

WCPD Naturalist & Marketing Report

January & February 2025

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Community Connections

- In the past 28 days, **Facebook** posts have reached 15,012 people. Weekly **E-blasts** are reaching 2,998 subscribers
- 1/9: **Preschool Story Time** at Springboro Library, 10 kids + 9 adults = 19 attendees (LA)
- 1/11: **Friends of WCPD Annual Meeting** and setting up feeders for Great Backyard Bird Count program at Armco Park; thank you to **Wild Birds Unlimited** for their sponsorship (SP)
- 1/13: **Winter Wellness Walk** with **Laura Stanton** from **OSU Extension** and **Melissa Proffitt** from **Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District** at **Landen-Deerfield Park**, 11 participants (SP)
- 1/14: **Partners for the Environment Wetlands** zoom meeting (SP)
- 1/16: **Preschool Story Time** at Mary L Cook Library in Waynesville (LA)
- 1/18: **Winter Tree ID** at Armco Park with Casey Burdick from Lebanon Parks & Recreation, 10 attendees (SP)
- 1/18: Meeting with **4H Advisor Bernie Younkman** to plan joint programs about bees (SP)
- 1/18: **Winter Tree ID with Deerfield Twp** at Kingswood Pk, 17 adults + 11 kids = 28 attendees (LA, SP)
- 1/18: **WhiteTails Unlimited** meeting to thank them for their generosity and support, 14 attendees (SP)
- 1/22: **Nature Education Team** meeting with **Matt Latham** (SP, LA)
- 1/23: **Scout Project** planning meeting with **Bryan Billhimer** (SP)
- 1/24: **Warren Co. Conservation Collaborative** meeting to share programs across the county (SP)
- 1/25: **Press Release** welcoming **Chris Hice** (SP)
- 1/25: **Winter Workshop: Milk Jug Greenhouses** at Armco Park with Ohio Certified Volunteer **Naturalist Kathie Bowers**, 6 attendees (SP)
- 1/25: **Tree-Tapping Basics Workshop** at Armco Park with guest **Caesar Creek State Park Naturalist Erin Shaw**, 24 attendees (SP)
- 1/27: **Ohio Division of Natural Resources** grant updates meeting at Spring Valley (SP)
- 2/1: **Homeschool Hangout** at **Lebanon Library**, 19 kids + 8 adults = 27 participants (LA)
- 2/1: **STEAM Saturday** at **Lebanon Library**, 8 kids + 5 adults = 13 participants (LA)
- 2/3: **Winter Wellness Walk** with **Laura** and **OSU Extension** at **Gulley Park**, 18 participants, (SP)



- 2/3: **Owl Pellets** at **Mary L Cook Library** in Waynesville, 13 kids + 1 parent = 14 participants (SP)
- 2/4: **Toddler Trek: Woodpecker Walk** at **Hisey Park**, 7 kids + 5 adults = 12 participants (LA)
- 2/6: Zoom meeting re. Warren Co Outdoor Recreation **Economic Impact Study** (SP)
- 2/6: Meeting with **Justin Bedocs** from **WC Soil & Water** and **Matt** re. potential partnership with **Warren Water Striders** programs (SP)
- 2/8: **Healthy Family Day** at **Countryside YMCA** (LA)
- 2/10: **Family Story Time** at **Salem Twp Library**, 7 kids + 4 teens + 3 adults = 14 participants (SP)
- 2/12: **Nature Education Team Mtg** with **Matt** (LA, SP)
- 2/12: **Leadership Team Meeting** with **Matt, Larry Easterly, Bryan Billhimer, Kathy Francis, Haden Englert** (SP)
- 2/12: **Toddler Trek: Woodpecker Walk** at **Armco Park**, 2 participants (LA)
- 2/12: **Tree-Tapping Basics Workshop** with Deerfield Twp at Kingswood Park, 9 adults (SP)
- Ongoing: working on scheduling **Strategic Plan Open Houses** (LA)
- Ongoing: working on seasonal job postings (SP)



Upcoming Events and Projects

- 2/13: **Herpetology Lecture** and **volunteer recruitment** for **Cincinnati Nature Center Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Training** (SP)
- 2/14: **Press Release** for **Shaker Village Trail** (SP)
- 2/15: **Great Backyard Bird Count** at **Armco Park** with **Wild Birds Unlimited** (LA, SP)
- 2/15: **Tree-Tapping Basics Workshop** at **Armco Park** (SP)
- 2/15: **Partnership Program** with Warren County **4H Beekeepers** (SP)
- 2/17: **Great Backyard Bird Count** Program for **Otterbein Springboro** (LA)
- 2/22: **Winter Workshop: Gardening for Birds, Butterflies and Bees** (LA)
- 2/22: **Partnership Program** with Warren County **4H Beekeepers** (LA)
- 2/24: **Winter Wellness Walk** with **Laura** and **OSU Ext.** at **Countryside Y's Mulford Nature Trails** (SP)
- 3/1: **Maple Sugaring Community Celebration** at **Countryside Y's Mulford Nature Trails** with YMCA volunteers **Jim Ludwick** and **Arland Esch**, and supporting activities from **WC Extension, City of Lebanon Parks & Rec, WC Soil & Water Conservation, and Friends of WCPD** (LA, SP)
- 3/6: **Nature Lovers' Book Club** with **OSU Ext** and **Deerfield Township** (SP)
- 3/8: **Lebanon Community Showcase** at Lebanon High School (LA or SP)
- 3/11: **Strategic Plan Open House** in Mason (LA or SP)
- 3/12: **Toddler Trek: Log Detective** at **Armco Park** (LA)
- 3/12: **Nature Lovers' Book Club** with **OSU Ext** and **Deerfield Township** (SP)
- 3/13: **Strategic Plan Open House** at **Countryside YMCA** (LA or SP)
- 3/15: **Walk and Learn: Trees** with **OCVN Kathie Bowers** at Hisey Park
- 3/15: **Nature Walk** with **Mason Parks & Rec** at **Pine Hill Lakes Park** (LA or SP)



PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

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Warren County Park District
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Release Date: January 21, 2025 – For Immediate Release

Warren County Park District Welcomes New Commissioner Chris Hice

[Warren County, OH, January 21] – Warren County Park District welcomed its newest Park Commissioner, Chris Hice, to his first meeting as a member of the Board of Park Commissioners this past Thursday, January 16. Hice was recently appointed to the Board by Probate Judge Joseph W. Kirby following the departure of previous commissioner Jeff Blazey, who served for 12 years in the role.

Hice is a Waynesville resident and graduate of Leadership Warren County. He is a Landscape Architect with over 25 years of experience providing consulting services on projects across the country and is involved with organizations like the Ohio Park and Recreation Association, Ohio Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects, Waynesville Chamber, and Old Main Street Committee.

“Chris’s passion for nature and experience working in parks all over the country will contribute significantly to our strategic vision for parks, trails, and green space here in Warren County,” said Ben Yoder, President of the Board. “His work has enabled him to see so many examples of how parks are an essential part of vibrant and prosperous communities, and we look forward to seeing him bring that appreciation and dedication to the role.”

The Board of Park Commissioners is the three-member board that governs the Warren County Park District. Park Commissioners are volunteers who oversee the policies, finances, and projects of the Park District, providing overall direction, big-picture leadership, and vision, so that the Park District can provide excellent service to county residents and visitors. Commissioners serve staggered three-year terms and are appointed by the County Probate Judge.

“I’m thrilled to be part of a team that’s so passionate about providing a Park District worthy of this great county,” said Hice. “Having access to great outdoor recreation opportunities provides a competitive advantage in a time when people and companies have seemingly infinite choices for where to live, work, and do business. I look forward to working with the Board and our other partners to make sure our county continues to offer a great quality of life.”

About Warren County Park District - Warren County Park District is a county-wide park and green space provider, managing 1,716 acres in 12 parks across the County including its flagship parks, Armco and Landen-Deerfield. Our mission is to enhance our community's well-being by preserving quality natural spaces where all are invited to discover and experience the great outdoors. For information, see www.WarrenCountyParks.com, email parks@co.warren.oh.us, or call 513-695-3980.

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Judge Joseph W. Kirby, WCPD Commissioners Chris Hice, Ben Yoder and Wendy Monroe, CEO Matt Latham



Judge Kirby swearing in WCPD Commissioner Chris Hice

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT



Warren County
PARK DISTRICT
Enjoy. Play. Preserve.
www.WarrenCountyParks.com/Events

Sat., 2/15/25, 8am-1pm
Free Public Open House Event

- **All Day:** bird walks, chat with experts, watch feeders, do indoor activities, explore the park
- **9-10:30am:** bird walk with Connor Fox from Wild Birds Unlimited West Chester & Springboro
- **1pm:** Submit official tally to birdcount.org

This is a great activity for scout groups, individuals, families, and seniors.

No previous birding experience needed!

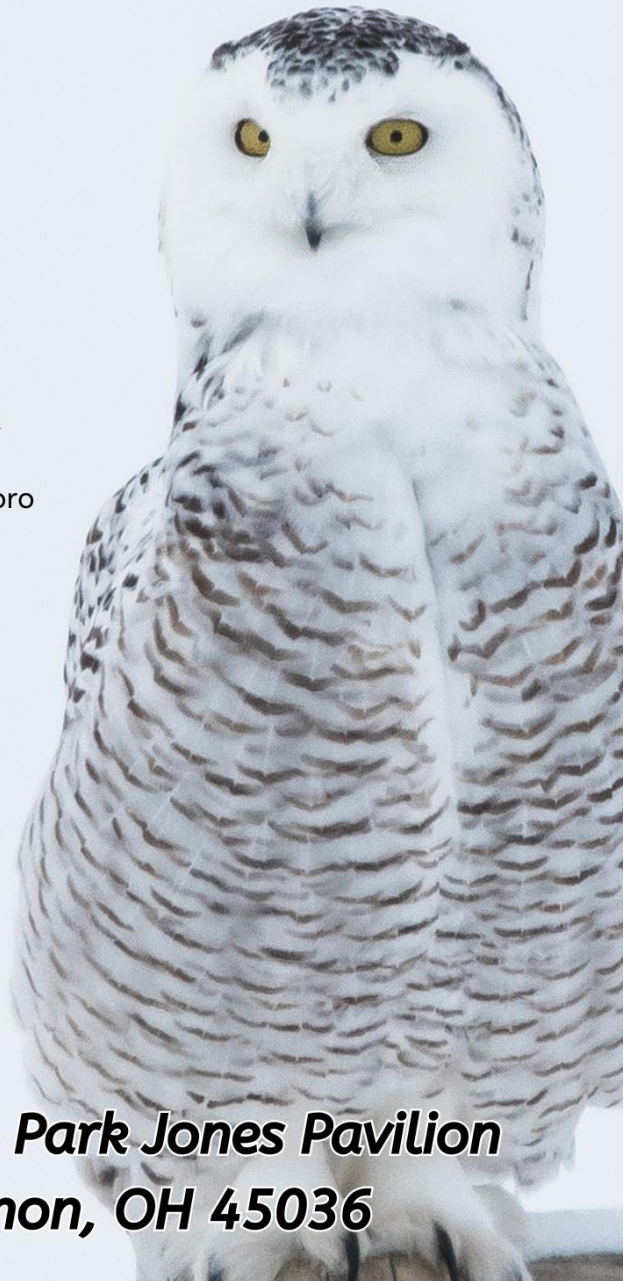
Questions? Contact Naturalist Shannon
shannon.pennington@co.warren.oh.us



FRIENDS OF
WARREN COUNTY
PARK DISTRICT



***Inside the heated Armco Park Jones Pavilion
1223 SR 741, Lebanon, OH 45036***



Maple Sugaring Community Celebration

Sat., 3/1/25, Open House Style: 10am-12:30pm
Countryside YMCA PUBLIC Hewett P. Mulford Nature Trail,
North Entrance, 1699 Deerfield Rd., Lebanon, OH 45036

- Join us for this FREE community celebration as we wrap up our maple sugaring series.
- Visit with YMCA volunteers to make maple syrup.
- Explore the Countryside YMCA's Hewett P. Mulford Nature Trail and learn how you can visit this area even if you're not a YMCA member!
- Join a stroll with a naturalist starting at the maple boil site every 30 minutes.
- Tour the Countryside YMCA.
- Learn about winter birds.
- Enjoy some "Vitamin N" by getting outside.
- Learn about upcoming programs from conservation organizations in Warren County.



REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
Scan the QR code or go to
WarrenCountyParks.com/events



This FREE community event is being provided with support from:



Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists Needed

Want to help kids and adults connect to nature, and care for the parks you already love? Warren County Park District need your help to reach more children and adults through our programs!

We are looking for OCVNs to assist with programs, as well as lead programs to increase our capacity and engage with more of our community. You can volunteer within your comfort level, choose what programs to assist with, and shadow programs you're interested in leading.

To get started, please visit tinyurl.com/VolunteerWCParks



Tech-Free Tuesdays	Toddler Treks	Cops and Bobbers
Family Nature Programs	Adult Programs	Guided Hikes
Volunteer Days	Bluebird Box Monitoring	Behind-the-Scenes Help

Shannon Pennington, shannon.pennington@co.warren.oh.us



DATES

Thursday
March 6, 2025
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Wednesday
March 12, 2025
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

LOCATION

Kingswood Park
Activity Center
4188 Irwin Simpson Rd
Mason, OH 45040

OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
WARREN COUNTY

warren.osu.edu

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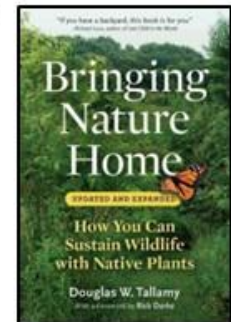
Nature Lovers Book Club

Join OSU Extension educator, Laura Stanton, and Warren County Park District naturalist, Shannon Pennington, for our Nature Lovers Book Club. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other nature lovers in our community and take part in a casual and informal gathering. There is no pressure to read the entire book, we just want to hear your thoughts and reflections.

In March, we will discuss *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* by Douglas W. Tallamy. Tallamy will be speaking in Warren County on April 5, 2025, so this is a terrific opportunity to learn more about his work. Bring a friend and join us!

Questions? Please contact Laura at stanton.60@osu.edu or 513-695-1311.

For more information, visit: go.osu.edu/nature-matters



Warren County
PARK DISTRICT
Enjoy. Play. Preserve.



Ohio State University Extension is part of the
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University.

Warren County Park District is looking for positive, friendly, and customer-oriented individuals to help residents and visitors access and enjoy the great outdoors. If this sounds interesting to you, please consider applying for one of our seasonal positions!

Now Hiring

Seasonal Positions

starting April 1

- **Boat Dock Attendant:** starting at \$13.60/hr
- **Customer Service Attendant:** starting at \$19.00/hr
- **Golf Cart Tech:** starting at \$14.30/hr
- **Golf Course Ranger:** starting at \$13.60/hr
- **Golf Maintenance Tech:** starting at \$13.60/hr
- **Park Maintenance Tech I:** starting at \$13.60/hr
- **Pro Shop Attendant:** starting at \$13.60/hr
- **Softball Coordinator:** starting at \$13.60/hr



Visit [WarrenCountyParks.com/Jobs](https://www.warrencountyparks.com/jobs)
for more info and to apply online!



Questions can be directed to parks@co.warren.oh.us. No phone calls, please. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age. Positions are subject to a post-offer drug screen & background check. Warren County Park District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WARREN COUNTY PARK DISTRICT WINTER WORKSHOPS

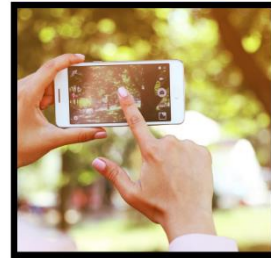
ARMCO PARK JONES PAVILION, 1223 N SR 741, LEBANON, 45036



Milk Jug
Greenhouses
Sat. 1/25, 1-2:30pm



Gardening for Birds,
Butterflies and Bees
Sat., 2/22, 10-11:30am



Intro to Community
Science Projects
Sat., 3/22, 11:30am-1pm

Chase away the winter blues with us!

ALL AGES AND ABILITIES ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

- You may choose to attend all three or just one or two.
- Great opportunity for scouts, families, individuals, and seniors.
- Minors must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- All supplies will be provided.

Register now at WarrenCountyParks.com/Events



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PARK DISTRICT
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