

Friends of Warren County Park District (FWCPD) was created to support programs and activities associated with the Warren County Park District. The FWCPD group encourages volunteerism and raises funds to further the growth of the Park District, as well as maintains relationships with other Warren County organizations.

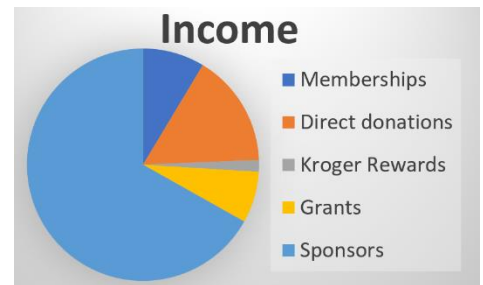


LEADERSHIP: 2022 started with a new treasurer—welcome and thanks, Kathie Bowers! Continuing officers: Dianna Kenneally, President; Dave Nuscher, Vice President; Patricia Decker, Secretary. Steering committee: Shannon Pennington, Kathy Schroeder, Judy Bay, Cindy Glorius, Jim Prickett, Bill Lindauer, and David Woehr.

WARREN COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (WCAS): Join us in congratulating the WCAS for growing into an independent 501(c)(3) organization! While no longer accepting their donations, we look forward to continuing joint projects and events. You can visit their website for more updates: www.wcas-oh.org

MEMBERSHIP: This year we saw significant growth in membership with more than 90 members. This is due in part to the excellent publicity the Friends have been getting from social media—thanks to Shannon. Also, we expanded our membership drive to email and social media in addition to our regular mailing list.

TREASURY REPORT (As of the month ending October): This year our income was \$13,994 with expenses of \$6,716. We ended the year with a balance of \$25,177. Cops and Bobbers (\$2,209), Concert Series (\$1,486), and Nature Programs were the top expense areas. We plan to donate \$2,500 to Warren County Park District for trees. In addition, we funded \$515 this year to contract with Birdsong Landscapes for invasive species control at the pollinator gardens at Armco and Landen-Deerfield Park and plan to continue this service for 2023. These gardens play an important role in our educational mission and require very specialized periodic maintenance to control invasive species. Birdsong Landscapes graciously donated their time and services for an additional summer treatment. Fortunately, 2022 was an excellent year for grants and sponsorships. Again, this is mostly due to the efforts of Naturalist Shannon and Jim Prickett. This year we earned \$1,207 from memberships, \$2,200 from direct donations, \$10,357 from grants and sponsors, and \$230 from Kroger Community Rewards. In addition, we had thousands of dollars of in-kind donations and volunteer hours.



MEMBER EXCLUSIVE EVENTS: Again this year, we offered some private, exclusive events to thank our members.

- **Winter Birds Presentation:** Connor and Annie from **Wild Birds Unlimited** of West Chester and Springboro presented a special program to kick off the 2022 Great Backyard Bird Count.
- **Heron Rookery Hike:** In April, **Jim P.** led a private hike to a **Heron Rookery**. We counted 86 nests this year. Thanks again to the private homeowner that allowed us to see these amazing birds.
- **Boat Tours of Armco Lake:** In September, Jerry Ferguson from Otterbein offered members private tours of Armco Lake guided by Jerry and some of our OCVNs (Dave W., Dianna K., and Karen D.). We sighted herons, osprey, and cormorants on the lake.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT: Due to renovations at the Hisey Farmhouse, this year the GBBC was held at Armco Park. Bird feeders were added around the Pavilion to attract birds (thanks to Cindy Glorius for keeping them filled). It was a big success with dozens of people attending and 34 bird species sighted. We had such a great turnout that we will be at Armco Park again for the GBBC in 2023!

SPRING WILDFLOWER PROJECT: Spearheaded by Cindy G., Kathy S., Shannon P., and Dave W., temporary signs with QR codes were added at Hisey Park. Twelve native spring ephemerals are featured on our website. The project was kicked off by a spring wildflower hike.

COPS & BOBBERS SUMMER KICK-OFF: on June 4 at Armco Park, 207 children and their parents and guardians participated in the event which included a fishing derby, nature hikes, crafts, archery, bounce houses, free lunch, and amazing prizes! Numerous volunteers from local police departments, fire stations, WC Soil and Water Conservation District, Little Miami Conservancy, Buckeye United Fly Fishers, and the Ohio Division of Wildlife helped make this day a special event. We hope to make this an annual happening!

TECH-FREE TUESDAYS: This continues to be our most popular summer activity, led by Naturalist Shannon. This year, over 1,400 community members participated! One of the most popular days was when FWCPD sponsored RAPTOR, Inc. to provide bird demonstrations. We plan to include more outside organizations next year. 60 kids earned their 100-Hours-Outside prizes too!



HISEY FALL FESTIVAL: Fall Fest was another rousing success this year, featuring civil war reenactors, a 4H petting zoo, North Pohl Farms alpacas, pumpkin decorating, and tours of the newly renovated Hisey House. We had so many attendees, this year we needed two full-to-the-brim hayride wagons all day. Thanks again to Jim Prickett (AKA Mr. Fall Fest) and Bill Lindauer for planting the “punkins” for all the kids.





NEW PARK CHAMPION AWARD: This year we inaugurated a new recognition for outstanding volunteers—The Park Champion Award. This award recognizes member volunteers for long-term service to the parks as well as advocacy for the parks, our community, and nature education. Recipients were awarded a custom embroidered ball cap and a memorial native tree to be planted at Hisey Park. In addition, their names were added to a perpetual plaque that will be on display at Hisey Park. Please join us in congratulating our inaugural Park Champions: Bill Lindauer and Dave Woehr.

FALL CONCERT SERIES: Thanks to the generosity of Deerfield Township, we hosted three concerts at Landen-Deerfield Park this year featuring local music by Abe’s Lincoln, New Brew, and Blue Rock. Several community organizations joined Naturalist Shannon in providing fun activities for families.



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS: Visit www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards
 Organization Name: Friends of Warren County Park District. Organization Number: **UU763**
Note: signing up will NOT affect your fuel points!

VOLUNTEER! We can’t do all this without your help! We are looking for volunteers to help with the following:

- Attending FWCPD meetings, becoming a board member
- Assisting with planning and implementing Nature Programs for children and adults
- Gardening, planting, landscaping (Adopt-a-Park)
- Setting up and helping with Hisey Fall Festival, Youth Fishing Derby, Concerts in the Park

Simply make a note on your membership renewal or email diannackenneally@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: 11/18–12/30/22: HOLIDAY IN LIGHTS at Armco Park! Go to www.HolidayInLights.com, click on “Purchase Tickets” and enter **promo code SANTAVP** to save \$2 on admission. \$20/carload, \$60/busload.



FRI. 2/17/23, 6–7PM: RAPTOR PROGRAM Local experts from RAPTOR Inc. will be presenting “Beaks & Talons” with several live animal ambassadors at the Armco Park Jones Pavilion! **EXCLUSIVE for Current Friends of WC PD!**

SAT. 2/18/23 & SUN. 2/19/23: GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT Join us for one of our favorite community science projects as we identify and tally the birds we see. Employees from Wild Birds Unlimited of West Chester and Springboro and members of the newly formed Birders of Warren County group will be joining us to lend their expertise! Bird enthusiasts of all skill levels are welcome! Armco Park Jones Pavilion. TIMES TBA. *FREE and open to the public!*

MORE EVENTS Follow us on FB as we schedule more programs for 2023! www.Facebook.com/WarrenCountyNature

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS: Please remember to patronize and thank our sponsors and partners!

Whitetails Unlimited Caesar Creek
 100 Who Care of Warren County
 Cabela’s/Bass Pro Shops
 ODNR Division of Wildlife
 ATA Absolute
 B&B Carryout & Diner
 Birdsong Landscapes
 Blooms and Berries
 Deerfield Township
 Eric Gross Group
 G3 Church
 Groceryland

Hamilton Bait & Tackle
 Horsefeathers Farm
 LCNB National Bank
 Little Miami Conservancy
 Franklin City Police Department
 Loveland Canoe and Kayak
 Marco’s Pizza Landen
 Newport Aquarium Wave Foundation
 North Pohl Farms
 Premier Martial Arts Mason
 Prickett’s Barbershop
 RAPTOR, Inc.

SAFE on Main
 Scarlet Barn Antiques
 Trophy Awards
 WC Astronomical Society
 WC OSU Extension
 WC County Post
 WC Sheriff
 WC Soil & Water Conservation Distr.
 Wayne Township
 Waynesville American Legion Post
 615 Women’s Auxiliary
 Wild Birds Unlimited

2022 NATURE PROGRAMS RECAP

As the world began to find its “new normal,” our nature outreach programming started back in full force. The pandemic saw record numbers of individuals discovering (or re-discovering) the outdoors, and we are thrilled to help the community find new, fun ways to unplug and get outside!



New partnerships with **Whitetails Unlimited Caesar Creek Chapter** and **100 Who Care of Warren County** allowed us to provide enhanced experiences for thousands of people. One of my favorite parts of this job is when someone attends one of my programs and says, “WOW! I never knew this park was here!” Between the **Cops & Bobbers** summer kick-off event, **Tech-Free Tuesdays**, youth **scouting programs**, and our partnership with **SAFE on Main’s “The Art of Kindness”** programs, we have heard that comment a lot this year!

Our **registered ambassador reptiles** met with hundreds of children and adults this year, helping the public learn about native wildlife. The third annual **iNaturalist Summer BioBlitz** was very successful with observers cataloging and identifying 1,170 unique species across Warren County.

Once again, we challenged children to spend time outdoors this summer with our sixth annual **#WCPD100HoursOutside** program. Children who completed the challenge were rewarded with prizes donated by local sponsors and of course the Friends of WCPD!

Our programs continue to grow and expand, and I find myself needing more and more help. Looking ahead to 2023, I hope to offer the **Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist training** program through our parks to help build our volunteer base. If you have any interest in learning more, please reach out!

Thank you for your continued support of the Friends of WCPD and, by extension, our community nature programs. I could not do what I do without your help! Best wishes for a happy, healthy 2023! ~Naturalist Shannon

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP: We thank you for enabling us to support the programs and purchase trees to be planted in various parks. We are enclosing our **membership application envelope** with this letter and hope that you will continue to support the Warren County Park District with your membership and your participation. Alternatively, you can **save a stamp and join online** with options to pay via check, PayPal, or credit card at www.fwcpdoh.com, or you can use the QR code. Your membership fee and donations help fund Trees and Landscaping, Nature Education Programs, Concerts in the Park, Cops & Bobbers, and more!



**SCAN FOR 2023
MEMBERSHIP**

To learn more about our organization please visit www.fwcpdoh.com or <http://www.co.warren.oh.us/parks>
Subscribe to our E-Newsletter at <http://tinyurl.com/FriendsENewsletter>