

WCPD Naturalist Report

October 2019



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

Community Connections

- **100 Hours Outside Challenge:** **45 children completed the challenge!** This year's prizes included Friends of WCPD nylon bags, a coupon from Loveland Canoe and Kayak, free passes for "Fall on the Farm" from Blooms and Berries Farm Market, milkweed seed packets, and "Wild Ohio for Kids Wildlife Journal" from the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Prizes that were not picked up already have been left at the WC Armco Park Office.
- **Countryside YMCA Landen, Kids' Movie Night:** Story time and a visit with butterflies before the movie. 9/13 at 6pm. 45 kids in attendance. The contact at this program was one of my Tech-Free Tuesday parents. 😊
- **Otterbein Nature Series:** September program, "Trees" with City of Lebanon's Casey Burdick was well attended.
- **Atria Springboro Nature Series:** September's "Magnificent Monarchs" with Shannon had only two Atria residents in attendance, so we have decided to suspend this program until further notice. There were about a dozen homeschoolers, however, who attended as well and one of the parents emailed me yesterday about setting up a program.
- **Miami University Institute for Learning in Retirement "Discovering Nature in Your Own Backyard":** first of five classes was 10/8 (Magnificent Monarchs) at the West Chester Campus. Approximately 35 people in attendance, and they will be back for the next four sessions: 10/15 (What's in Your Water), 10/22 (Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation), 10/29 (Coyotes), 11/5 (Backyard Birds). Great outreach opportunity for Friends of WCPD and new OCVN recruits!
- **Ohio EPA Grant Application Update:** Dianna Kenneally and I went to Columbus a couple weeks ago to answer questions from their panel of experts. Our grant proposal was rated the highest of any submitted this year and received a unanimous vote to be forwarded to the OEPA Director for approval! We should have confirmation by the end of the month. If funded, this project would provide self-guided interpretive signage along the solar/pollinator path to educate visitors on clean energy, the importance of pollinators, and native plants.
- **Hisey Fall Fest:** Thank you to Jim Prickett and team for pulling off another fantastic day at Hisey! I brought along Stanley the rat snake and Leonard the box turtle to interact with visitors, and Larry helped get all of the WCPD taxidermy animals to the barn for patrons to enjoy as well. Bill Lindauer had the corn machines running while his wife Melinda snapped pictures, Dave Nuscher ran the apple cider press, Dave Woehr and Carol Soehner joined us for the first part of the day, Chuck and former art teacher Barb Deal helped supervise the pumpkin and rock decorating areas, and Kathy, Cindy, and Patricia held down the information booth and beverage sales.
- **Senator Wilson's Annual Event:** I helped Senator Wilson release half a dozen monarchs during this event and Sheldon the box turtle and I met with his guests. Thank you, Cindy, for getting the supplies to me in plenty of time! I received a \$100 donation which I have given to Clint.

- **Girl Scout Event:** I helped a girl scout troop earn their “Citizen Science” badge by teaching them how to tag and release monarch butterflies. The girls also helped me collect the mason bee tubes from the solar array. I received a \$50 donation, which I have given to Clint.
- **Warren County Prosecutor’s Office:** I brought Stanley (rat snake) and Leonard (box turtle) to meet with 50 guests this morning at the Armco Pavilion and distributed park district material and milkweed seed packets. Several people approached me about potential scout programs.
- **Friends of WCPD Emails:** Thank you to Kathy for teaching me how to use MailChimp. I’ll be sending monthly(ish) updates to everyone on our distribution list.

Coming Up

- **Clean Sweep Event at Carmody Park:** 10/26 from 9am-noon, park cleanup event (see flyer)
- **Otterbein Nature Series:** Mon., 10/28, 1-2pm, “Pre-History vs. History” with Ft. Ancient’s Jack Blosser (see flyer); Mon., 11/25, 1-2pm, “Herpetology (Reptiles and Amphibians)” with OCVN Rick Kneissel
- **Second Saturday Program at Miller Park:** 11/9 from 10-11am, join me for a walk around Miller Park to search for different seeds and learn about the various methods by which they are dispersed. Thank you, Dave Woehr, for the subject idea!
- **Otterbein Nature Series, Assisted Living:** I will begin leading a quarterly program for residents beginning in January 2020. First program will be “Backyard Birds.”

Long-Term Projects

- **Wildflower Restoration Project and Accessible Trail at LD Park:** Dianna and I have started chatting about possible ideas for interpretive signage along the paved trail. Additional collaborators are welcome!



Clean Sweep of the Great Miami
Saturday, October 26
 9 am—12 noon
Carmody Park
 7499 Martz Paulin Rd, Franklin Ohio

Join us for this fun, rewarding community beautification project for individuals, clubs, companies, schools, scouts, churches and other groups.

Free T-shirt Free bottled water
 Garbage bags & gloves will be provided

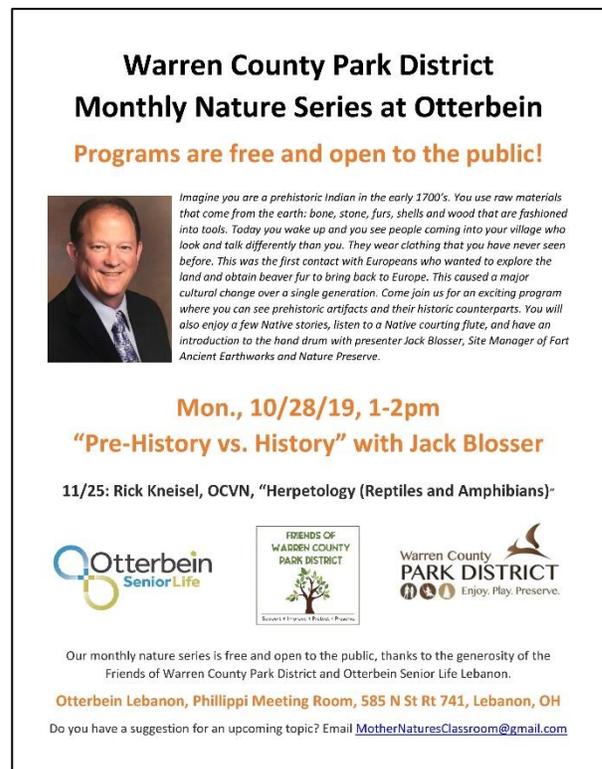
Register Online:
www.GreatMiamiRiverCleanUp.org

Or Contact the Site Coordinator:
 Melissa Proffitt, 513-695-3086

Cargill
 MillerCoors
 American Rivers
 Rumpke
 Cox Media Group, Ohio
 Butler Co. Storm Water District
 Miami Conservancy District

CLEAN SWEEP OF THE GREAT MIAMI RIVER
 MAKE LIFE TO OUR RIVER

Butler Soil & Water Conservation District
 Warren Co. Soil & Water Conservation District
 Hamilton to New Baltimore Ground Water Consortium
 Warren Co. Park District



Warren County Park District
Monthly Nature Series at Otterbein
Programs are free and open to the public!

Imagine you are a prehistoric Indian in the early 1700's. You use raw materials that come from the earth: bone, stone, furs, shells and wood that are fashioned into tools. Today you wake up and you see people coming into your village who look and talk differently than you. They wear clothing that you have never seen before. This was the first contact with Europeans who wanted to explore the land and obtain beaver fur to bring back to Europe. This caused a major cultural change over a single generation. Come join us for an exciting program where you can see prehistoric artifacts and their historic counterparts. You will also enjoy a few Native stories, listen to a Native courting flute, and have an introduction to the hand drum with presenter Jack Blosser, Site Manager of Fort Ancient Earthworks and Nature Preserve.

Mon., 10/28/19, 1-2pm
“Pre-History vs. History” with Jack Blosser

11/25: Rick Kneisel, OCVN, “Herpetology (Reptiles and Amphibians)”





Our monthly nature series is free and open to the public, thanks to the generosity of the Friends of Warren County Park District and Otterbein Senior Life Lebanon.

Otterbein Lebanon, Phillippi Meeting Room, 585 N St Rt 741, Lebanon, OH

Do you have a suggestion for an upcoming topic? Email MotherNaturesClassroom@gmail.com