



WCPD Naturalist Report

February 2019

Shannon Russell Pennington, MotherNaturesClassroom@gmail.com, 513-833-7360

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

Community Connections

- **Otterbein Nature Series:** January's program on "Nuts About Winter Trees" was led by OCVN Bill Lindauer. Excellent job, Bill! The residents loved the hands-on approach!
- **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. **Approval for supplies needed! They are estimating \$400 max.** Amy Lynn also has a rain barrel project in mind and her design was one of the winners for the Cincinnati Zoo's Water Conservation Project. This would be a great addition to that area, but we would need to install a gutter and downspout on the shelter and purchase a barrel and paints. I'd like to see this be our next project!
- **Atria Springboro:** Renee Harlow, former program director at Otterbein, has moved to a new job at Atria Springboro. She contacted us about starting up a monthly series there as well. I led a coyote presentation there yesterday (2/12/19) and it was very well received by the 13 residents in attendance. This facility has an older and less mobile crowd, and it's considerably smaller than Otterbein but the residents seemed excited about the possibility. **I need feedback from everyone about expanding our programs outside of Otterbein... will we have enough people power?**
- **Cincinnati Nature Center:** Bill Schroeder and I both attended a program by Dr. Stan Gehrt last weekend. He's widely considered to be the world's foremost expert on coyotes and leads the mammals portion of the Caesar Creek OCVN classes. His website is an excellent resource: <http://urbancoyoteresearch.com> We are currently at the peak of coyote breeding season so it's normal to see them more often. If you notice neighbors on social media or in person freaking out about coyote sightings, direct them to that website or send them my way!
- **Otterbein Memory Care Gardens:** I was contacted by Billi Jo Sanders, volunteer coordinator, to see if anyone would be able to help adopt a garden. Please see me for details.

Coming Up

- **Great Backyard Bird Count:** This weekend at Hisey! Updates from Bill L.? **I'd like to get all of our OCVNs together at some point during this event to chat about the upcoming events we have going on in 2019**

COME TO HISEY PARK'S Great Backyard Bird Count

February 16th—10:00 to 4:00 | February 17th—2:00 to 7:00
Address: 5443 Middletown Rd, Waynesville, OH



- Watch Birds at Feeders.
- Learn Birding Skills from Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists while enjoying the comforts of the Old Hisey Farmhouse!
- Learn to Identify Common Ohio Birds.
- Help Create an Official Bird Count for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology GBBC.
- Create Nutritious "Zick Suet" Bird Food.
- Relax with Hot Coffee, Hot Chocolates, Apple Cider, Cookies and Other Snacks.
- Bring Binoculars. We can provide a few for your use.
- Hikes will be offered weather permitting.

www.co.warren.oh.us/parks

Questions: E-mail Bill Lindauer bill.lindauer@parks.warren.oh.us



- **Otterbein Nature Series:** See next page for first and second quarter offerings. Officer Jason Keller and K9 Scout will be there later this month for “K9s in Conservation.” If you are free, please join us!
- **Strawberry Hill Neighborhood:** “Coyotes in Your Neighborhood” presentation scheduled for 2/20/19 at Strawberry Hill Clubhouse. **Little Miami Conservancy Partnership:** Follow-up meeting is scheduled for 3/22/19 at 11am at LMC’s office in Nisbet Park in downtown Loveland. Feel free to join us if you are interested!
- **American Heritage Girls:** Wildlife badge activity at St. Margaret of York on 4/4/19. These are some of my Tech-Free Tuesday kids. 😊
- **Cincinnati Nature Center:** Assisting Bob Henn lead an OCVN class on Wildflowers on 4/13/19 from 1:30-4:30. More potential volunteers!
- **Knight of Innovation:** Hosting a booth at Kings High School to share info about our parks and my involvement with JF Burns students through Mother Nature’s Classroom on 4/16/19, 4:30-8pm. Last year it was a great marketing opportunity for our summer programs.
- **Little Miami Conservancy Partnership:** They have offered us space at Nisbet Park in Loveland to connect with community members after their monthly Raptor Inc. presentation. Our time slot will be from **3-4pm on the following dates (all Saturdays): 4/20, 5/18, 6/15, 7/20, 8/17, 9/28, 10/19/19.** Details pending. **If you are interested/available to assist, please let me know!**

**Warren County Park District & Strawberry Hill Rec. Assn. Present
“Coyotes in your Neighborhood”**

Learn about one of Ohio's most misunderstood mammals, the eastern coyote, with Warren County Park District naturalist Shannon Russell-Pennington at this FREE community event. If you have seen a coyote in the area, you're not alone! Are these animals a real threat to people and pets? What should you do if you see one? Should we be doing more to eradicate this species from our neighborhoods? If you've never seen a coyote up close, you can check out a taxidermy coyote mount at this program. Strawberry Hill Recreation Association members of all ages and their guests are welcome.



- History and Lore
- Eastward Migration
- Ohio Population
- Characteristics
- Vocalization
- Habitat
- Studies and Research
- Diet
- Breeding Habits and Patterns
- Human and Pet Encounters
- Hunting and Trapping
- The "Coywolf" Debate

**Wed., 2/20/19, 6:30-7:30pm
Strawberry Hill Clubhouse**



Questions? Contact Shannon Russell-Pennington, Staff Naturalist, Warren Co. Park District
www.wc.warrencountyohio.gov/parks | Trove.com/WC/D-visitor
 Email: ShannonRussellPennington@warren.org | Facebook.com/WarrenCountyParks
 Instagram.com/WarrenCountyParks | @WarrenCoParks

Ongoing/Long-Term Projects

- **Next Summer:** Tech-Free Tuesdays...Half will be at Landen-Deerfield, the other half will be at Armco! **If you are interested/available to lead a program or assist, please let me know!**
- **Solar Array/Pollinator Project:** per Jim Yockey, 1-2 weeks of electrical work to do to get the system ready for inspection. Once ground dries they will backgrade site and prep for seeds. **Larry, are you ordering seeds?** Dianna Kenneally has started the grant application process for signage.
- **Wildflower Restoration Project:** at Landen-Deerfield Park will move forward when parking expansion is complete. Construction on that has begun. **Include seeds for this project in order?**
- **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.

Warren County Park District Otterbein Nature Series

Second Quarter, 2019

Spring Wildflowers



Mon., 4/28, 1-2pm
John Bob Henn, biologist, Otterbein resident, and author of the guide book *Wildflowers of Ohio*, to learn all about these beautiful plants.

Herpetology



Mon., 5/27, 1-2pm
Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) Rick Kreisel will present information on Ohio's native reptiles and amphibians.

The Little Miami River



Mon., 6/25, 1-2pm
OCVNs Hope Taft and Bill Schieman from the Little Miami River Kleeners and LIM Watershed Network will share the uniqueness of the Little Miami.

Programs are free and open to the public!



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