

Trails...

Winter 2009-10
**Newsletter of the
Crawford Park District**

Ice Age Mammals Exhibit



The Ice Age Mammals exhibit planned for the month of November has proven to be a community winner!

Attendance has risen quite dramatically and comments have been very favorable and appreciative. Schools have made additional efforts to schedule field trips to experience the exhibit and to learn about the Ice Age.

The major contributor of specimens was the Ohio Historical Society which provided the display headliner, a Pleistocene Mastodon skull. The skull was found in 1970 when a farm pond was being excavated on property owned by Rolland Farrington. His farm was near Sommersville, Union County, OH.

Other items of interest include bones of Giant Beaver, Stag Moose, Saber-Toothed Cat and of course, other mastodon items. Tom Kottyan, president of the Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society, organized a display that included polished and unpolished Woolly Mammoth and Mastodon teeth. John Medici, who collected Mastodon remains near Sulphur Springs, loaned a piece of skull for display. Two mastodon molars found at the same Crawford County site are also on loan from OSU Orton Geological Museum.

Providing financial assistance for the exhibit were the John Q. Shunk Association and the Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society. The CPD Ice Age Mammals Exhibit has taken the dedication of a great park staff and an increase in willing volunteers.

The CPD is looking for additional information about other mastodons in Crawford County. A citizen reported that a mastodon was on display at the Bucyrus Public Library during the early 1930's. This specimen was on the second floor of the library with other historical items. So far, no one has been able to determine if the mastodon was from Crawford County or from somewhere else. Two separate finds have been reported near Chatfield. One was unearthed when the railroad bed through Chatfield was being laid. The other was near the intersection of SR 4 and SR 103 (close to a cemetery). The final mystery surrounds a documented find in Holmes Township. To date, no other information is available about this Holmes Township discovery. If you or someone you know has information regarding any of these Crawford County Mastodon discoveries, please contact the Park District.

CPD Mastodon Dig at Sulphur Springs

The CPD staff with the assistance of volunteers have made three digs on the property of Tom Kibler near Sulphur Springs. A key volunteer has been Dale Stansbery of Upper Sandusky who has worked on previous archeological finds. He worked with the researchers who studied the Sheridan Cave near Carey and documented interactions between Ice Age Man and other Ice Age mammals. The stimulus for the digs came from mastodon discoveries which were on the same property in 1971 and 1973. Those two discoveries included a mastodon's two tusks, skull, four teeth, and part of a clavicle. Unfortunately, we have not found remaining bones.

New Water Feature at Lowe-Volk Park

A water feature was constructed to the east of the Nature Center at Lowe-Volk Park. It is in the area of the bird feeders which can be seen through our "Window to the Wild." An objective is to keep water moving so that it is available to birds when the temperatures dip below freezing. Since the property which is now Lowe-Volk Park was extensively quarried for Berea sandstone, we wanted to use only sandstone in the construction of the falls/water feature. The majority of the sandstone was donated by Robert Wagner. With the assistance of Robert's sons and grandson, sandstone from the foundation of an old farmhouse was excavated. Joe Everly of Leesville, donated additional sandstone to complete the project. Transportation of stone and backhoe operation on site was provided by volunteer Jerry Kreinbrink. A \$600 grant from the Timken Foundation enabled the purchase of pond liner, pump, heater and other necessary construction materials. Stop out to Lowe-Volk Park and check it out!

Volunteer Naturalist Program

In the fall newsletter, a volunteer naturalist education program was outlined. Tina Swartz is still looking for individuals interested in this training. It would take a class of 12 to make the program possible. Please contact Tina at tinswa@hotmail.com or call the Nature Center if you are interested or if you would like further information.

Bird Seed Needed at the Nature Center

One of the favorite activities at our Nature Center is observing birds at our "Window to the Wild." We need donations of bird seed to keep those birds well fed and in sight of our visitors. We need black oil sunflower, thistle and mixed seed types. We have suet from the

butcher's but would also like suet cakes containing seed. If you would like to donate, please stop by with your donation or give us a call.

Crawford County Corduroy Road

A corduroy road was discovered during the ODOT construction for Bucyrus' new Downtown Streetscape project. The remnants of the corduroy road were about 9 feet down from the current road surface on the north side of the Sandusky River bridge (SR 4). The logs presented a problem for the construction crews and five or six loads of logs were sent to the landfill before someone decided this could be historically important. The Ohio Historical Society and an ODOT historian became involved. It was established that some of the trees were 140 years old when they were laid to keep horses/wagons out of the bottom muck when fording the Sandusky River. Jim Croneis estimated that the road was constructed around 1824. Al Schiefer has donated two planks from wood that came from the corduroy road. Therefore the CPD has samples of Crawford County wood that could be 325 years old...back to the late 1600's!

Nature Note: Tree squirrels do not hibernate. They do, however, become less active in winter to conserve energy.

Some of nature's most exquisite handiwork is on a miniature scale, as anyone knows who has applied a magnifying glass to a snowflake.

Rachel Carson

Nature Center Winter Hours

Tuesday through Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

Saturday Noon - 4 PM

Sunday and Monday Closed

Special Event: Ice Age Mammals, Open Sun Dec 6, Noon-4PM

Programs

Please call 419-683-9000 with questions about programs. Most events are free. Donations for programs are appreciated.

Ice Age Mammal Exhibit Ends

Sunday, December 6 Nature Center

The Nature Center will be open from Noon until 4 PM and this will be your last opportunity to view the Ice Age Mammals Exhibit. Don't miss this terrific display!

Over the River & Through the Woods

Saturday, December 12, 9 AM, Sears Woods

Encompassing over 130 acres, Sears Woods is a great place for a morning hike. Join Josh as he will lead you off the beaten paths to sections of Sears Woods that have yet to be open to the public. Evidence of early farmsteads, woodland swamps, and the Sandusky River will all be seen. Some difficult terrain will be encountered.

Portable Planetarium Program

Saturday, December 12 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Nature Center

Have you ever gazed at the night sky and wondered what you were seeing? Come to this program to have your questions answered. The Warren Rupp Observatory will be providing a portable Planetarium for the program. The planetarium dome will be set up inside the Nature Center. The dome is wheelchair friendly. Amateur astronomers will be on hand conducting science experiments and demonstrations involving meteorites.

350: Images of Fragile Earth

Sunday, Dec 13, 2PM Nature Center

Internationally-published photographer, writer, and Ashland University professor David FitzSimmons will present 350 images of nature—celebrating the beauty of Earth

and emphasizing the incredible challenge we face in stopping climate change. Scientists have determined that, in order to stop catastrophic and irreversible changes to our climate, carbon levels in the atmosphere must be kept under 350 parts per million. The current level is 390 ppm. "350: Images of Fragile Earth" is one of thousands of events world-wide sponsored to raise awareness in anticipation of crucial UN Climate Negotiations in Copenhagen this month. Critical decisions made in Copenhagen will affect our world and our children's world. You may help spread the "350" word by telling others about this and other actions on December 13th, signing a pledge at 350.org, and sending "350" email to



your family, friends, colleagues, community, and politicians. Join millions around the world in caring for fragile Earth.

Christmas Bird Count

Sunday Jan 3, 7 AM Bob Evans, Bucyrus

For 110 years the Audubon Society has sponsored the annual Christmas Bird Count. Everyone who wishes to participate in the Bucyrus Circle Count should meet Warren Uxley at the Bob Evans in Bucyrus (intersection of US 30 and SR 4).

Rock'n Fossils

Saturday, Jan 16, 11AM - 2PM Nature Center

Come and see the mineral, rock and fossil displays! You can even bring in your personal collection of rocks or fossils for some identification assistance by members of the Richland Lithic & Lapidary Society. There will also be fossil related activities for kids.



A rocking good time!

One Cool Hike

Saturday, January 23, 1 PM, Lowe-Volk Park
Winter in Crawford Co. is a time of survival for animals and plants. Many means of coping with the cold are utilized, from hibernation to migration. Join Josh for this cool winter hike that will take a look at nature in winter and who is surviving how.

Walk & Woof: Howl at the Moon!

Friday, January 29, 7 PM, Lowe-Volk Park



Daylight leaves us little time for a regular “Walk and Woof”, so let’s get them doggies a howlin’! A full moon will aid in our hike as we listen for night sounds. Join Josh

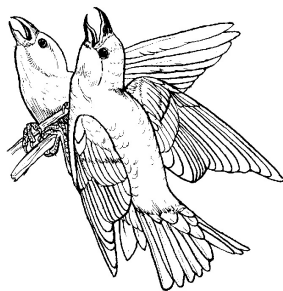
and Carley as they venture through the woods of Lowe-Volk Park to hear what other animals may be howling at the moon. All ages and breeds welcome. Flashlights recommended.

Winter Bird Walk

Sunday, Jan 31, 3 PM

Nature Center and Lowe-Volk Trails

The dynamics of winter bird populations change from year to year. Last year brought one of the most massive irruptions of White-winged Crossbills ever recorded. Conditions in the far north as well as locally dictate winter bird assemblages and behavior. Meet Warren Uxley at Lowe-Volk Park for a PowerPoint presentation followed by a bird observation walk.



Nature Movie and Popcorn Family Night

Saturday, February 6, 6:30 PM Nature Center

Come and enjoy some family time together! Walk into the Nature Center and smell that wonderful aroma of popcorn. We will be showing the Disney film, “Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey.” The film stars a Golden Retriever named Shadow, a Himalayan cat named Sassy, and an American Bulldog named Chance. The animals belong to a family whose father must take a one-year job in San Francisco, leaving the animals at a friend's Oregon ranch. But after several days, the worried animals begin to think their family must be in trouble, so they decide to go out and look for them. On their incredible journey across the ruggedly beautiful Sierras, they encounter dangerous animals, a waterfall and even a frightening dog pound before finding their way back to the children. Four national forests, the Columbia River Gorge and Eagle Cap Wilderness Area were used in filming. The free movie will begin at 6:45. Drinks will also be provided for a donation.



Picture Share

Tellin’ Tales and Leesville History Combined Event
Saturday, Feb 13 2 PM to 4:30 PM Nature Center

Dig in the attic, closets, dresser drawers and photo albums! Share your local history and family pictures. Not important? You bet they are! We will have extra equipment to scan your pictures and you can take them back home with you. If you have names and locations, that would be helpful but not mandatory. There will be an opportunity to talk about your pictures if you so wish. With the assistance of volunteers, we hope an on-line research photo archive can be shared with all who have internet access.

Sweetheart's Hike

Sunday, February 14, 7 PM, Nature Center

It is time once again for that stroll through Lowe-Volk Park, on candle lit trails, breathing the crisp night air. The setting is just right to share with the one you love. Away from the hustle and bustle of packed restaurants and movie theaters, join Josh for the natural Valentine's date that allows you to reflect upon your relationship, both with your partner and with nature.

Attracting and Managing Purple Martins

Saturday, Feb 20 2PM Nature Center

Purple Martins are the largest North American member of the swallow family. Their survival is linked to Purple Martin landlords, people who provide safe places to nest and to fledge young. One of those landlords is Kenny Fecker who has an unwavering commitment to Purple Martin habitat and species preservation. Kenny and his wife oversee birdhouse complexes with nest chambers that exceed 100. Kenny will present this program and will discuss the importance of Purple Martins in our environment, how to produce gourd bird houses and then how to manage predators including nest parasites. Kenny has been featured on a segment of the Animal Planet. If you enjoy birds, you won't want to miss his excellent presentation on Purple Martins.



Arrowhead Day

Saturday, February 27 10 AM - 3 PM

Nature Center

This area of Ohio has produced hundreds of thousands of American Indian artifacts whose history can be traced as far back as the Paleo culture (10,000 to 15,000 years ago).

Local collectors will display their finds and members of the Johnny Appleseed Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Ohio will be on hand to display and assist in answering your questions about artifacts that you have not identified. In addition to the displays, there will be informative presentations and a silent auction of donated artifacts.



Nature Hike

Sunday, February 28 3 PM Sears Woods

By late February winter is starting to loosen its grip. Winter bird flocks are breaking up and the first courtship calls can be heard. Warm days can bring out overwintering Butterflies. Meet Warren Uxley at Sears Woods to see what this year's season of transition will bring.

CPD Shirts

We have had requests to purchase shirts with the CPD logo. We will take individual orders for all who would like one. The shirts will be short sleeve polo style with an embroidered logo. We will offer youth sizes but only in Forest Green. Adult sizes can be ordered in either Forest Green or Putty which is a variation of tan. All shirts will be \$20.00. If you would like to have them before Christmas, your order must be placed on or before December 11. Call the Nature Center to place your order or email Patti Schiefer at patti@crawfordparkdistrict.org

Gift Ideas for Christmas

In addition to the shirts listed above, other CPD gift ideas include:

1. Friends of the CPD Memberships
2. Adopt an Animal
3. Nature Center Store Items
4. Donations in honor of friends or relatives

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP'S**Kinglet** (student/senior)

Robert Shroyer
 Ronald Sanders
 Kenneth Hayes
 Richard McCormick
 Jane Weiland
 Martha Cellini

Cardinal (individual)

Paul & Marilyn Houk
 Warren & Martha Smith
 Phil & Pat Joseph
 Kathleen Slayton
 Sam Benedict
 Joe Cozad
 Tony & Betty Gwirtz
 Kim Fulwider
 Wayne Willacker
 Mable Hipp
 Randy Fischer
 Naomi Clady
 Dixie Lee Stineman
 Wendell & Loretta Oberschlake
 Darl Keller
 James Carpenter
 Herb & Virginia Krichbaum
 Rich Henry
 Dolores Geiger

Flock (family)

Ty, Caryl Huggins & Family
 Ted & Jeanie Fike
 Kyle & Anne Hartman
 Russell & Mary Badgley
 Larry & Linda Morrison
 David Rowland
 Jean Reinhard Family
 Harmon & Julie Guss
 Eric Chandler
 Lowell & Dodi Garverick
 Russ & Bruni Bilowich
 Gamma Delta Class
 Barry & Cathy Moneysmith
 Robert & Jean Zaebst
 Pastor Ron & Susan Keller

Bur Oak Circle (supporting)

Haven & Marianne Wensinger
 Firelands Federal Credit Union
 Emerson Eckstein
 Neil & Jeanne Adams
 Kiwanis of Galion
 Charles Carr
 Roger & Sue Daniel

Charles & MaryLou Griebing

Bald Eagle Club (sustaining)

Al & Jan Fulton -
 The Dexter Company
 Daniel & Ruth Ritchey
 Bill & Marilyn Stepro
 Lon & Katie Leapley
 Richard & Loyce Carpenter
 Galion Building & Loan Bank
 John Wagner
 Jim & Nancy Gillenwater -
 State Farm Ins.
 Dr. Don & Peg Wenner

Tall Grass Prairie Club

(sponsoring)
 Earth, Wind & Flowers
 Garden Club

Other Donations

Beverly Whaley -
 In Memory of Russ Garvin
 John Q. Shunk Association
 Stan & Cindy Eusey
 Walter & Brenda Upchurch
 The Richland Lithic &
 Lapidary Society
 Tom Tappan -
 donation of telescope
 Sally Reed - In Memory of
 Paul LaLonde
 Harold Manring -
 donation of labor & material
 to repair sign

Annual Appeal:

Rowenna Evans
 Enid Thomas
 Dave & Becky Young
 Aurelia Brombacher
 George & Dorothy Fischer
 Kit Walter
 Robert & Nancy Pfahler
 Harmon & Julie Guss
 Dale & Shelby Sipe
 Irene Phillips
 Stan & Nancy Herman
 Paul Sulser
 Dale & Marline Garverick
 Beth Teynor
 Rody & Mary Worden
 James Rank
 Al & Jan Fulton -
 The Dexter Company

Gary & Debbie Flick
 Hord Livestock Co., Inc.
 Dolores Geiger
 Russ & Dorothy Vose
 Vera Imhoff
 Linda Getz
 James & Sylvia Rankin
 Sid & Sue Seevers
 Neil & Jeanne Adams
 Leonard & Katie Kocher
 Carol Palenshus
 Bob & Susan Maloy
 Robert Libens
 Suzanne Hawkins
 Paul & Joyce Motter
 Anne Evans
 Donald Matey
 Allen & Sandy Stuckey
 Richard & Gerry Sherman
 Mr. & Mrs. Glen Blackford
 Martha Kostenbader
 Dave & Deb Dostal
 Dale & Margaret Hoyles
 Bob & Judy Grochowalski
 Bryan Summer
 Phil & Debbie Fox
 Judy Shroll
 Mike & Jennifer Walter
 Sis Love
 Joe Cozad
 Jane Cremeans
 Charles & Mary Lou Griebing
 Myra Enright
 John & Penny Stiefel
 James Blaising
 Marcia Studer
 Jack & Pam Olt
 Warren Uxley Sr.
 Esther Schwartz
 Steve, Denise, Jesse & Stephie Smith
 Norman & Caroline Campbell
 Carle's Bratwurst
 Joan Dilley
 Kathryn Long
 Nan Kibler
 Dr. Don & Peg Wenner
 Mrs. Charles Pfahler
 Don & Jean Beck
 Shirley Hehr
 Mable Hipp
 Marcus English
 Philip & Marilyn Harris
 Milton & Ruth Leonhart
 Ruth Adams
 Ed Bealer

Annual Appeal:

Vicky Weber
Thomas P. Moore
Ray & Linda Cramer
Marian Huggins
Mr. & Mrs. James Frank
Joeann Standley
Bob & Shirley Snyder
Karen Wise
Gene & Bettie Luidhardt
Betty Snavely
Jean Feick
Gerald & Paulette James
Dr. & Mrs. G.W. Bowersock
Maxine Light
Eliminator Car Club
Theresa Fritz -
 In Memory of Ron Fritz
Terry Clegg
Jack & Doris Roseberry
Carol Rhodebeck
Willard Garlow
Mary Studer
Robert Palmer
Frances Flora
Doris Bopp
Maureen Coleman
Donald Walter
Raymond & Wanda Trash
Verle Badertscher
Ralph & Donna Jones
Father Frederick Schill
Don & Carole Eppley
Earl & Mary Kocher
Steve Allgire
Mark & Pat Murray
Annabelle Kehres
Marge Carnahan
Larry & Neola Maidens
Mel's Auto Care
Lois Vance
Wayne & Connie Sherman
Don & Pat Reed
Carole Holt
David & Jane Brause
Gary & Helen Cole
Robert & Lucille Dunn
Bob Scott Placier
Henry & Beverly Bosley
Robert & Esther May Fisher
Beverly Whaley
Dorie Gubernath
Mollie Geissler
Helen LaLonde Short -
 In Memory of
 Ruth LaLonde Engle

Phil & Pat Joseph
Gail & Joy Lauthers
Charles & Geraldine Miller
Ken & Deb Cameron
Robert & Jean Zaebst
Crestline Eagles #589
Elizabeth McHenry
Jean Ricksecker
Russell & Mary Badgley
Victor Wimsett
Norman Kisor
June Baker
John & Catharine Cory
Richard & Jeanne Steiger
Lee Orewiler
Donald & Irene Heydinger
Daniel & Martha Schroeder
Whit Martin
Jim & Linda Leyda
Carol Rothhaar
Dave & Bonnie Fisher
Randy & Pam Shull
Richard & Loyce Carpenter
Kevin & Tonya Kimmel
Sean & Angel Cassaro
Debra Ritter
Robert & Rachel Smith
Amvets Polk Twp. Post 1979
Miriam Holtshouse
Dick & Jean Zahn
Matt & Erin Weber
Jim & Dolores Cass
Albert & Jane Miller
Roger & Nancy Whiteamire
Ed & Rita Baldy
Haven & Marianne Wensinger
Ron Roston
Harold & Jean Brown
Rebeca Farson
Dean & Hazel Hunter
Phil Cichanowicz
Glen & Susie Cole
Kenn & Susan Parr
Bill & Marilyn Stepro
David & Janet Spraw
Ed & Joan Wise
ESCO - Bucyrus Blades
Randy & Terri Lady
Donna Daniel
Doug & Donna Watts
Nick & Beth Phillips Family
Roger & Sue Daniel
Becky Teynor
Donald Cover
Mark Schneider
Heidi Wurm

Glenn & Marsha Cheesman
Mike & Sally Johnson
Dale Riedel
Norm & Sharon Huber
Joanne Richardson
Rex Eichelberger
Janet Miller
Martha Flohr
Rosemary Bartholomew
Richard Michalek
Phillis Reed
Steve & Kathy Krichbaum
Ronald & Susan Keller
Elizabeth Unckrich
Michael McBeth
Bob & Sandy Laipply
Denise Bell
Martha Kozik
Chuck & Julie Huggins
David Luidhardt
Naomi Clady
Peggy Cagle
Rick & Norene Bard
Caroline B. McGrew
Marjorie Harter
Mel McLaughlin
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Shadeed
Juanita Young
Brad Sobers
June Cundiff
Jim & Donna Bauer
Angelito & Oprha Belardo
Ken & Chris Berry
Janet Swartz
Brandy's Beauty Salon
Joan Laughbaum
Barbara Raybuck
Peg Smith
Nancy Kolehmainen
Wayne & Clara Brause
Herbert & Joan Stiffler
Lillian Iiams
Lawrence & Annabelle Frank
Brenda Gelinis
Deborah Walker
Ruth Clem
Dan & Barb Price
Bill & Betty Foulk
Marie Grove
Betty J. Marshall
Heidi Schifer
Donald & Carol Long
Raymond Hull Family
Tom Tappan
Mike & Cara Blaising
Leo Rogers