

WCPD Naturalist Report

November 2019



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

Community Connections

- **Otterbein Nature Series:** October program, “Pre-History vs. History” with Ft. Ancient’s Jack Blosser had 39 attendees! He brought in numerous impressive artifacts from our area and the residents loved it. An added bonus from this session was that Jack was able to connect with the Otterbein program director, Jill Vetere, and they are now working on some field trip opportunities for Otterbein residents.
- **Miami University Institute for Learning in Retirement “Discovering Nature in Your Own Backyard”:** This five-week course was a HUGE success! Thank you again to Friend Patricia Decker for making this connection for us! Our final class was last week and I’ve been invited to return for their spring session. Several individuals were extremely complimentary, and I hope the continued outreach will draw some new volunteers to our group. OCVN Jim Ludwick was one of my attendees and I hope to join him at the Lebanon YMCA where he currently leads regular hikes.
- **Ohio EPA Grant Application Update:** Our grant application was approved! Dianna deserves a huge amount of credit for making this happen! THANK YOU! We were awarded the full amount we asked for: **\$8,731** which will provide funding for educational signage and other improvements at the Armco Park solar-pollinator site! **Dianna, Vicky and I will be meeting this Thursday morning, 11/14, 9am, to discuss the next steps. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join us.**
- **Clean Sweep Event at Carmody Park:** 10/26, park cleanup event with Melissa Proffitt from Warren Co Soil and Water Conservation District and several community members who braved the downpour. Thank you to Vicky, Larry, and the PD maintenance crew for their help with hauling away the trash.
- **Second Saturday Program at Miller Park:** 11/9, hike to search for different seeds and learn about the various methods by which they are dispersed. Thank you to Dave Woehr and all who joined us on such a blustery morning!
- **Landen Community Services Association:** I met with Jim Frasier, committee member for the board, about implementing a pollinator garden across from Landen Lake. He had seen the new pollinator path at Landen-Deerfield Park and was inspired to do something similar with the CSA!
- **Bluebird Trail at Keever:** OCVN Dennis Borda and boy scout Andrew Guelpa will be working on adding four more bluebird houses to the trails this winter/spring. Thank you, Larry, for purchasing the t-bars.



Coming Up

- **Nature Nurses Wildlife Rescue:** Q&A events this Saturday, 11/16, in Deerfield Twp and 12/7 on the east side. I’ll be there to answer questions about native wildlife and distribute Park District literature.
- **Otterbein Nature Series:** Mon., 11/25, 1-2pm, “Herptiles” (Reptiles and Amphibians) with OCVN Rick Kneissel. No December program. Mon., 1/20, 1-2pm, “Mason Bees” (I will lead).
- **Otterbein Nature Series, Assisted Living:** I will begin leading a quarterly program for residents beginning in January 2020 (date TBA). First program will be “Backyard Birds” (I will lead).
- **NEW - Tapestry Springboro Nature Series:** Tues., 12/3, 2-3pm, “Backyard Birds” (I will lead).
- **I’m currently working on scheduling programs for 2020. If you have an idea or are interested in leading a program, please let me know. Otterbein programs are scheduled for the third Monday of each month**

(Jan through Nov) from 1-2pm. Otterbein Assisted Living and Tapestry Springboro programs will be held quarterly with dates TBA.

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!**



Nature Nurses Wildlife Rescue
www.naturenurses.org
Wildlife Emergency: 513-601-9617
www.facebook.com/NatureNurses

FREE Public Event

Wildlife Rehab: What Is It and Is It for Me?

Do you love animals? Have you ever come across injured or abandoned wildlife but don't know what to do or who to call? What exactly IS wildlife rehabilitation? Come join us for a Q and A about what it means to become a volunteer Nature Nurse. Meet some of our Nature Nurses who are rehabbers, educators, transporters, and behind-the-scenes volunteers, and find out if there's an area where you might like to join our team. Can't rehab? That's ok! We have many ways to volunteer without having animals in your direct care.

Saturday, 11/16, 1-3pm
Deerfield Township
Administration Building
4900 Parkway Dr, Ste 180
Mason, OH 45040


Saturday, 12/7, 2-4pm
Clermont Co. Public Library
Union Township Branch
4450 Glen Este-Withamsville Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45245



Can't attend but are interested in learning more? www.NatureNurses.org/volunteer


Warren County Park District Monthly Nature Series at Otterbein

Programs are free and open to the public!



Recall from your youth your first explorations into the natural world. For Rick Kneisel, it was hiking in the woods turning over logs and wading through creeks lifting large flat rocks. There were wonders of nature to discover at every turn. More often than not, those discoveries would be of those "cold-blooded" creatures that many people fear, mainly for lack of knowledge about them. The Buckeye State boasts a rich fauna of reptiles and amphibians. Join us as we learn about the herptiles that we have here in Ohio. Bring those fears too! We will see if we can dispel any you may have. Rick Kneisel, a former educator and Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, will be presenting this program.

Mon., 11/25/19, 1-2pm
"Herptiles" (Reptiles and Amphibians)
 with Rick Kneisel




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


Warren County Park District Tapestry Nature Series

"Backyard Birds"



Bird watching is a popular and relaxing hobby, and offers a great way to enjoy a piece of the outdoors on even the coldest days of winter. Join Warren County Park District staff Naturalist Shannon Russell Pennington to learn all about common birds in our area and how to attract them to your feeders.

Tues., December 3rd, 2-3pm
Programs are free and open to the public!



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

Join us at Tapestry Senior Living Springboro, 8683 Clearcreek Franklin Rd., Springboro, OH 45066

Warren County Park District Monthly Nature Series at Otterbein

Programs are free and open to the public!

Is there such a thing as a perfect pollinator? Mason bees come pretty close! These native, solitary bees are more efficient pollinators than honeybees and rarely, if ever, sting. Best of all, they are easy to attract to your own home with a few easy strategies. Learn all about mason bees, see samples of bee cocoons and successful bee houses, and get a free copy of the Ohio Division of Wildlife's "Common Bees and Wasps of Ohio" field guide with Naturalist Shannon at this month's event.



Mon., 1/20/20, 1-2pm
"Mason Bees" with Shannon Russell Pennington



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