

WCPD Naturalist & Marketing Report July & August 2023



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Community Connections

- Sent **e-blasts** reaching 1,138 people. In the past 28 days, **Facebook** posts have reached 13,909 people.
- 7/18: **Tech-Free Tuesday** at Landen-Deerfield – **Reptiles and Amphibians** week with our animal ambassadors. 112 attendees.
- 7/19: Meeting with **Matt Latham** and **Rocknoll Energy's Jim Yockey** and **Rebecca Craner** regarding history of and future maintenance plans for solar array area at Armco Park.
- 7/19: Guest presenter at Natural Resources Day at **Warren County Fair** with our reptile ambassadors.
- 7/21: With **Wendy Monroe** and **Matt**, represented WCPD at the **Warren County Leadership Float**. This program was a cooperative effort between the Park District and numerous other community partners to help area leaders understand and appreciate the ecological and monetary value of the **Little Miami River**. We launched from and had our wrap-up lunch and presentations at **Clint Fultz Park**.
- 7/25: **Tech-Free Tuesday** at Armco Park – **4H Animals** week with special guests 4H members, **John Pohlman** and his alpacas and **Sherri Yaekele** and her rabbits. 136 attendees.
- 7/25: **One-on-one** meeting with **Matt**.
- 7/25: Met with **Eagle Scout** candidate **Zach Marsden** to begin installation of his **informational fishing sign** and **fishing line recycling stations** at Armco Lake. Zach will be staining the posts as soon as the weather allows, and the project should be complete at that time.
- 7/28: **Clean Sweep** planning meeting with partner organization to prepare for this year's event. I will be leading the clean-up of **Carmody Park**. Visit cleansweepofthegreatmiamiriver.org and see attached flyer for more info.
- 7/31: **Warren County Conservation Collaborative** meeting with **Melissa Proffitt** from WC Soil and Water Conservation District, **Suzanne Geisler** from WC Solid Waste, and **Laura Stanton** from OSU Extension to share upcoming programs and collaborate on future partnerships. We will be planning a **Living Green** session for winter since the inaugural summer offering got great feedback.
- 8/1: **Tech-Free Tuesday** at Landen-Deerfield – **Creeking and Fossils** week. 80 attendees.





- 8/8: **Tech-Free Tuesday** at Armco Park – **Fishing** week. 70 attendees.
- 8/8: **One-on-one** meeting with **Matt**.
- 8/8: Meeting with **Jim Prickett** and **Dianna Kenneally** from Friends of WCPD and **Larry Easterly** regarding **Fast Cat** event to take place in early September. The **American Kennel Club** will run event. **Friends of WCPD** will be providing volunteers. **WCPD** will receive money for Pavilion field rental, and Friends will receive money from proceeds generated by participants. More info can be found at akc.org/sports/coursing/fast-cat
- 8/8: **American Heritage Girls** program at Armco Park about **native wildlife** including our reptile ambassadors.
- 8/9: **Team meeting** with **Matt** and **Larry**.
- 8/10: **Press Release** announcing Matt’s new role as CEO sent to 40 media contacts and shared on Social Media. **Matt** and **Ben Yoder** crafted this release. Please see attached.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Attend	Mkt
8/12	Miller Park Butterfly Release - guest booth	X	X
8/12	Glow Golf and Glow Foot Golf		X
8/15	Tech-Free Tues (Birds) at Landen-Deerfield	X	X
8/17	Women for the Land Kayak Float on LM River with WCSWCD	X	
8/19	WCAS Star Party - GREEN UMBRELLA EVENT	X	X
8/22	One-on-One with Matt	X	
8/22	Meet with Matt and Birdsong Landscapes re Solar Pollinator Area (to be confirmed)	X	
8/22	Friends strategic planning committee meeting	X	
8/23	WCSWCD Annual meeting with reptiles	X	X
8/25	Meeting with WC Extension and Matt	X	
8/30	Team Meeting (TIME CONFLICT)	X	
8/30	Intro to Kayaking at Armco with WCSWCD	X	X
8/30	OCVN gathering at CNC	X	
9/4	Last Day to Turn in 100-Hours-Outside sheet	X	X
9/5	One-on-One with Matt	X	
9/6	Friends Mtg, Hisey Fall Fest planning (rescheduled from original date of 9/13)	X	X

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



PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Matt Latham, CEO
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Release Date:

August 9, 2023 – For Immediate Release

Warren County Park District Appoints New Chief Executive Officer

[Lebanon, OH, August 9] – The Warren County Park District Board of Park Commissioners has appointed a new Chief Executive Officer, Matt Latham. The hiring comes as the Board pursues a reorganization intended to initiate the Park District’s next phase of growth.

“Parks and open space are a fundamental aspect of our community’s quality of life and economic competitiveness,” said Ben Yoder, President of the Board of Park Commissioners. “Because of that, we are working to enhance the value that the Park District brings to Warren County. We see this new hire as part of fulfilling that mission.” Larry Easterly, who has served for 23 years as Park Director, will remain with the Park District in the new role of Chief Operating Officer.

Latham comes to the Park District with 23 years of combined experience serving in the private, public, and non-profit sectors, including over 10 years in parks and recreation. He most recently held the position of Director of Planning at MetroParks of Butler County, where he excelled at leveraging grant funding to improve the park system and add connections to the region’s paved trail network. Latham is a Landscape Architect and a graduate of The Ohio State University. He also serves on the local Natural Resource Assistance Council for the Clean Ohio Fund and is a past section chair of the Ohio Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects.

“Warren County Park District has laid a great foundation under Larry’s leadership and with our current and past Board members,” said Latham. “We’ve learned from the recent pandemic that parks and open space are not an optional add-on. Rather, they’re an essential community service. In this rapidly developing county, preserving our ability to access and engage with nature is increasingly important. I look forward to building relationships so we can work together to craft a vision for the park system and increase its value as a key contributor to our residents’ physical, mental, and economic health.”

Warren County Park District is a county-wide park and green space provider, managing 1,721 acres in 14 parks across the County including its flagship parks, Armco and Landen-Deerfield. It is governed by a three-member volunteer Board of Park Commissioners, appointed by the County Probate Judge. For information, see <https://co.warren.oh.us/parks/>, email parks@co.warren.oh.us, or call 513-695-3980.

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Warren County
PARK DISTRICT
Enjoy. Play. Preserve.

INTRODUCTION TO
Kayaking
AGES 12 AND UP

Enjoy Paddling and Nature on Armco Lake
Wednesday, August 30, 10am-noon

1223 North SR 741
Lebanon, OH 45036

Space is limited!
Register at warrenswcd.com





Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River

FROM INDIAN LAKE TO THE OHIO RIVER



CLEAN SWEEP
of the Great Miami River Watershed

Get wet... Get dirty... Get involved

The Clean Sweep is an annual volunteer event focused on removing trash and restoring the health of the Great Miami River. This river cleanup is about much more than picking up trash. It's a day for communities to demonstrate their desire for clean water and healthy rivers. It's an opportunity to learn about our river, and it's a time to come together with your families, your neighbors, your community, and your friends to accomplish something vital and worthy on behalf of our Great Miami River. This cleanup is coordinated by many partners and attended by hundreds of wonderful volunteers.

Franklin to the Ohio River
September 16, 2023