

WCPD Naturalist Report

June 2019



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

Community Connections

- **Tech-Free Tuesday 5/28 at WC Armco:** Scavenger Hunt, Summer Bucket Lists, taxidermy fox squirrel, nesting duck, nature playscape – 57 children, 29 adults, seven volunteers = **93 total**.
- **Tech-Free Tuesday 6/4 at Landen-Deerfield:** Butterfly Gardens, seed planting, taxidermy raccoon – 93 children, 53 adults, six volunteers = **152 total**.
- **Tech-Free Tuesday 6/11 at WC Armco:** Wildlife Officer Keller and K9 Scout, native animal pelts (including a black bear provided by WC Soil and Water), homemade binoculars, nature hikes, nature playscape – 63 children, 30 adults, eight volunteers = **101 total**.
- **Fishing Derby:** Per Amy Butler, 68 participants at this fun event on 6/6/19. Thank you to Officer Keller and K9 Scout, Melissa Proffitt from Warren Co Soil and Water, and OCVNs Dennis Borda, Dianna Kenneally, Angela McMahan, and Kathy and Bill Schroeder for their help!
- **Solar Array Ribbon Cutting:** Nice turnout and the rain held off for us on 6/8/19. There have been a handful of media mentions after the event, which is wonderful PR for WCPD! Sprouts from the annual seeding last month are starting to grow!
- **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. Larry and crew installed a rain barrel there as well. Thank you to WCPD Commissioner Jeff Blazey for the donation!
- **Lebanon MOMS Club:** I met with nine moms and their kids on 5/20/19, took a nature hike, played in the Nature Playscape, picked up trash, and planted seeds to take home.
- **#100HoursOutside Challenge:** tracking sheets and park events listings were distributed to all elementary schools in Lebanon and Kings school districts.
- **Nature Nurses Wildlife Rehabilitators:** invited me to their recent board meeting. They'd like to partner with us to share info about what they do with the community, and potentially use our parks as release sites for rehabbed animals. They are licensed with the state of Ohio.
- **Atria Nature Series and Otterbein Nature Series** originally scheduled for 5/27/19 were both canceled because of Memorial Day conflicts.
- **Volunteer Opps:** I have updated the Friends website with our ongoing nature volunteer opportunities and have been sending periodic emails to OCVNs and other potential volunteers.
- **Bluebird Trail at Kever:** OCVN Dennis Borda has been doing an excellent job monitoring the nest boxes. OCVNs Peggy Logue and Sandy Leeson, and community members Vicky and Andrew Guelpa also accompanied me to check the boxes last week. Andrew is a boy scout who is interested in constructing more bluebird houses for the trail. At last monitoring date, there were three empty boxes, one nest of bluebird eggs, one nest with tree swallows, and one empty wren nest (which we removed).



Coming Up

- **Joshua's Place:** Speaker on 6/14/19 at 11:30 for community members as a part of the summer lunch program.
- **Atria Springboro Nature Series:** I will be leading a program on "Backyard Wildlife" on Monday, 6/17/19 at 11am. If you are free, please join us! See attached ad.
- **Otterbein Nature Series:** Hope Taft, Bill Schiemann, and Mike Schumacher will be leading a program about the Little Miami River Kleeners and the Little Miami on Monday, 6/24/19 at 1pm! See attached flyer.
- **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.
- **Sonder Brewing in Mason:** Coyote program scheduled for Wed., 6/19/19 at dusk.

- **Vacation Bible School:** Thank you, Jim Prickett, for hooking me up with this outreach opportunity! I'll be meeting with approximately 175 kids on 7/9/19.
- **Tech-Free Tuesdays:** These will run every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Labor Day, alternating locations between Landen-Deerfield Park and WC Armco Park. If you have ideas for programs, LMK!

Tuesday, 6/18/19, 10-11am, Landen-Deerfield Park: Kindness Rocks! A new favorite summer activity, come paint rocks with us this week and then hide them in the park to bring joy and happiness to anyone who finds one. All supplies are provided. Just bring your creativity!

Tuesday, 6/25/19, 10-11am, WC Armco Park: Topic TBA

Tuesday, 7/2/19, 10-11am, Landen-Deerfield Park: Topic TBA

Tuesday, 7/9/19, 10-11am, WC Armco Park: "The Wonderful World of Water!" Join Melissa Proffitt from Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District to learn all about water! There will be various demos and activities for participants to explore, and if the Water Trailer is available that day, it may also be on site! Feel free to bring along fishing poles (or rent one from the boat house) and visit the fishing pier after this week's program. As always, kids fish for free! Not into fishing? Venture over to the other side of the park to visit the Nature Playscape! <https://www.facebook.com/events/435109473732274/>

Tuesday, 7/16/19, 10-11am, Landen-Deerfield Park: Topic TBA

Tuesday, 7/23/19, 10-11am, WC Armco Park: Topic TBA

Tuesday, 7/30/19, 10-11am, Landen-Deerfield Park: Topic TBA

Tuesday, 8/6/19, 10-11am, Landen-Deerfield Park: Beautiful Bats! From tiny bumblebee bats to giant flying foxes, bats are an important part of a healthy ecosystem. Learn about bats with Melissa Proffitt from Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District. Do a fun craft project with Naturalist Shannon and chat with Melissa about creating bat-friendly habitat for these important animals. You can also find out the results of recent acoustic bat monitoring projects in Warren County. <https://www.facebook.com/events/713979119034687/>

Tuesday, 8/13/19, 10-11am, WC Armco Park: Topic TBA

Tuesday, 8/20/19, 10-11am, Landen-Deerfield Park: Monarch Butterfly Hunt. At one of our first Tech-Free Tuesdays of the season, we planted host plants and nectar-providing flowers in our butterfly garden. Now that they've had a chance to grow, we will explore the garden and hunt for butterfly eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalises. If the monarch butterflies are abundant enough, we may be able to catch, tag, and release some as part of a citizen science project through MonarchWatch.org as they prepare to migrate to Mexico for the winter. There will be a fun craft to accompany this program. <https://www.facebook.com/events/859136877780996/>

Tuesday, 8/27/19, 10-11am, WC Armco Park: Monarch Butterfly Hunt. Several months ago, the Park District planted pollinator-friendly flower seeds near the new solar array. Now that they've had a chance to grow, we will explore the area to hunt for butterfly eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalises. If the monarch butterflies are abundant enough, we may be able to catch, tag, and release some as part of a citizen science project through MonarchWatch.org as they prepare to migrate to Mexico for the winter. There will be a fun craft to accompany this program. Feel free to bring along fishing poles (or rent one from the boat house) and visit the fishing pier after this week's program. As always, kids fish for free! Not into fishing? Venture over to the other side of the park to visit the Nature Playscape!

Other potential program ideas: reptiles, bugs, "retro week," creeking, Nature Nurses.

Long-Term Projects

- **Wildflower Restoration Project and Accessible Trail:** at Landen-Deerfield Park is moving forward. Seeding of annuals took place in May and community members helped add zinnia seeds to the area at a recent Tech-Free Tuesday event.

Warren County Park District Otterbein Nature Series

Coming Soon!

The Little Miami River



Mon., 6/24, 1-2pm

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists Hope Taft and Bill Schieman from the Little Miami Riverkeepers and LM Watershed Network will share their passion for the uniqueness of the Little Miami River.

Mulch with Native Plants



Mon., 7/22, 1-2pm

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist and local plant specialist, Sue Saari, will teach how to eliminate excess work in the garden by using nature's own "mulch," native plants!

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 & Sonder Brewing Present "Coyotes in your Community"

Learn about one of Ohio's most misunderstood mammals, the eastern coyote, with Warren County Park District staff naturalist Shannon Russell Pennington at this FREE 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 community?

If you've never seen a coyote up close, you can check out a taxidermy coyote mount at this program. All ages are welcome to this 45-minute PowerPoint presentation followed by audience Q&A.



- 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., 6/19/19, program begins at dusk
Sonder Brewing, 8584 Duke Blvd., Mason, OH



Questions? Contact Shannon Russell Pennington, Staff Naturalist, Warren Co. Park District

- www.co.warren.oh.us/parks
- Tinyurl.com/WCPD-calendar
- MotherNaturesClassroom@gmail.com
- [Facebook.com/WarrenCountyNature](https://www.facebook.com/WarrenCountyNature)
- [Instagram.com/WarrenCountyNature](https://www.instagram.com/WarrenCountyNature)
- [@WarrenCoNature](https://twitter.com/WarrenCoNature)

Warren County Park District Atria Springboro Nature Series

Coming soon...

"Backyard Wildlife"



Mon., 6/17, 11am-noon

Warren County Park District staff naturalist, Shannon Russell Pennington, will share fun facts about the critters we may encounter in our own backyards.

"Mulching with Native Plants"



Mon., 7/29, 11am-noon

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist and plant specialist, Sue Saari, will teach how to eliminate excess work in the garden by using nature's own "mulch," native plants!

Programs are free and open to the public!



Thank you to Atria Springboro 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 in the Theater Room at Atria Springboro, 355 W Central Ave, Springboro, OH 45066.

No registration necessary. Visitors must sign in at the front desk.



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



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[Twitter.com/WarrenCoNature](https://twitter.com/WarrenCoNature)

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

TinyURL.com/WCPD-calendar

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