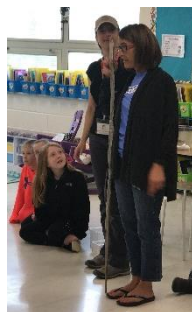


WCPD Naturalist Report May 2019

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

Community Connections

- **Otterbein Nature Series:** April's program on "Spring Wildflowers" was led by Bon Henn. It was very well attended and he did a fantastic job. Otterbein had all A/V equipment set up and ready to go when we arrived, so that was a big help! Our new main contact there is now Ronda Hammermeister, ronda.hammermeister@otterbein.org, 513-696-8591, **Clint, if you have not received payment for the 4/22/19 program yet, please contact Ronda directly.**
- **Butterfly Garden at Landen Deerfield Park:** local artists Amy Lynn Johnson and Lynn Baird are working on sealing the wood now. Projected installation date by end of June.
- **Rain Barrel:** Thank you to Jeff Blazey for the rain barrel donation and to Cindy Glorius for picking it up! Larry is looking into gutter installation at the shelter next to the butterfly garden at Landen Deerfield Park.
- **Homeschool Program:** The reptile program with Amy Butler's group on 4/12/19 went very well.
- **Cincinnati Nature Center:** I assisted Bob Henn with an OCVN class on Wildflowers on 4/13/19 and connected with 20 more potential volunteers (plus Fred and Judy Bay!)
- **Knight of Innovation:** I hosted 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. It was a great marketing opportunity for our summer programs!
- **Boy Scout Pack 417 Den 9 Bears:** The kids delivered their finished Mason bee houses to me last week. **If anyone is interested in helping me hang them around the solar array, I'd appreciate the assistance.** The sooner we can get them in place, the better!
- **Little Miami Conservancy Partnership:** I hosted a booth for their Earth Day event on Saturday, 4/20/19. The program turtles visited with numerous community members and I passed out Park District literature to visitors.
- **Blue Heron Rookery Visit:** Thank you to Friend Jim Prickett for setting up a visit to his colleague's property on 4/28/19. Around 25 people attended and we counted approximately 100 blue heron nests!
- **Atria Springboro Nature Series:** Bill Lindauer led a program on birds, using the Park District's taxidermy owl, hawk, duck, and cardinal. There were some A/V issues but Bill handled it like a champ! **Clint, if you have not received payment for the 4/29/19 program yet, please contact Renee directly.** Renee.Harlow@atriaseniorliving.com, 937-748-1919
- **South Lebanon Elementary School field trip:** Because of storms, the field trip was relocated to the school. Wildlife Officer Jason Keller, Warren Co Soil and Water Conservation District (WCSWCD) education specialist Cindy Meyer, OCVNs Dave Woehr and Bill Lindauer, and I hosted stations. OCVNs Janet Lasley and Dennis Borda, Friend Cindy Glorius, and Bill's daughter Hannah Sove assisted. I used a turtle shell donated by Friend Jim Prickett as a hands-on opportunity for the kids. Thank you to everyone for your participation and flexibility! The students had a wonderful experience thanks to your participation!



Coming Up

- ~~**Atria Springboro Nature Series:** OCVN Sue Saari will be leading a program on “Mulching with Native Plants” on Monday, 5/27/19 (Memorial Day) at 11am. If you are free, please join us! See attached ad.~~
- ~~**Otterbein Nature Series:** OCVN Rick Kneissel will be leading a program on “Herpetology” on 5/27/19 (Memorial Day) at 1pm. If you are free, please join us! See attached flyer.~~
- **Fishing Derby:** Mark your calendars for Saturday, 6/8/19 from 8am-12pm! It's a joint effort with Little Miami Conservancy this year! Wildlife Officer Jason Keller and K9 Scout will be mingling with the participants, WCSWCD will have their water trailer on site for participants to visit, and OCVN (and Friends' scholarship recipient) Angela McMahan will have a rock-decorating project in the shelter. OCVN Dianna Kenneally and I will have a booth about the Solar/Pollinator Habitat.
- **Solar Array Ribbon Cutting:** This will take place after the Fishing Derby has concluded. See attached invitation.
- **Tech-Free Tuesdays:** These will run every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Labor Day, alternating locations between Landen-Deerfield Park and WC Armco Park. See attached flyer! If you have ideas for programs, LMK!
- **Miami University Institute for Learning in Retirement:** I'll be leading a five-week program entitled “Nature in Your Own Backyard” at the West Chester campus this fall. Details to follow! Thank you to Friend Patricia Decker for the connection!
- **Little Miami Watershed Network:** I'll be hosting an activity at their 9/7/19 fundraiser at Hisey Park. Details TBD.



Long-Term Projects

- **Wildflower Restoration Project and Accessible Trail:** at Landen-Deerfield Park is moving forward. I'd like help coming up with ideas on funding signage for this area when it's finished. Nature Works grant?
- **Little Miami Conservancy Partnership:** I've been meeting with Eric Partee from LMC and Melissa Proffitt from WCSWCD. LMC has funding to purchase several high-tech water monitoring kits and would love our help utilizing them for educational programs with the public. They will lend us the equipment, and we can run the programs. I know we have several areas within our PD where we could do some “stream encounters” with this technology as well as macroinvertebrate sampling. Kits are to be purchased by mid-summer and we can utilize them as soon as they are in. If you can think of Little Miami River watershed access points within our PD, please let me know! This could be an excellent opportunity to educate the general public on water quality and citizen science, and there's no cost to us!
- I will be updating the Friends website soon with our ongoing nature volunteer opportunities. Stay tuned for details!



Tech-Free Tuesdays 2019



Unplug and get outside with Naturalist Shannon Russell Pennington
10-11am every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Labor Day!



1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays
Landen-Deerfield Park
2258 W US Hwy 22/3
Maineville, OH 45039

2nd and 4th Tuesdays
Warren Co Armco Park
1223 OH-741
Lebanon, OH 45036

Free for kids of all ages! No registration necessary.

A responsible guardian must stay with children during program.

Warren County Park District Summer Challenge

#WCPD100HoursOutside

Memorial Day to Labor Day



Follow us on social media for weekly topics!

[Facebook.com/WarrenCountyNature](https://www.facebook.com/WarrenCountyNature)

twitter.com/WarrenCoNature

[Instagram.com/WarrenCountyNature](https://www.instagram.com/WarrenCountyNature)

[TinyURL.com/WCPD-calendar](https://tinyurl.com/WCPD-calendar)

MotherNaturesClassroom@gmail.com

Youth Fishing Derby



Saturday, June 8th • 8:00 am - Noon
Warren County Armco Park Boat Dock

Free Family Fun Event!

Join the Warren County Park District as we host the Tenth Annual YOUTH FISHING DERBY. Event takes place at Warren County Armco Park Boat Dock on June 8th from 8:00 am - Noon.

Youth Fishing Derby For Ages 5-15

Darter Group ages 13-15 Minnow Group ages 10-12

Guppy Group ages 5-9 Fry Group ages 4 and Under*

- Prizes Awarded • Raffle Prizes
- Grab Bags to the first 100 Registered
- Free Hot Dog and Drink for Participants



Thank You to Our Event Sponsors!



LCNB
National Bank



For More Information or to become an Event Sponsor please contact the park office at (513) 695-1109.