

WCPD Naturalist & Marketing Report

May & June 2023



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Community Connections

- Sent **e-blasts** reaching 1,086 people. In the past 28 days, **Facebook** posts have reached 32,253 people.
- 5/16: Met with University of Cincinnati PhD student, **Mattea Lewis** at Armco Park. She is studying the **bat population** in Ohio and found two big brown bats at **Hisey Park** in the gazebo and ten in shelter 23 at **Armco Park**. Her study is focused on identifying the materials (natural and man-made) and locations where the majority of bats are found so that information can be used to promote habitat enhancements for the declining bat population. She was impressed with our bat boxes as well! She is interested in looking in the barns at Hisey, so I will be following up with her on that.
- 5/19: **Reptile Adaptations** with Kings Mills Elementary School second graders and staff. 108 attendees.
- 5/23: **Reptile Adaptations** with JF Burns Elementary School second graders and staff. 152 attendees.
- 5/24: **Cabela's/Bass Pro Shops** shopping with Wildlife Officer **Jason Keller** to purchase grand prizes for Cops & Bobbers. They generously donated a \$500 gift card through their grant program and allowed us to purchase items at a 50% discount, so we got \$1,000 in prizes at no charge.
- 5/25: **Leadership Warren County** program with **Ben Yoder** to share info about WCPD and Armco Park. The group learned about the history of WCPD and toured the park, including the golf course, Solar Pollinator Habitat, and Nature Playscape.
- 5/26?: Introductory meeting with new CEO **Matt Latham**
- 5/29: Seventh annual **WCPD 100-Hours-Outside Challenge** program began. E-tracking sheets were distributed to several local school districts including Kings, Mason, and Waynesville.
- 5/31, 6/1, 6/2: **ODNR Kayak Instructor Training** at Caesar Creek State Park with Naturalist **Erin Shaw** and **Craig Watson**. This certification allows me to teach kayak safety and paddling. It also qualifies us to apply for a "**Boating Safety Education Grants** ranging from \$1,000 to \$30,000 per program, awarded on a "cost share" basis with the applicant matching at least 25% of the total program cost... for use to establish, develop, expand, maintain and promote boating safety programs." They award grants to organizations teaching certain boating safety programs, specifically targeting minority groups, individuals with disabilities, underserved communities and veterans. I will be exploring this option further.



- 6/2: **Reptile Program** for Hilltop Early Childhood Education Center, 11 attendees
- 6/3: **Cops and Bobbers Summer Kickoff** with numerous community partners. 164 children + 82 families/groups with at least one adult per group = minimum of 246 individuals participated this year. We are working on scheduling a post-mortem to go over potential changes for next year, including updates to waivers and registration process and moving the partner stations down to the Pavilion Field area for higher visibility.
- 6/6: **“Sustainable Summer” Tech-Free Tuesday** at Landen-Deerfield with **WC Soil and Water Conservation District**. 12 attendees.
- 6/6: **Sheldon** (ambassador box turtle) to **Dr. Alison Cummings**, DVM for treatment of upper respiratory infection. Drs. Cummings and Dahlhausen graciously donate their services to us.
- 6/6: **Living Green** Conservation Series, session one: **Going Green Inside the Home** with OSU Extension Educator **Laura Stanton** at the Jones Pavilion. 14 attendees.
- 6/13: **“4H Animals” Tech-Free Tuesday** at Armco Park with **OSU Extension, Warren County 4H, and John Pohlman** (Friend of WCPD). 137 kids, 60 adults, and 10 volunteers = 237 attendees. This is our largest TFT at Armco Park to date. The shelters and Nature Playscape were in great shape, so a big thank you to **Larry Easterly** and **Ray Dratt**!
- 6/13: Bi-weekly one-on-one with **Matt Latham**.
- 6/13: **Living Green** Conservation Series, session two: **Green Yard Practices** with WCSWCD Educator **Melissa Proffitt** at the Jones Pavilion. 14 attendees.
- 6/13: **Scout Troop kayak float** was rained out. We will be rescheduling for July. **Bernard Marshall**, troop leader, would like the group to help with trail maintenance and honeysuckle removal in fall (probably September). I will get with **Ray Dratt** to coordinate this.
- 6/14: **Team meeting** with **Matt Latham, Larry Easterly, and Shannon Aquino**. I will be investigating the feasibility of doing a **Santa’s Workshop** event in the Jones Pavilion during **Holiday in Lights**, potentially partnering with **Otterbein**.
- 6/14: Meeting with Eagle Scout candidate **Zach Marsden** and Matt Latham regarding placement of monofilament recycling stations and fish identification sign at Armco Lake.
- 6/14: **Women in Conservation** series with **Cindy Meyer** from WCSWCD and local beekeeper **Cori Yaeger**. We toured the Solar Pollinator Habitat and discussed the importance of native plants and efforts to help boost the declining pollinator populations. 16 attendees.
- 6/15: Followed up with **Girl Scout Gold** candidate **Tori Schretter** about her Little Free Library project at **Landen-Deerfield Park**. She is finishing up painting everything and will be ready to install soon, keeping in mind ADA compliance requirements. **Matt** will mark the spot he’d like it to be placed.



Upcoming Events

Date	Title	Attend	Market
6/20	<u>Tech-Free Tues (Wildlife Officer/K9/Archery)</u>	X	X
6/20	Living Green Conservation Series (Backyard Wildlife)	X	X
6/21	<u>SAFE on Main Kindness in Motion Program</u>		X
6/24	<u>WCAS Star Party</u>		X
6/26	Young Conservationist Camp (kayaking at Armco) with WC SWCD	X	
6/27	<u>Tech-Free Tues (Retro Week) at Armco</u>	X	X
6/27	<u>Living Green Conservation Series (Trees and Outdoor Etiquette)</u>	X	X
6/28	<u>SAFE on Main Kindness in Motion Program</u>		X
7/1	<u>Pumpkin Planting Party at Hisey</u>	X	X
7/5	<u>SAFE on Main Kindness in Motion Program</u>		X
7/5-7/7	Junior Intro to Golf		X
7/8	Glow Golf and Glow Foot Golf		X
7/11	<u>Tech-Free Tues (insects) at Armco</u>	X	X
7/12	SAFE on Main Program (Be kind to animals - with reptiles) at Armco	X	X
7/12	SAFE on Main Program (Be kind to animals - with reptiles) at Franklin	X	X
7/12	<u>Friends Mtg (rescheduled from orig date of 6/14)</u>	?	X
7/15	A Jeep Thing		X
7/15	<u>WCAS Star Party</u>		X
7/18	Tech-Free Tues (Reptiles) at Landen-Deerfield	X	X
7/18-20	Junior Intro to Golf		X
7/19	<u>SAFE on Main Kindness in Motion Program</u>		X
7/19	Natural Resources Day at WC Fair	X	X
7/21	Warren County Leadership Float	X	

For a full list of upcoming events, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/WCPDNature2023>