
Phyllis Manley
Kevin McKinney
Carol Moran
Dorothy Strickler
Donald Walter
Donna Watts

Flock (family)

Robert & Ruth Brown
John & Amy Cauvel
 In Memory of
 Terry Cooper & Mark Murphy
Fred & Jean Dean
Martha Flohr
Greg & Kim Gabriel
Jan Gledhill
Rebecca Hord
 In Memory of
 Gene & Alice Lower
Hazel & Dean Hunter
Eric & Mabelle Kocher
Anne Mahoney
Rich & Sandy Sautter
Donald & Judith Smith
Robert & Nancy Stauffer
John & Becky Witter
Mary Worden

Bur Oak Circle (supporting)

Mike & Suzette Burger
Gary & Shirley Burrer
Terry & Cheryl Corney
Carolyn & Steve Helbert
Brad & Peggy Larsen
Glenda Leuthold
 In Memory of Miriam Etzinger
Village of New Washington

Bald Eagle Club (sustaining)

Jeff & Ruth Ann Campbell
Richard Carpenter
Jim & Ruth Ann Crabaugh
 In Memory of Ernest Phillips
Galion Kiwanis
Chelsea Gottfried
Skip James
 In Memory of Gerald James
Joe Kelly
Larry Metz
Richard & Helen Michalek
 In Memory of their Families
Bob Moorman
Thomas P. Morton
Tamara Robinson
 In Memory of Paul Robinson
Dave Sharrock
Todd Strickland
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 In Memory of Oriana Cornell
Rita Volk
 In Memory of
 Lloyd & Martha Volk

Tallgrass Prairie Club (sponsoring)

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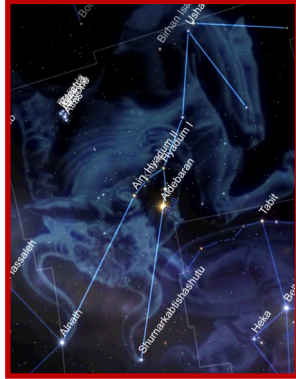
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Crawford Park Astronomy Club



Taurus

Also known as the bull, Taurus is one of the 88 main constellations viewed in our night sky. It is also one of the 12 constellations of the zodiac, first cataloged by the Greek Astronomer Claudius Ptolemy. Due to its size and its brightest star Aldebaran, it should be relatively easy to spot on a clear fall or winter night. The stars that form the V-shaped cluster, represent the head of the bull with Aldebaran creating the eye of Taurus. If you are familiar with Orion's Belt, those stars always point to Aldebaran. On a clear night this winter, look for these celestial wonders!

The Quadrantids meteor shower will be active from Dec. 27 - Jan. 10 with the peak happening on **January 3, 2021**. These pieces of an asteroid, that broke apart 500 years ago, will be moving at a velocity of 41 km/s. There is an estimated rate of 120 per hour with a history of producing fireballs.



Orion Nebula captured by the Stellina Telescope in about a 5 minute lapse.

Meeting Information

The Astronomy Club will meet the 4th and 5th Saturday of each month 30 minutes after sunset. Programs will be held regardless of sky conditions, so please dress for the weather. If the skies are rainy or cloudy, we will meet in the Nature Center. Please call 419-683-9000 to register for the program.

December 26	6:00 pm
January 23	6:30 pm
January 30	6:30 pm
February 27	7:00 pm

Targets for Winter:

- ✨ **Jupiter & Saturn** – are slowly going to the west but are always crowd pleasers through the telescopes.
- ✨ **Mars** – has some fascinating ice caps to view and just had a close approach to Earth being only 38.6 million miles away.
- ✨ **m-31** – The Andromeda galaxy is approximately 2.5 million light years away making it our closest major barred spiral galaxy, which has about 1 trillion stars.
- ✨ **Great Orion Nebula** – the birthplace of stars is a beautiful cloud of gas and dust 1300 light years away. It is one of the brightest nebulas visible to the naked eye with its radius being 12 light years.
- ✨ **m-44** – The Beehive cluster is an open cluster full of a mixture of yellow, red, and blue stars only 577 light years away.
- ✨ **m-45** – The Pleiades, also known as the seven sisters, is an open cluster 444 light years away. People often confuse it for the Little Dipper due to its shape.
- ✨ **Double Stars** – orbiting around each other.

Weather permitting, the Stellina scope will be brought out. It will take photos of the stellar objects and we will send those images to your smart phone. It is a very impressive addition!

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

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 Executive Secretary — Patti Schiefer
 Naturalists — Lisa Bogard,
 Abby Ditomassi, Chelsea Gottfried,
 Warren Uxley
 Program Asst. — Joy Etter-Link
 Receptionists — Mandi Fruth, Patti Gervais
 Maintenance — Mike Fruth

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); **BE** (Bob Evans)



Date	Program/Event	Time	Park				
				Sun. Jan. 24	Feeding Day	2:00pm	LVP
Thurs. Dec. 3 & 10	Homeschool: Winter Birds	9, 11 & 2	LVP	Tues. Jan. 26	Book Club	6:00pm	LVP
Sun. Dec. 6	Pinecone Decorations	2:00pm	LVP	Wed. Jan. 27	Infant Explorers: Pinecones	5:00pm	LVP
Sat. Dec. 12	Hikin' for Lichen	2:00pm	LVP	Thurs. Jan. 28	Infant Explorers: Pinecones	5:00pm	LVP
Dec. 14-Dec. 27	Candy Cane Hike	All day	LVP	Sat. Jan. 30	Toddler Trot: Snow Snoopin'	10:00am	UP
Wed. Dec. 16	Infant Explorers: Christmas Trees	5:00pm	LVP	Sat. Jan. 30	Viewing the Night Sky	6:30pm	LVP
Wed. Dec. 16	Snowy Owls...in Ohio!!!	6:00pm	LVP	Thurs. Feb. 4 & 11	Homeschool: Trail Cams Cont.	9, 11 & 2	LVP
Thurs. Dec. 17	Infant Explorers: Christmas Trees	5:00pm	LVP	Wed. Feb. 10	Owls	7:00pm	LVP
Fri. Dec. 18	Movie in the Park	5:30pm	LVP	Feb. 12-Feb. 21	Heart Hike	All day	LVP
Sun. Dec. 20	Nature Hike	3:00pm	SW	Sat. Feb. 13	Love Bugs	2:00pm	LVP
Sat. Dec. 26	Viewing the Night Sky	6:00pm	LVP	Thurs. Feb. 18	Puppet Show	6:00pm	LVP
Tues. Dec. 29	Book Club	6:00pm	LVP	Fri. Feb. 19	Puppet Show	11:00am	LVP
Sun. Jan. 3	Audubon Christmas Bird Count	7:00am	BE	Sat. Feb. 20	Toddler Trot: Animal Signs	10:00am	LVP
Thurs. Jan. 7 & 14	Homeschool: Trail Cameras	9, 11 & 2	LVP	Sun. Feb. 21	Snow Insect Hike	2:00pm	LVP
Sat. Jan. 9	Animals of the Ice Age	2:00pm	LVP	Tues. Feb. 23	Book Club	6:00pm	LVP
Wed. Jan. 13	Winter Night Hike	6:00pm	SW	Wed. Feb. 24	Infant Explorers: Snow	5:00pm	LVP
Jan. 14-Jan. 18	Feeders on the Fly	8am-4pm	LVP	Thurs. Feb. 25	Infant Explorers: Snow	5:00pm	LVP
Jan. 15-Jan. 24	Snowman Hike	All day	LVP	Sat. Feb. 27	Nature Hike	3:00pm	HNP
Wed. Jan. 20	Terrific (or Terrifying!) Tarantulas	5:30pm	LVP	Sat. Feb. 27	Viewing the Night Sky	7:00pm	LVP
Sat. Jan. 23	Viewing the Night Sky	6:30pm	LVP	Sun. Feb. 28	Feeding Day	2:00pm	LVP