

PARK EXPLORER

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT ACTIVITY GUIDE



The West Woods' Bird in the Hand Feeding Station returns with colder days. Details on page 17.

FALL 2018

4 A look into the history of the property at Claridon Woodlands

7 How Elderberries is connecting seniors with the Great Outdoors

15 Remembering our first naturalist by dedicating a trail in his name

18 Nesting osprey receive an assist from one park neighbor

UPCOMING EVENTS *Mark your calendars!*



Celebrate autumn with fun, **FREE** activities for all ages

Saturday & Sunday, October 6 & 7, 1-5 PM

Swine Creek Reservation · Middlefield

Horse-drawn wagon rides, fishing, kayaking, face painting & fall treats for sale!



Saturdays & Sundays, 1-5 PM

October 20, 21, 27 & 28



Swine Creek Reservation · Middlefield

Revel in the season's sights, sounds & scents aboard a horse-drawn wagon! Free passes ensure first-come, first-served boarding.



Shop at a unique, Nature-themed juried craft show

Saturday, November 10 · 10 AM - 4 PM

The West Woods Nature Center · Russell

Plus, shop the Mistletoe Market for handmade gifts created by youth artisans!



Saturday, December 1, Noon-3 PM

The West Woods Nature Center · Russell

Participate in this "make-and-GIVE" event to create 250 evergreen decorations to accompany the Geauga County Department on Aging's home-delivered meals for seniors. All supplies provided.



Celebrate the longest night of the year!

Friday, December 21, 7:30-9:30 PM

The West Woods Nature Center · Russell

Take our NEW self-guided candlelit stroll through the forest and enjoy interactive skits and costumed interpreters, adding some magic to the longest night of your year!

FALL PROGRAMS *on pages 8-13*

- Registration is required in advance for limited enrollment programs on a first come, first served basis. Registration can be completed online or at 440-286-9516.
- Programs may be cancelled in the event of severe weather or a storm warning.

- Programs are generally free of charge; those with fees are noted. Payment of fees must be made at the time of registration with a credit/debit card.
- Registration fees are refundable up to five days prior to the event, or if the Park District cancels the program.
- If you or a member of your family has special needs, please call the Park District regarding available accessibility accommodations.



Volunteers Needed



Fully Wheelchair/Stroller Accessible



Partially Wheelchair/Stroller Accessible



Nature's Not To Be Missed - Program focused on unique encounters with Nature



Nature Scopes - Program tailored to our exclusive binocular program for Geauga County fifth-graders

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Park Mission

The mission of Geauga Park District is to preserve, conserve and protect the natural features of Geauga County and to provide outdoor recreational experiences to our residents of every age, every ability and at all times of the year.

Park Hours

Daily 6 AM - 11 PM

Big Creek Park's Donald W. Meyer Center is open weekdays 10 AM - 4:30 PM

The West Woods Nature Center is open daily 10 AM - 4:30 PM

Observatory Park is open daily until 11 PM from Labor Day to Memorial Day
 Observatory Park's Robert McCullough Science Center and Oberle Observatory are open 2nd & 4th Fridays & Saturdays of each month 6 - 11 PM and every other Sunday of each month 1 - 4 PM

The Maple Highlands Trail is open daily dawn till dusk

Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve is open daily 6 AM - 9 PM

For more information on your parks, programs or events
 Phone: 440-286-9516
 Fax: 440-286-1285

www.geaugaparkdistrict.org
info@geaugaparkdistrict.org

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
 PROBATE DIVISION GEauga COUNTY

TIMOTHY J GRENDALL – JUDGE

Courthouse Annex, 2nd Floor
 231 Main Street, Suite 200 • Chardon, Ohio 44024
 Voice: 440-279-1830
geaugacourts.org



FROM THE BENCH

Dear Park Friends and Geauga County Neighbors,

Geauga County Parks offer amazing opportunities to enjoy nature's colors this Fall.

Most of the over 10,000 acres are preserved in their natural condition, providing animal habitat and protecting our County's beautiful natural resources. For example, the Ohio endangered plant, the Swamp Red Currant, is thriving in a protected forest wetland.

The Geauga County Park District maintains twenty-two (22) parks for the use and benefit of Geauga County residents.

After approximately 20 years of limited public access at Claridon Woodlands Park, originally purchased by the Park District from the Eber and Virginia Hyde and Kaplan Families, the innovative Park Board and Staff collaborated to offer Geauga County its first ever adventure park!

For those who seek to mountain bike through the Fall leaves, test their skills on a climbing and bouldering wall, or even take an adventurous walk high in the trees on the ropes course, the new Claridon Woodlands Park, located at 11383 Claridon Troy Road in Claridon Township, now provides you with the place to do so. This is especially a great park to take your children and grandchildren because it provides the opportunity to take on a challenge or two while surrounded by the fall beauty. Mr. Bill Hyde, son of Eber and Virginia Hyde, recently praised the Park District, stating, "we as a family are unanimous in agreeing that our parents would be quite satisfied with the use to which the land is being used and that it is in good hands. Well done."

Though Claridon Woodlands Park offers adventure for residents and visitors, it still balances the Park District's commitment to nature. While visiting, be sure to take notice of the incredible flora thriving in the park's retention basin. Bob McCullough, longtime member of the Park District Board, would surely be smiling upon the natural beauty maintained at Claridon Woodlands Park.

I hope you and your family will take some time to enjoy YOUR wonderful Geauga County Parks this Fall. Hope to see YOU at the parks!

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Grendall
 Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court Judge

Board of Park Commissioners



Andrej N. Lah



Jackie Dottore



Howard Bates



John Oros

Executive Director

Park Board Meetings

Dates and times are subject to change. Find the current list on our website under About GPD, or call 440-286-9516.



FEATURING PARK FRIENDS

Claridon Woodlands

and the Power



Lester Taylor (1798-1899), an ancestor of ours and many others in Geauga County, arrived in Claridon Township in 1818 to locate and clear his land enough to enable the building of a modest shelter, and to plant crops necessary for sustenance.

He revered the land, calling it “the great natural park known as the Western Reserve.” He wrote, “This park was well supplied with music. The hoot of the owl, the growl of the wildcat and bear, the scream of the panther in concert, the howl of the wolves, the roar of the myriads of bullfrogs around the swamps and watercourses. At such intervals in every part of the territory, one could according to taste hear music in the air, which in richness of note and volume of sound, was a source of delight or terror according to the nerve, familiarity of sound or apparent safety of the listener.” He also recorded his encounter with a large wolf at the exact spot of today’s park’s entrance.

Even as he extolled the “natural park,” he recognized the inevitability of “the woodman’s axe and incoming civilization... changing the dense and dark woodland to cultivated fields.” Consequently, he advocated for “public parks made by human hands,” calling this “an educational necessity.”

How did the land that is now Claridon Woodlands come to be such a park? In short, it all has to do with the power of place and Nature.





of Place and Nature *Story & photos by Bill Hyde*

That course was set 105 years ago this summer, upon the birth of our mother. As a child and young adult, she experienced many happy moments on her grandparents' farm in Huntsburg, and those memories and attachment to place stayed with her throughout her life. Our move from Cleveland Heights to what is now Claridon Woodlands was largely a result of her seeking to replicate for us, as well as for herself, the joys she had in her youth. It worked. We enjoyed the land and developed our own sense of, and attachment to, place.

Our parents understood the attraction of what is there, generously allowing others to experience it. After our father passed, our mother insisted on staying on the land, frequently walking around the lower pond with dog alongside.

Upon her passing in 1997, my siblings and I inherited the property. We took time to assess its future; whether any one of us wished to live there; and if not, what to do that would be consistent with our parents' and our values. We had multiple offers, including offers from Geauga Park District and a developer. It was, in short, a unanimous decision easily made.

Recently we held a family reunion in the Judge

Lester Taylor Lodge, uniting about 30 for a wonderful experience combining family memories and an appreciation for the park's design, which incorporates both active and passive attributes, enabling visitors to savor what Nature offers. Taylor's recognition of the necessity for "public parks made by human hands" is realized here and elsewhere.



Summer campers get ready for a ride

Several days after the reunion, my wife, Anne, and I returned to take another quiet walk around. Pulling in the drive, we saw a group of young bicyclists with three park employees preparing to head for The Maple Highlands Trail. I asked permission to snap their picture. To me, this exemplifies how a park can introduce the next generation to Nature as well as safe, healthy recreation.



Park Spotlight

Spend Some Time at The Rookery

Located at the Junction of the old Interurban Railroad circa early 20th century, The Rookery is a 562-acre forested preserve in Munson Township containing a mile of the beautiful Chagrin River.

The Interurban Trail traverses the rail bed of a long-abandoned section of the Cleveland & Eastern Railroad along wetlands, over the river and to the Junction. Trains once arrived here from Cleveland and went either north to Chardon or south to Middlefield. A facsimile of the original Junction features a display kiosk relating the railroad's history and providing visitors a quiet place to rest.

For those wishing to host here, the enclosed Great Blue Heron Lodge, with its stone fireplace and beautiful wood paneling, is a popular facility to reserve in cooler weather.

A cold water habitat on the property is home to Geauga's state-threatened native brook trout, successfully introduced by the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Also, the preserve section of The Rookery is home to the diminished remnants of what was once considered one of Ohio's largest Great Blue Heron rookeries (better termed "heronry"). Herons nest in treetop colonies, and this isolated colony, once having a hundred or more active nests, is known to have been in existence for nearly 80 years!



FIELD NOTES:

LOCATED IN AN OLD GLACIAL LAKE BED, MUCH OF THE LAND WITHIN THE ROOKERY IS WETLAND. OPEN MARSHES AND SWAMP FORESTS ARE FOUND THROUGHOUT, ENHANCED BY THE WORK OF BEAVERS.

TRAILS CONSIST OF GENERALLY FLAT LAND AND ARE CONSIDERED EASY - IDEAL FOR LEISURELY WALKING AND CROSS COUNTRY SKIING.

All of your parks are great places to appreciate fall color — take a fall hike to see for yourself!

Photos by Jim Marquardt



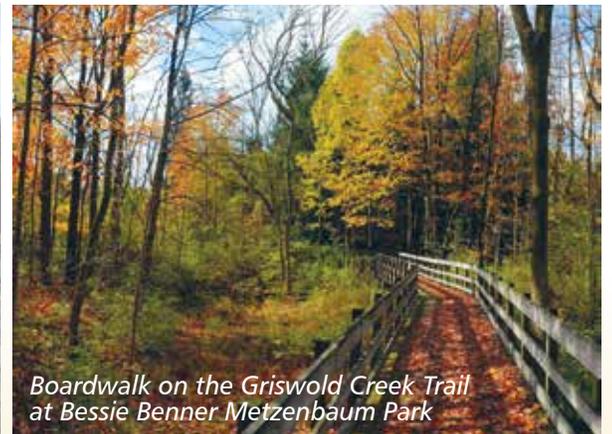
Big Creek Park



Kettle Trail at Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve



Lodge Pond at Swine Creek Reservation



Boardwalk on the Griswold Creek Trail at Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park

*Thank You
to All of Our
Generous
Donors*

**Donations
to Geauga
Park District
May-July
2018**

Anne Stottler	In Memory of Shirley Anne Ungard	25.00
Jeanne & Larry Baker	Park Bench Plaque	500.00
Women's Council Hiram College	Honorarium John Muir Program	300.00
John & Geraldine Peck	Chip Henry Institute Summer Camps	35.00
Blackbrook Audubon Society	<i>Nature Scopes</i>	200.00
Judge David & Michele Schroeder	Chip Henry Institute	150.00
LL Sommerfeld	Park Bench Plaque	500.00
Bruce Felton	Park Bench Plaque In Memory of Mackie Felton	500.00
Janet Altamari	Judge Lester Taylor Lodge	600.00
Cleveland Foundation	Lewis & Ruth Affelder Fund	461.00
Foundation for Geauga Parks	Chip Henry Institute Summer Camps	2,800.00
William & Cheryl Koza	<i>Nature Scopes</i> In Memory of Marsha Simon	25.00
Lauren Battles	Park Bench Plaque In Memory of Dante Biscotti	500.00
Phyllis Frisa	In Memory of Marsha Simon	50.00
John Dingman	Park Bench Plaque In Memory of Eber & Virginia Hyde	500.00
Chagrin Valley Rotary Club	<i>Nature Scopes</i>	250.00
Dynamic Fitness Solutions	Engraved Paver at The West Woods Nature Center In Memory of Marsha Simon	365.00

OCTOBER *amazes with color*

Adventure/Discovery Arts Astronomy Kids Seniors

3 Geauga Park District Volunteer Orientation

Wednesday, October 3,
2-3 PM & 7-8 PM

The West Woods, Nature Center
Interested in volunteering? Join us for an orientation about opportunities for volunteers, and begin the application process to become an official volunteer. Registration required.

6 Jump into Fall Days

Saturday, October 6, 1-5 PM
Swine Creek Reservation

Celebrate autumn with hands-on activities for all ages: free horse-drawn wagon rides, kayaking, fishing, face painting and balloon creations, food truck, seasonal treats for sale and more. Wagon rides are first come, first served 1-4 PM. Also October 7.

7 Jump into Fall Days

Sunday, October 7, 1-5 PM
Swine Creek Reservation

See description for October 6.

9 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, October 9, 1-2:30 PM
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve

Join other active seniors on weekly hikes of 1-1 1/2 miles long in Geauga County and the surrounding area. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule, 440-279-2137. Held year round. Also October 23.

12 Timbertots: Give a Hoot!

(Ages 3-5 w/adult) Friday,
October 12, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM
Sunnybrook Preserve, Lodge

Come ready to hoot and howl just like an owl! Make and take a craft, hike a trail and assist with a special surprise seasonal activity. Indoors and outdoors. Program is for the stated age group; older and younger siblings will not be considered participants. Registration required. Also October 13.



12 Ohio's Ancient Sky-Watchers

Friday, October 12, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park

Explore the fascinating connections between Ohio's prehistoric people and the sky before constructing an ancient Newark Earthworks model using 2,000-year-old Hopewellian geometry. Clear night sky viewing using park telescopes until 11 PM. Also October 26.

13 Conservation Seed Collection



Saturday, October 13, 10 AM-Noon
Frohling Meadows, Katydid Shelter

Join Natural Resource Management to learn about the established meadows at this park. Local researchers will also explain how vegetation monitoring and research can help track restoration and diversity of meadows. Then help collect seed from native wildflowers and grasses to be used for future meadow establishment and pollinator plantings in the parks. Participants will be able to take a sampling of seed home. Registration required.

13 Nature Trek Fitness Hike

Saturday, October 13, 10 AM-Noon
Big Creek Park, Tupelo Pond

Let's move it, people! Burn off those calories on this fitness hike along the beautiful Creek Trail and learn some cool nature facts along the way. Participants should have the ability to hike at least 3 miles over hilly terrain rain or shine, so dress accordingly and bring water.

13 Timbertots: Give a Hoot!

(Ages 3-5 w/adult) Saturday,
October 13, 10-11 AM
Sunnybrook Preserve, Lodge

See description for October 12. Registration required.

13 Nassau Night Sky Viewing

Saturday, October 13, 7-11 PM
Observatory Park,
Nassau Astronomical Station

Observe the wonders of the night sky using this facility's giant research-grade telescope! If weather prevents sky viewing, join us for a planetarium presentation in the McCullough Science Center instead. Also October 27.



14 Hound Hike: Fall Frolic with Fido

Sunday, October 14, 10:30-11:30 AM
Sunnybrook Preserve

Bring your dog and hike through a mature forest while taking in the sights and scents of autumn. One well-behaved dog per handler; must be on a leash (8 ft. max) at all times. Please bring water and clean-up bags for your dog. Aggressive or problematic dogs may be asked to leave.

14 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show: Special "The Planets" Edition

Sunday, October 14, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park

Join us for a special planetarium presentation with a musical theme to mark the 100th anniversary of composer Gustav Holst's "The Planets," and learn what to watch for in the night sky this week. Building open house 1-4 PM. Weather permitting, also view the sun using our safe solar-viewing equipment.

16 Fascinating Feathered Features

Tuesday, October 16, 7-8:30 PM
Big Creek Park, Meyer Center

Blackbrook Audubon Society presents three short presentations: Coffee and Bird Conservation, Behind the Scenes in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Ornithology Department, and a Saw-whet Owl banding update.

18 Elderberries: Fall Wagon Ride



Thursday, October 18,
11:30 AM-2:30 PM, Swine Creek
Reservation, Woods Edge

Join us for a naturalist-led wagon ride to enjoy natural wonders unique to autumn! As part of this special seasonal event, the Geauga County Department on Aging and UH Geauga Medical Center will also host a picnic lunch for you at 11:30 AM. Registration required.

19 Meet the Artists

Friday, October 19, 7-9 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Meet artists Margaret Khairallah and John Tillotson and explore the beauty of Nature through images rendered in paintings, prints and black & white fine art photography. Refreshments served.



20 Scout Day: Brownie Girl Scouts Hiker Badge

Saturday, October 20, 9:30-11 AM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Join us to work on the Brownie Hiker Badge! We'll take an autumn hike during this special time to enjoy the outdoors. Badge requirements 1, 2, 3 & 5 will be covered during this program. **Registration required.**

20 Earthquake Van Trip

Saturday, October 20, 10 AM-3 PM
Big Creek Park, Meyer Center

Join a naturalist to visit the sites of some past Northeast Ohio earthquakes and the present-day seismographs that study them. We'll drive to each site, then make a quick exploration on foot. Participants should bring a packed lunch and dress for the weather. **Registration required.**

20 Horse-drawn Wagon Rides



Saturday, October 20, 1-5 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Woods Edge

Enjoy the sights, sounds and scents of fall with a horse-drawn wagon ride! Free passes ensure first-come, first-served boarding. No pets. Rides last about a half hour and are cancelled by bad weather. Last ride leaves at 4:30 p.m. Also October 21, 27 & 28.

20 Scout Day: Webelos Walkabout

Saturday, October 20, 1-4 PM
The West Woods Nature

Webelos, join us for the Walkabout Core Adventure! We'll complete requirements 1, 2, 3 & 4 (partial) & 5, starting indoors for a brief opening program, then proceeding outside for the hike. Dress for the weather. **Registration required.**

20 Nassau Astronomy Night with CVAS

Saturday, October 20, 7-11 PM
Observatory Park, Nassau Astronomical Station

Join members of the Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society to take in the wonders of the night sky using our newly restored telescope! Stop in to discover this amazing facility and all it has to offer.

21 Horse-drawn Wagon Rides



Sunday, October 21, 1-5 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Woods Edge

See description for October 20. Also October 27 & 28.

21 Headwaters Horse Ride

Sunday, October 21, 3-5 PM
Headwaters Park, Crystal Lake Picnic Area

Bring your own horse for this leisurely ride on the Buckeye and Maple Bridge Trails. Enjoy autumn color, views of the reservoir and Nature lore. Expect gravel, bridge crossing, possibly bikes and/or Amish buggies. Helmets encouraged. **Registration required.**



Photo by Jim Marquardt

21 Horseback Moonlight Ride

Sunday, October 21, 6:30-8:30 PM
Headwaters Park, Crystal Lake Picnic Area

Bring your own horse for this leisurely naturalist-led ride to experience the sights and sounds of autumn as the sun sets and the moon rises over East Branch Reservoir; a 4-mile ride on the Buckeye and Maple Bridge Trails. Hills, gravel, bridge and stream crossings should be anticipated. Helmets encouraged. **Registration required.**

23 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, October 23, 1-2:30 PM
Frohning Meadows

See description for October 9.

24 The Full Hunter's Moon

Wednesday, October 24, 7-8:30 PM
Observatory Park

October's full moon is known as the Hunter's Moon. Join us for some autumn sky legends, then watch the full moon rise over Observatory Park.

25 Maple Town Tune Traders

Thursday, October 25, 7-10 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Singers and musicians present short performances followed by a jam session. All musical genres, instruments and musicianship levels welcome. Come to play, sing or simply enjoy as audience. Snacks to share welcome.

26 Pumpkin Centerpiece Workshop

Friday, October 26, 6:30-7:30 PM
The West Woods, Affelder House

Join floral designer Louise Reiling from Auburn Pointe Greenhouse to create a beautiful floral arrangement in a hollowed-out pumpkin. Fee: \$22 includes materials and refreshments. Ages 15+. **Registration required.**

26 Ohio's Ancient Sky-Watchers

Friday, October 26, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park

See description for October 12.

27 Ohio Moss Workshop

Saturday, October 27, 10 AM-1 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Janet Traub and Jim Toppin from the Ohio Moss and Lichen Association will give an introduction on local mosses and how to identify them with samples to view. Lunch break will be followed by a field foray to search for mosses. Bring a lunch and a hand lens. In collaboration with Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio. **Registration required.**

27 Horse-drawn Wagon Rides



Saturday, October 27, 1-5 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Woods Edge

See description for October 20. Also October 21 & 28.

27 Nassau Night Sky Viewing

Saturday, October 27, 7-11 PM
Observatory Park,

Nassau Astronomical Station
See description for October 13.

28 Horse-drawn Wagon Rides



Sunday, October 28, 1-5 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Woods Edge

See description for October 20. Also October 21 & 27.

28 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, October 28, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park

Join us for a planetarium presentation about what to watch for in the night sky this week. Building open house 1-4 PM. Weather permitting, also view the sun using our safe solar-viewing equipment.

NOVEMBER nudges Nature towards winter

■ Adventure/Discovery
 ■ Arts
 ■ Astronomy
 ■ Kids
 ■ Seniors



10 Holly Days Artisan Boutique & Mistletoe Market

Saturday, November 10, 10 AM-4 PM
 The West Woods, Nature Center
 Browse a premier selection of Nature-themed holiday decor and gifts for sale by regional artisans – the perfect opportunity to find unique, handmade items for everyone on your list! The Mistletoe Market will also have handmade gifts created by youth artisans. ♿️📺

10 Timbertots: Hibernation Celebration!

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)
 Saturday, November 10, 1-2 PM
 The Rookery
 See description for November 9.
Registration required. 📺



10 Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Update

Saturday, November 10, 7-8 PM
 Big Creek Park, Meyer Center
 Join Natural Resource Management and learn about the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. This non-native insect is now in Geauga County and can kill Eastern Hemlock trees in your yard and woodland. Learn why it's a concern, what you can do to help, and what your Park District is doing to manage it on park property. ♿️

10 Nassau Night Sky Viewing

Saturday, November 10, 7-11 PM
 Observatory Park, Nassau Astronomical Station
 Observe the wonders of the night sky using this facility's giant research-grade telescope! If weather prevents sky viewing, join us for a planetarium presentation in the McCullough Science Center instead. ♿️📺

2 Astrotots: Super Sun

(Ages 3-5 w/adult) Friday, November 2, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM
 Observatory Park

Experience the incredible super powers of the sun! Gaze at the sun via the park solar scope (weather permitting) and meet the sun's universal siblings in the planetarium. Songs, craft, experiments and fun! Program is for the stated age group; older and younger siblings will not be considered participants. **Registration required.** Also November 3. ♿️📺



Photo by Tami Gingrich

3 Crane Rangers Van Trip



Saturday, November 3, 9-11 AM
 Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve
 Take a van trip to discover Geauga's Sandhill Cranes as they gather before departing on their southward migration. We will make multiple stops and walk short distances to get the best viewing through spotting scopes. **Registration required.**

3 Nature Explorers: Winter Survival

(Ages 6-7 & 8-11) Saturday, November 3, 9:30-11:30 AM,
 Headwaters Park, Boathouse
 Discover the multiple ways mammals, birds, insects, amphibians and other wildlife prepare to survive Geauga County winter. Drop-off program. Outdoors, so dress for the weather. **Registration required.** 📺

3 Astrotots: Super Sun

(Ages 3-5 w/adult) Saturday, November 3, 1-2 PM
 Observatory Park
 See description for November 2.
Registration required. ♿️📺

4 Helping Wildlife in Winter

Sunday, November 4, 2-3 PM
 The West Woods, Nature Center
 With cold weather quickly approaching, join us to learn what we should and shouldn't do to help our wildlife friends this winter. ♿️📺

6 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, November 6, 1-2:30 PM
 The Maple Highlands Trail, Big Creek Spur, Ravenna Road
 Join other active seniors on weekly hikes of 1-1 1/2 miles long in Geauga County and the surrounding area. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule, 440-279-2137. Held year round. Also November 20.

9 Timbertots: Hibernation Celebration!

(Ages 3-5 w/adult) Friday, November 9, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM
 The Rookery
 Discover fun first facts about hibernation. Bring a teddy bear and small blanket and teach your fuzzy friend how to sleep through winter's chill. Indoors and outdoors. Program is for the stated age group; older and younger siblings will not be considered participants. **Registration required.** Also November 10. 📺

9 Make a Particle Detector

Friday, November 9, 7-8 PM
 Observatory Park
 Learn how to make and use a detector that lets you see traces of subatomic particles from outer space! If weather permits, this program will be followed by night sky viewing using the park telescopes until 11 PM. ♿️📺

10 Hidden Gems Hike: Exploring the Deep Woods!

Saturday, November 10, 9-11 AM
 Big Creek Park, Deep Woods Shelter
 Explore the deep woods on a naturalist-led hike along the beautiful Hemlock and Deep Woods Trails, approximately 2 miles over hilly terrain. Wear sturdy foot gear and bring water. 📺



Photo by Susan Bennett

11 Winging It: Waterfowl on the Move

Sunday, November 11, 8-10 AM
LaDue Reservoir, Boathouse Parking

Meet up at the parking area on Valley Road to bird LaDue Reservoir for loons, waterfowl and Bald Eagles during prime migration time. Spotting scopes provided. Van seats available first come, first served. Caravan behind if van fills.



11 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, November 11, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park

Join us for a planetarium presentation about what to watch for in the night sky this week. Building open house 1-4 PM. Weather permitting, also view the sun using our safe solar-viewing equipment. Also November 25.

15 Elderberries: Land of Lakes & Ledges

Thursday, November 15, 1-2:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Seniors, attend an illustrated program using vintage postcards, photographs and even a few silent movie clips as we follow the adventures of a Cleveland family vacationing in Geauga in the 1910s, prior to the establishment of park systems. Traveling by auto and interurban rail, the itinerary includes Little Mountain, Chardon, Bass Lake, Burton and the Chesterland Caves. Refreshments provided. A collaboration with the Geauga Department on Aging and University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center. **Registration required.**

15 Maple Town Tune Traders

Thursday, November 15, 7-10 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Singers and musicians present short performances followed by a jam session. All musical genres, instruments and musicianship levels welcome. Come to play, sing or simply enjoy as audience. Snacks to share welcome.

16 Homeschool Days: Magnification

(Ages 5-7 & Ages 8-12)
Friday, November 16, 2-3:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

We'll learn how to use magnifying glasses, microscopes and binoculars to study wildlife, plus explore how these devices work! Adults may attend (need not register) or drop off child with waiver. Indoors and outdoors, so please dress for the weather. **Registration required.**

17 Scout Day: Daisy Scouts Clover Petal

Saturday, November 17,
9:30-10:30 AM

The West Woods, Nature Center
Daisy Girl Scouts, start your journey toward earning your Clover Petal! You'll learn about using our natural resources wisely with an outdoor hike and indoor activities. Dress for the weather. **Registration required.**

17 Scout Day: Tiger Cubs Backyard Jungle Adventure

Saturday, November 17, 1-2 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Tiger Cub Scouts, join us to explore Nature in the Backyard Jungle! Indoors and outdoors, so dress for the weather. **Registration required.**

17 Nassau Astronomy Night with CVAS

Saturday, November 17, 7-11 PM
Observatory Park, Nassau
Astronomical Station

Join members of the Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society to take in the wonders of the night sky using our newly restored telescope! Stop in to discover this amazing facility and all it has to offer.

18 House Guest or House Pest?

Sunday, November 18, 2-3 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Learn more about the critters that share our homes. Should we consider them house guests or house pests? Join us to find out!



20 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, November 20, 1-2:30 PM
Big Creek Park, Woodin Road
Parking Lot

See description for November 6.

24 Home Sweet Habitat Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, November 24, 1-3 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Drop in anytime during program hours to explore Nature's habitats with a fun indoor scavenger hunt where you can meet some animal friends, play games and win a prize - fun for the whole family!

24 The Full Beaver Moon

Saturday, November 24, 7-8:30 PM
Observatory Park

The Beaver Moon comes when beavers are hard at work getting ready for winter. Come learn about the moon and these fascinating animals, then observe the rising moon using park telescopes (weather permitting). This program will also be followed by night sky viewing until 11 PM if the skies are clear.



25 Trail Cam Treasures

Sunday, November 25, 1-2:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Discover how using trail cameras can open up a whole new window to wildlife. Naturalist Tami Gingrich will cover the basics about trail cameras, including how to choose the right model and how to place your camera for maximum results. Then view some of the cool captures she has obtained through her survey work in Geauga Park District over the years.

25 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, November 25, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park

See description for November 11.

DECEMBER *decorates and dazzles*

Adventure/Discovery Arts Astronomy Kids Seniors

1 Holiday Greens Workshop

Saturday, December 1, 9 AM-Noon & 1-4 PM, Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge, Fee: \$27
Decorate for the holidays by making a beautiful arrangement from fresh evergreens. Select from three options: 1) Table arrangement with candle; 2) Outdoor wreath; 3) Tabletop tree. Visit our website's News & Updates page for photos resembling each project and more specific descriptions of the actual projects. **Registration required.** ♿

1 Greens for Giving

Saturday, December 1, Noon-3 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
Join Geauga Park District at this "make-and-GIVE" event to create 250 evergreen decorations for Geauga County Department on Aging's home-delivered meals for seniors. Supplies provided. Brighten a senior's holiday season with your thoughtful creation! ♿

2 Backcountry Hemlock Hike

Sunday, December 2, 1-3:30 PM
Big Creek Park, Meyer Center
Explore the steep ravines, cool streams and mature hemlock and deciduous forests of Big Creek Park. This rugged hike includes stream crossings, steep grades and off-trail obstacles like downed trees. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes with good traction that can get wet and/or muddy. Bring a water bottle and snacks. **Registration required.** ♿

2 Timbertots: Evergreen Artists!

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)
Sunday, December 2, 2-3 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge
Join Naturalist Karie to discover evergreen trees and make your very own greens centerpiece to take home! Bows and pine cones provided; bring small decorations if desired. Partially outside, so dress for the weather. Bring your own hand clippers if you have them. Activities are for the stated age group; supplies may not be available for siblings. **Registration required.** Also December 3. ♿

3 Timbertots: Evergreen Artists!

(Ages 3-5 w/adult) Monday, December 3, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge
See description for December 2. **Registration required.** ♿

4 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, December 4, 1-2:30 PM
Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park
Join other active seniors on weekly hikes of 1-1 1/2 miles long in Geauga County and the surrounding area. A naturalist leads hikes scheduled in Geauga Park District parks. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule, 440-279-2137. Held year round. Also December 18.

6 Elderberries: Hawks and Hot Lunch

Thursday, December 6, 11:30-2:30 PM, The West Woods Seniors, join us for a hot lunch followed by a "hawk talk" introducing the birds of prey that frequent our area in winter. Special guests are a Rough-legged Hawk and Short-eared Owl, exquisite winter raptors of our region, courtesy of Lake Metroparks' Kevin Clinton Wildlife Center. A collaboration with Geauga Department on Aging and University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center. **Registration required.** ♿



Photo courtesy of ODNR

6 Holiday Open House with Bill Hixson

Thursday, December 6, 6:30-8:30 PM, The West Woods
Join Geauga Arts Council for a holiday open house featuring a presentation by Bill Hixson, accomplished floral designer who has assisted with holiday decorating at The White House for more than 30 years. Refreshments served. ♿

7 Poetry in Nature

Friday, December 7, 7-8:30 PM
The West Woods
Experience memories of warmer seasons from a different perspective and in a very unique way. Join a duet of naturalists as they present a program of poems for two voices – but told from an insect point of view. Poetry, pictures and music will be a unique way of learning about the natural history of insects. ♿

8 Ho Ho Ho Hiking with Santa and Buddy the Elf!

Saturday, December 8, 12:30-2 PM & 2:30-4 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
Discover the wonders of the season on a magical hike with Santa Claus and Buddy the Elf – a great photo opportunity! Santa will also be available after the hike for photos and wish lists. **Registration required.** ♿



Photo by Cyndi Bradley

9 Winter Bird Banding Station

Sunday, December 9, 9-11 AM
Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge
Stop by the banding station any time during program hours for a close-up look at some of our winter residents with Naturalist Tami Gingrich. Birds will be captured in mist nets, banded and measured before being released – a great opportunity for photos! ♿



12 Map Your Yard

Wednesday, December 12, 7-8 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
Get a hands-on introduction to geographic information system (GIS) software by creating a topographic map of your yard (or any Geauga County location). Bring your own laptop or tablet computer, or use one of ours. This program requires basic computer use skills (familiarity with using a keyboard and mouse). **Registration required.** ♿

14 The Southern Sky

Friday, December 14, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park
A peacock, a tarantula, and a housefly or two? Discover the fascinating sky stories about Earth's southern hemisphere. If weather permits, this program will be followed by night sky viewing until 11 PM. Also December 28. ♿

15 Nassau Night Sky Viewing

Saturday, December 15, 7-11 PM
Observatory Park, Nassau
Astronomical Station

Observe the wonders of the night sky using this facility's giant research-grade telescope! If weather prevents sky viewing, join us for a planetarium presentation in the McCullough Science Center instead. Also December 29.



16 Geauga's Tigers (Beetles, That Is..)

Sunday, December 16, 2-3 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

If you've ever encountered a small, brilliant, metallic green insect with white spots while hiking a trail in the summer, you've met a tiger – that is, a Tiger Beetle! Did you know Geauga County has other species as well? Come learn about these interesting predators and what species live here.

16 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, December 16, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park

Join us for a planetarium presentation about what to watch for in the night sky this week. Building open house 1-4 PM. Weather permitting, also view the sun using our safe solar-viewing equipment. Also December 30.

18 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, December 18,
Noon-2:45 PM, Bass Lake Preserve

Join other active seniors on weekly hikes in Geauga County and the surrounding area. Hikes are held year-round. This is the annual holiday potluck with a hike at noon, potluck at 1 PM (please bring a dish to share) and indoor program at 2 PM. Naturalist leads hikes scheduled in Geauga Park District parks. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule, 440-279-2137.



Photo by Jim Marquardt

21 Winter Solstice Celebration

Friday, December 21, 7:30-9:30 PM
The West Woods

Celebrate the longest night of the year as we explore the roots of our modern holiday celebrations indoors and out. Enjoy treats, hot beverages and music by the Pilgrim Brass Choir, and make a solstice-themed craft. Then, outdoors, stroll the self-guided Solstice Traditions Trail, a magical, candlelit route through the forest, stop by a bonfire, and enjoy interactive skits highlighting solstice traditions of various civilizations with costumed interpreters. Dress for the weather.

22 The Full Buck Moon

Saturday, December 22, 6-7:30 PM
Observatory Park

Join us for the year's earliest-rising full moon and warm up with some Native American tales of the winter sky. If the weather allows, we'll also observe the rising full moon using park telescopes.

23 Nature's Ornaments: Make it Yourself!

Sunday, December 23, 2-4 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

From evergreens to icicles, the beauty of the holiday season can be seen in Nature. Try your hand at making some of your own unique ornaments from natural items. Drop in at any time to make one or all of the ornaments. Registration required.



27 Grandparents in the Park: Feathered Friends

Thursday, December 27,
1:30-3:30 PM, The West Woods

Not all birds fly south for the winter! Grandparents and grandchildren, join a naturalist for fun hands-on indoor activities celebrating our feathered friends. Please bring a snack to share. Beverages provided. Registration required.

27 Maple Town Tune Traders

Thursday, December 27, 7-10 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Singers and musicians present short performances followed by a jam session. All musical genres, instruments and musicianship levels welcome. Come to play, sing or simply enjoy as audience. Snacks to share welcome.

28 Wildlife in Winter

(Ages 6-7 & Ages 8-11)
Friday, December 28, 10-11:30 AM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Join us to learn what we should and shouldn't do to help our wildlife friends this winter by exploring and making your very own bird feeder! This is a drop-off program that will be held both inside and outside. Please dress for the weather. Registration required.

28 The Southern Sky

Friday, December 28, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park

See description for December 14.

29 A Bear-y Fun Time!

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)
Saturday, December 29,
10-11 AM, Big Creek Park

Join Nora the Explorer to discover amazing things about bears through a story, fun activities and a craft. Indoors only. Program is for the stated age group; older and younger siblings will not be considered participants. Registration required.

29 Nassau Night Sky Viewing

Saturday, December 29, 7-11 PM
Observatory Park, Nassau
Astronomical Station

See description for December 15.

30 Going the Otter Way for Winter Wildlife

Sunday, December 30, 2-4 PM
Eldon Russell Park

Hike the new Duane Ferris Trail and explore various habitats for signs of otter, mink, muskrat, beaver, deer, wild turkey and other winter wildlife.

30 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, December 30, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park

See description for December 16.

31 New Year's Eve Nature Celebration!

Monday, December 31,
11 AM-12:30 PM

Claridon Woodlands

Celebrate New Year's Eve at the new Claridon Woodlands with fun activities for all ages. There will even be a "toast" at 12:00 (noon)! Pizza and beverages provided. Program is mostly indoors but may be partially outdoors if weather permits. Registration required.

Bringing Seniors Into the Parks

Seniors spend an afternoon in Swine Creek Reservation's sugarbush to learn about the maple sugaring process (right) and enjoy cart tours allowing them to check out the trails from a leisurely ride (below).



Seasonal Elderberries activities may include fishing, crafting, kayaking, hiking, birding, astronomy and more.



Ways to be outdoors, active and social make Elderberries an easy sell for seniors — and you can't beat the price tag (free!)

One participant reported observing or hearing 36 different bird species one spring morning at Big Creek Park. Another found it surprisingly easy to get in and out of a kayak with a little help at Headwaters Park this summer.

Connecting some of Geauga's "more experienced" Nature-lovers with opportunities available to them for free in their parks is the joy of Geauga Park District's **Elderberries: Seniors Ripe for Adventure!**, a partnership with the Geauga Department on Aging and University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center.

Program themes run the gamut depending on the season, moving indoors during colder months. Lunch or snacks are often provided, as are EZ Go Cart trail tours and relaxing activities like fishing and crafting.

And then there are always some seniors who just come for the camaraderie, or the views from a chair near the action.

With "elder" respectfully acknowledging their wisdom and life experience and "berry" adding a Nature-ful spin, Elderberries become lifelong learners with a reawakened sense of excitement and curiosity for Geauga's natural and cultural heritage.

Check out fall Elderberries offerings on pages 8, 11 and 12.

From the Desk of
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



On a beautiful morning in August at Eldon Russell Park, we paid honor to Duane Ferris, our first park naturalist. I had the privilege of meeting the Duane Ferris family that day to dedicate a new half-mile Nature trail in Duane's memory.

Duane served Geauga Park District and the residents of our county faithfully for many years. From 1968 to 1979, he worked weekends for the park district while a science teacher at Kenston High School. When health issues dictated retirement from full-time work, Duane remained highly active as a park volunteer until his death in 2004. Honored with the title of Naturalist Emeritus, Duane was an authority on local geology, botany and bird life.

In 1994, when I came to work for Geauga Park District, I had the privilege of working with Duane on wagon rides at Swine Creek Reservation. His audience listened intently as we rode through the woods on a horse-drawn wagon. Duane reveled in sharing the natural world around him. He was a gifted interpreter of Nature. Our visitors left with an understanding

Then Meets Now

and excitement for the plants, animals and geology of Geauga County. He was a great colleague to our naturalists and volunteers. He was a positive influence worth celebrating today.

As I stood alongside the Ferris family and our long-time Naturalist Dan Best on that August morning, I was reminded of the importance of then meeting now. The opening of a new Nature trail in honor of Duane is a celebration of his life and legacy joining our newest accomplishment. The trail is something residents will utilize and enjoy for years to come. It's a culmination of past joining present, then meeting now.

We are proud to provide some of the best parks and park amenities in our business. They range from the Duane Ferris Trail to the opening of Claridon Woodlands. This newest park was accomplished through the legacy of long-time Park Commissioner Robert McCullough helping obtain the land from the Hyde and Kaplan Families. Fast forward to today, and son Bill Hyde has penned the *Featuring Park Friends* article on pages 4 and 5; the family is so pleased with the results.

The list of our historical contributions since then is also definitely something to celebrate. It's the culmination of who we are today, it is us now. As for the future, we look forward to our ability to remain innovative in bringing you, our county resident, some of the best parks in the business. Come visit one of your parks this Fall. Come revel in now. Your parks have so much to offer.

- John Oros



When the White Stuff Comes Back...

...why not get outside and enjoy it?

Register for our **Snowshoe Call List** on our website to get your name on our list for naturalist-led programs "called into action" when conditions are best for snowshoeing December 1 through March 1. Programs may be called any time at any Geauga Park District park. Borrow our snowshoes, first-come first-served, or bring your own. We hope you'll join us for some spontaneous fun!

For a more self-guided experience, borrow our snowshoes at The West Woods Nature Center and explore the park on your own! Details are on our website under Activities, then Snowshoeing.

Park Locations and Amenities

ICONS LISTED AT RIGHT
IN THE ORDER THEY APPEAR

													
Bass Lake Preserve 1145 Lakeview Drive, Munson, 44023 <i>NO TRAILS AVAILABLE; BOATING BY PERMIT ONLY</i>				✓	✓						✓	✓	
Beartown Lakes Reservation 18870 Quinn Road, Auburn/Bainbridge, 44023 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 2.8</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park 7940 Cedar Road, Chester, 44026 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.0</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓						
Big Creek Park 9160 Robinson Road, Chardon, 44024 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 6.4</i> <i>Facility reservations are available - call or visit website for details</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Big Creek Park - Tupelo Pond 9373 Ravenna Road, Chardon, 44024					✓		✓	✓			✓		
Big Creek Park - Horse Trail 12000 Woodin Road, Chardon, 44024					✓		✓	✓					
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve 15681 Old Rider Road, Burton/Newbury, 44021 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.7</i>	✓				✓		✓	✓					
Chickagami Park 17957 Tavern Road, Parkman, 44021 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.6</i>			✓		✓		✓		✓	✓			
Claridon Woodlands 11383 Claridon Troy Road, Claridon, 44033 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 2.2</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Eldon Russell Park 16315 Rapids Road, Troy, 44021 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.3</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Frohling Meadows 16780 Savage Road, Bainbridge, 44023 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 3.5</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓					
Headwaters Park 13365 Old State Road, Claridon/Huntsburg, 44021 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 3.3</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
The Maple Highlands Trail (TMHT) <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 20.7</i> <i>City of Charon: 1.2 and City of Middlefield: 0.5</i> <i>Access to trail also from Claridon Woodlands, Headwaters Park & Swine Creek Reservation; horses permitted on south section only</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓			

Our Bird in the Hand Feeding Station is back at The West Woods beginning October 1 through winter. Don't miss this magical experience! Find details on our website under Activities, then Birdwatching.



ADVENTURES in Geocaching

Expires October 1, 2019
Details on our website under Activities

Track down this geocache in Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park!

PART A:
N 41° 30.605
W 081° 21.711

Take an uphill slog on the Summit Trail. Find a hollow log and you cannot fail!

ACCESSIBLE TRAILS • PAVED TRAILS • OPEN SHELTERS • ENCLOSED LODGES • RESTROOMS • PLAYGROUNDS • HIKING
X-COUNTRY SKIING • HORSES • BICYCLES • CAMPING • FISHING • BOATING • SLED HILL

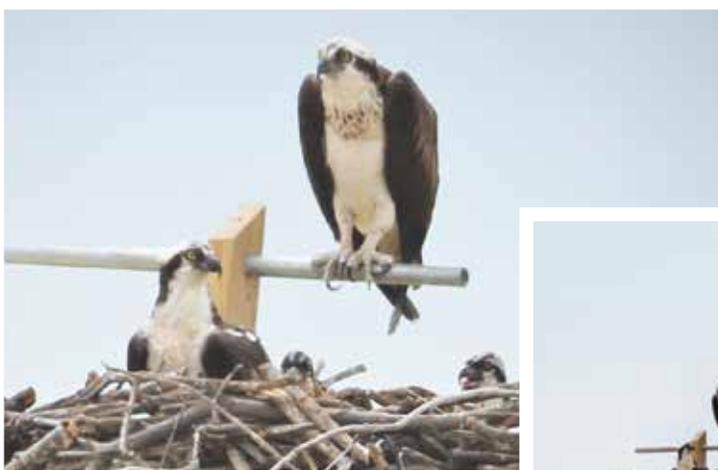
Mountain Run Station - Access to TMHT 12601 Chardon Windsor Road, Hambden, 44024	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓				
Big Creek Spur - Access to TMHT 9280 Ravenna Road, Chardon, 44024	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓				
Observatory Park 10610 Clay Street, Montville, 44064 Nassau Astronomical Station 10350 Clay Street, Montville, 44064 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 3.62</i> <i>Facility reservations are available - call or visit website for details</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					
Orchard Hills Park 11340 Caves Road, Chester, 44026 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 3.6</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
Sunnybrook Preserve 12474 Heath Road, Chester, 44026 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.7</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓						
Swine Creek Reservation 16004 Hayes Road, Middlefield, 44062 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 5.8</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
The Rookery 10110 Cedar Road, Munson, 44026 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.4</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
The West Woods 9465 Kinsman Road, Russell, 44072 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 6.7</i> The West Woods - Affelder House 15139 Chillicothe Road, Russell, 44072 <i>Facility reservations are available - call or visit website for details</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			
Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve 11620 Ravenna Road, Munson, 44024 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.6</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓				✓		
Whitlam Woods 12500 Pearl Road, Hambden, 44024 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.1</i>					✓		✓							
Woodin Road Park 12205 Woodin Road, Chardon, 44024 <i>NO TRAILS AVAILABLE</i>														

View the current fee schedule on our website under Reservations. All enclosed lodges, but not all open shelters, are equipped with electricity. Boating on Bass Lake requires a permit. Permitted watercraft are kayaks, canoes and electric motors; gasoline engines are permitted only in Eldon Russell Park. Learn more on our website under Activities.

Successful Osprey Nest Relocation at Covia's Best Sand Operation

by Dan Best,
Naturalist

Photos by Matt Valencic



Ospreys, also known as fish eagles or sea hawks, are fish-eating birds of prey found on every continent except Antarctica, and found throughout North America. Watching them hunt is a spectacular sight, as they hover high above the water to spot fish, then fold their wings and drop like a rock into the water to grab their prey with needle-sharp talons.

Nationwide, their numbers declined tremendously in the mid-20th century, with reproductive failure attributed to hydrocarbon pesticides such as DDT that accumulated or "bio-magnified" at each link in aquatic food chains. Similar reproductive failure also affected other top predators such as bald eagles and peregrine falcons.

Osprey had already pretty much disappeared from Ohio by the early 20th century. However, in the 1980s, osprey numbers in Ohio began to increase with reintroduction programs in Ohio and surrounding states. These initiatives helped a natural comeback that was apparently underway; osprey had already begun to rebound since the banning of DDT and related hydrocarbon pesticides in the early 1970s.

In Geauga County – home of Covia's Best Sand operation – osprey went from increasingly common spring and fall migrants in the 1990s to nesting summer residents in the new millennia of the 21st century.

Favored nesting sites for Geauga County's osprey are the platforms provided by triangular metal grids atop cell towers. As of

2018, there are about a dozen active cell tower nests in the county. In other parts of Ohio and nearby states, osprey often build nests on the paired cross arms of utility poles. Such was the case in 2017, when a pair of osprey built a nest on a utility pole supporting a power line to a water pump system in the Best Sand Sharon Conglomerate sandstone quarry. The nest apparently caused the line to short out, killing power to the pumps.

Covia (formerly Fairmount Santrol), being committed to wildlife conservation as a part of its environmental sustainability initiatives, was interested in a way to accommodate the ospreys while maintaining their quarrying operations unimpeded. After all, the osprey pair saw fit to set up housekeeping near the commotions of the quarrying machinery in the first place, so why not give it a try?

Longtime Best Sand employee Joe Dalhausen, who happens to be a Geauga Park District volunteer, contacted Geauga Park District Naturalist Dan Best and apprised him of the situation. Although

Geauga Park District has had limited success with nest platforms, such structures have proven quite successful elsewhere in attracting osprey pairs to nest. Dan provided plans for constructing such a platform.

Best Sand built and erected a well-constructed nesting platform in early December 2017. The platform was installed about 200 feet from the original nesting site. Furthermore, Best Sand was able to carefully remove the old nest intact from the utility pole. In doing so, they discovered an unhatched egg that, if it hadn't already been nonviable, may have been flash-fried along with a young osprey chick whose desiccated carcass was also found in the nest. This first nest was deftly placed on the new platform to further tempt the ospreys to take to the new structure.

Winter passed with hopes of the ospreys' return. Then, on April 6, 2018, Joe reported to Dan that the osprey had in fact returned and were occupying the new nest platform. Time was allowed to pass to see if nesting would proceed.

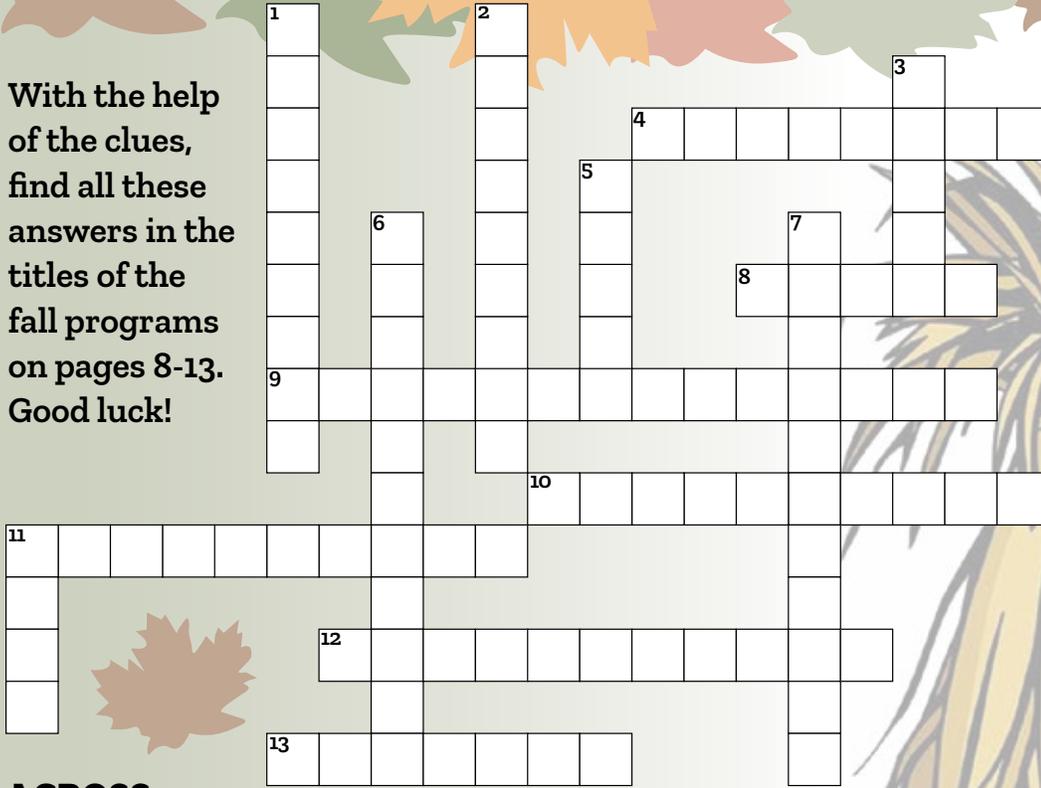
On June 25, 2018, Dan and Matt Valencic of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland visited Best Sand, where Joe took them into the quarry to see the nest. One adult sat atop a nearby utility pole and fed on part of the fish before bringing it to the nest, where the other adult could be seen. With the presentation of the fish, two heads of osprey chicks popped into view, confirming a successful nesting of the relocated osprey pair.

This benevolent effort by Covia stands as a testimony to the company's sustainable development efforts with commitment to wildlife and the environment. Best wishes to Covia's Best Sand operation for its continued successes!



Fall Days Crossword Puzzle

With the help of the clues, find all these answers in the titles of the fall programs on pages 8-13. Good luck!



DOWN

1. This type of bird lives around water and will be on the move in November
2. The kind of branches Timbertots use to make their holiday centerpieces
3. An animal you can bring with you on a frolic in October
5. Birds of prey featured at an Elderberries program
6. A place found at Observatory Park that lets us see the night sky inside
7. The full moon in October
11. A word that describes the sound an owl makes

ACROSS

4. The full moon in December
8. The name of the elf you can hike with in December
9. The longest night of the year
10. The full moon in November
11. A type of wagon ride you can take at events in October
12. Fall is the time for some animals to prepare for this long winter's sleep
13. A large orange fruit of the gourd family



Answers to crossword puzzle found on bottom of back cover

Make a twig-tree ornament



1. Gather some small twigs from your yard and cut them into sections, measuring a little shorter each time. Cut a longer one for the main trunk. The more twigs you cut, the fuller your twig tree can be. (Small twigs can be cut using scissors.)

2. Use glue to stick the twigs onto the longest twig to form a tree. Using a hot glue gun will make the twigs stick faster; ask an adult for help.

3. Leave the tree plain or decorate it with glitter, beads or ribbon. Use as a winter decoration or a present topper with a ribbon.

If you want to use larger twigs, ask an adult to help you cut them and notch out areas to more easily fit the pieces together.

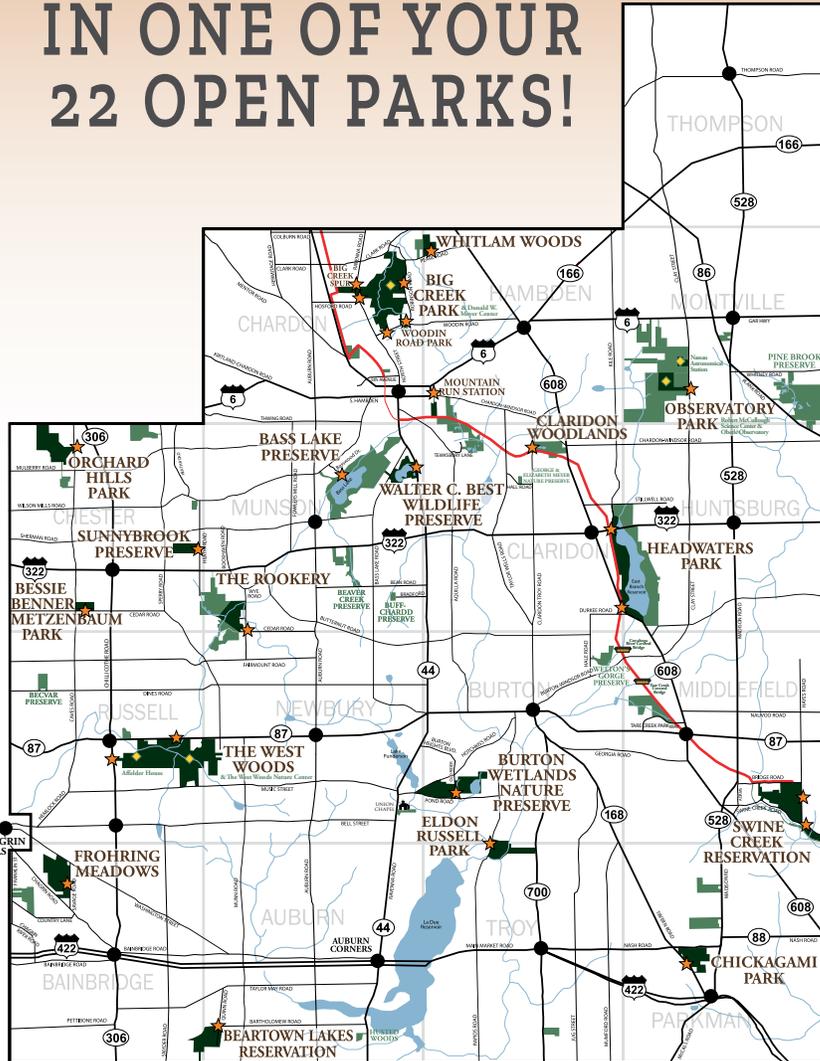




Geauga Park District
 9160 Robinson Road
 Chardon, OH 44024-9148

FIND YOUR ADVENTURE

IN ONE OF YOUR
 22 OPEN PARKS!



Find some family fun at
Saturday & Sunday,
October 6 & 7, 1-5 PM

Free horse-drawn wagon rides, fishing, kayaking, face painting & fall treats for sale



HORSE-DRAWN WAGON RIDES
Saturdays & Sundays, 1-5 PM
October 20, 21, 27 & 28

Revel in the season's sights, sounds & scents!
 Free passes onsite for first-come, first-served boarding

Swine Creek Reservation · Middlefield



www.geaugaparkdistrict.org
 440-286-9516



Answers to crossword puzzle: DOWN 1. waterfowl 2. evergreen 3. hound 5. hawks 6. planetarium 7. huntermoon 11. hoot ACR055 4. buckmoon 8. buddy 9. wintersolstice 10. beavermoon 11. horsedrawn 12. hibermation 13. pumpkin