



WCPD Naturalist Report

December 2018 and January 2019

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(Hours logged November through March are part of OCVN volunteer requirements and are not part of my WCPD wages.)

Community Connections

- **Otterbein Nature Series:** November's program on "White Tailed Deer" was led by OCVN Dave Woehr; December's program on "Reptiles" was led by Shannon Russell Pennington (with help from OCVN Mickie Marquis). Excellent feedback on surveys completed by residents. They really love our programs and are looking forward to more!
- **Butterfly Garden at Landen Deerfield:** Local artists Amy Lynn Johnson and Lynn Baird are working on design and construction now. Installation will take place before summer.
- **Heritage at Miami Bluffs:** "Backyard Wildlife" presentation for residents last night was a huge success. Thank you, Bill Schroeder, for your help! This is a highly engaged and active 55+ community and I'd love to get them more involved with our parks. Bill S. has a connection with one of their residents who is a member of their Fishing Club, and there is a Hiking Club as well; they go on their own to Hisey and Gully on occasion. I shared Bill Lindauer's nature schedule and our Otterbein offerings with attendees.
- **Partnership Progress:** Bill S. and I met with Eric Partee (Little Miami Conservancy) and Melissa Proffit and Cindy Meyer (Warren Co Soil and Water Conservation) on 1/8/19 regarding resource and idea sharing. There are some excellent opportunities to collaborate and I look forward to seeing what this partnership brings!

Coming Up

- **Otterbein Nature Series:** Thank you to Dave Woehr for helping arrange the 2019 schedule! We have an incredible and diverse line-up so far. See reverse for first quarter offerings.
- **Deerfield Township Update:** The Parks Master Plan will be presented to the DT Board of Trustees on 1/15/19. Items of note include the suggestion to work towards better connectivity/walkability between DT parks, more nature programs, a potential Nature Center, a possible indoor facility to accommodate community programming, a permanent Farmers Market, and better marketing/communication of DT park offerings. Specific suggestions for Landen Deerfield Park include: improve auto access and egress, connect park trails to Township network, adding a nature playscape, and upgrading fields and facilities.

Ongoing/Long-Term Projects

- **Next Summer:** Possibly add some kind of TFT-like program at Armco to utilize Nature Playscape area and get a different subset of people out to the parks. I welcome any input! I also may be helping with "Wildlife Wednesdays" for the Little Miami Conservancy.
- **Wildflower Restoration Project:** at Landen-Deerfield Park will move forward when parking expansion is complete. Construction on that has begun.
- **Handicap Accessible Nature Trail:** at LD Park is still on the docket. Can't move forward until parking lot project is finished. I'll be putting together some ideas for Larry to share with Deerfield Twp at their upcoming meeting regarding funding for LD.

Warren County Park District Otterbein Nature Series *First Quarter, 2019*

Nuts about Winter Trees



Mon., 1/28, 1-2pm

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Bill Lindauer will demonstrate how to identify trees in winter by examining twig arrangements, buds, dried leaves, bark, leaf scars, seeds, and nuts.

K9s in Conservation



Mon., 2/25, 1-2pm

Ohio Wildlife Officer Jason Keller and his K9 "Scout" (trained in obedience, gunpowder, ginseng and wildlife detection, tracking, and area search) will share how they are working together on conservation efforts.

Vernal Pools and Salamander Breeding



Mon., 3/25, 1-2pm

Melissa Proffitt, Educator from Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District will teach all about vernal pools and why they are so important for amphibian reproduction.

Programs are free and open to the public!



Thank you to Otterbein Senior Life of Lebanon and the Friends of Warren County Park District for providing these educational experiences. Do you have a suggestion for an upcoming program? Email WCPD Naturalist Shannon Russell Pennington at MotherNaturesClassroom@gmail.com

Programs are held indoors in the Phillippi Meeting Room at Otterbein. 585 N. State Route 741, Lebanon, OH 45036.