

# Trails...

*A quarterly publication by and for the  
Friends of the Crawford Park District  
2401 State Route 598, Crestline, Ohio 44827  
(419) 683-9000  
www.crawfordparkdistrict.org*

## **The Natural Experience**

President Bush made a speech early in his first term that solidified his position on accessibility. "Whenever a door is closed to anyone because of a disability, we must work to open it. Wherever any barrier stands between you and the full rights and dignity of citizenship, we must work to remove it, in the name of simple decency and simple justice."

It has been a vision of the Crawford Park District's commissioners and Advisory Board to make nature accessible to all citizens. Last year's launching of the wheelchair accessible dock on the pond at Lowe-Volk Park was a huge step toward meeting this goal. And now, on the horizon is another step up the ladder of success.

In December, the Friends received a \$6,000 gift from a park supporter who had, as a youngster, experienced disabling paralysis. It is her wish that her gift be used to make part of the woodland trail at Lowe-Volk Park wheelchair accessible. She deeply appreciates the immersion into nature that she feels as she walks the trail to the Sandusky River overlook and believes that this same experience should be available to the handicapped.

Her gift will be used to create a boardwalk on this woodland trail. As part of the project, the Park District needed to secure a solid path from the Nature Center to the edge of the woods. An estimate from a local contractor placed a price tag on this part of the project at just under \$8,000. Fortunately for park visionaries and supporters, the Bucyrus Rotary has chosen the Friends of the Park to be partners with them in their 2008 Auctionfest on March 29. As the Rotary and Park Auctionfest committee works diligently to have a successful auction, we are confident that this \$8,000 goal will be realized.

In the name of "simple decency and simple justice," how proud we will be when this project reaches completion and this special experience in nature can be shared with our mobile handicapped citizens.

## **Investing in Nature**

In October and again in December a Friends of the Park District supporter gave donations that have made an endowment investment a reality for our Parks. His philanthropy philosophy is simple: He believes in giving back to his community. His support philosophy is also simple: He believes in the mission of the Crawford Park District and wants us to reach out to more Crawford County citizens.

The endowment gifts were mutual funds and stocks whose value at the time of donation exceeded \$180,000. These funds will remain invested with the hopes of gaining and using about \$10,000 each year for operating expenses. As programs increase this additional operating income is critical.

It is the donor's hope that his donation will be an example to others and will show them the possibilities of investing in nature and the future of the Crawford Park District. An immediate benefit might be an important tax break, but the long term benefit will be nature education and preservation for all Crawford Countians.

## **Bucyrus Rotary Auctionfest**

The Bucyrus Rotary selected the Friends of the Crawford Park District to be the beneficiaries of proceeds from their annual Auctionfest. The Auction will be held on Saturday, March 29 in the Holy Trinity School Gym which is located on Tiffin Street in Bucyrus. Doors will open at 4:00 PM and dinner will be served at 5:00 PM. There are varying levels of seating but remaining seats are \$25 per person. Normally around 250 items are auctioned with additional items available in a silent auction. The Rotary partner last year was the Harvey School and that group received over \$20,000 from the event. It is the Parks goal to make this event a huge success!

## **Did you know?**

Otters have been seen in the Sandusky River near Sears Woods.

## SPRING PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Pre-registration is requested for some programs. Phone the Park District at 419-683-9000 to reserve your space! Youth are welcome to attend with their parents. Most events are free. Donations for programs are appreciated.

### Arrowhead Day

Saturday, March 1, 10AM - 3PM  
Nature Center

If American Indian artifacts intrigue you, the Lowe-Volk Nature Center is where you should be on Saturday, March 1. 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. In addition to the displays, there will be informative presentations. See the Arrowhead Day Flier in this issue for titles and times.

### Crawford County Sugar Bush

Saturday, March 8, 1 PM

Meet at the **Paul Hartschuh sugar bush** to see the springtime tradition of maple syrup production. It's one of nature's gifts that takes a lot of work to

produce, but it is well worth the effort. To reach his woods, go north on St. Rt. 100 until it meets St. Rt. 103. Follow 103 west to Knauss Rd. Turn right (north) on Knauss and the woods will be on the right. You will be



able to see the sugar shack with the smoke billowing from the stack. Only a few cars should go back the lane. Others should park along the road. Hope you can join us for this sweet experience.

### Rotary Auctionfest

Saturday, March 29

See the newsletter information

### Handcrafted American Indian Style Flutes and Wampum

Tuesday, April 1, 7 PM Nature Center



It takes a skilled craftsman to produce a quality American Indian style flute from a block of wood. Randy Bryhn, of Galion, has dedicated himself to the art. He uses a "recipe" that was taught to him by a man whose family has made the flute for hundreds of years. Randy is familiar with the history of the flute and can tell how they were used by braves to woo a future wife. There is no wampum charge to come to the program, so plan to attend and learn about flutes and wampum! An interesting topic and a well qualified interesting speaker.

### The American Woodcock

Thursday, April 3, 7:30 PM Nature Center

During the first weeks of spring male Woodcocks perform a one of the most elaborate courtship rituals in the animal kingdom. Its ground strutting performance is followed by a spiraling flight all in an effort to attract females. It is also has the slowest flight speed of any bird in N. America. Discover the many wonders of the American Woodcock.

Meet Warren Uxley at Lowe-Volk Park

**"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything."** William Shakespeare

## Relic Rescue

Saturday, April 5, 10AM Nature Center

Can you hear them? "Help me! I need found!" These are the cries of the relics. They need to be found and you can help!



Join Skip James, Jess James and Pam Lauer to learn techniques and strategies that will increase your chances to contribute to archeology. A search will be conducted in the field south of the Nature Center to rescue relics from the plow. Hope to see you there, but in the meantime, keep your eyes to the ground.

## Vernal Pools

Saturday, April 5, 2 PM  
Heckert Nature Preserve

The ephemeral nature of Vernal Pools offers some real advantages to the Frogs, Toads, Salamanders and invertebrates that breed there. There are also some significant disadvantages. Come learn about the opportunities as well as the challenges organisms face when breeding in Vernal Pools. **BOOTS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!!!**  
Meet Warren Uxley at Heckert Nature Preserve.

## Weather: Folklore vs. Science

Thursday, April 10, 7PM Nature Center

"Well honey, the dog's eating grass; it's gonna rain soon." Have you ever heard that one? Is it true? How about, "Rain before seven, clear by eleven?" If you have an interest in "backyard meteorology", come to the Nature Center as Beth Mazzocco helps us discern fact from fiction. Beth, a former meteorologist for Weather Forecast, Inc., will give you insights into which bits of weather wisdom will enable you to make accurate predictions and which will leave you all wet.

## Wildflower Walk

Saturday, April 12, 10 AM Sears Woods

The woodlands are awash with floral displays in the first weeks of spring. There is urgency in this profusion; forest wildflowers must complete their reproductive cycle before the trees leaf out and cut off the light.

Meet Warren Uxley at Sears Woods

## Amazing Animal Extravaganza

Saturday, April 12, Noon to 3 PM  
Lowe-Volk Nature Center

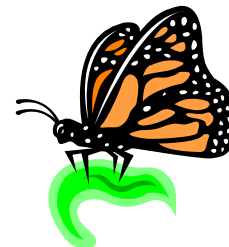


Animal lovers are in for a treat! Animals will be on display so that you can get "up close and personal." Various pet owners will be on hand to answer your questions and to allow you to "hold and touch" when appropriate. Come to experience snakes, turtles, salamanders, ferrets and many more that will include exotics.

## Come Fly Away With Me- Monarchs in Mexico

Tuesday, April 15, 7 PM Nature Center

Join Cindy Eusey at the Nature Center for a travelogue on her recent trip to Mexico and the over wintering site of 60-120 million Monarch Butterflies. Learn about the Monarch's migration from Canada and the United States to this special place high in the trans-volcanic mountains of central Mexico. In addition, Aztec ancient history and culture of the people will be presented.



## **Earth Day Celebration!**

**Saturday, April 19, 10 AM-2PM**  
**Crawford County Fairgrounds**  
**Youth and Merchants Bldgs**

Earth Day has been a cornerstone for environmental awareness for over 30 years. See the flyer in this newsletter to find out about presentations, displays, kids games and lunch! Also, for the first time, we will be having a FreeMarket Recycle Event where you can bring usable items to be recycled to anyone who can use them. The donated items would be offered totally free with the expectation that they would be recycled/reused.

## **Spring is in the Air... And So Are Kites**

**Sunday, April 20, 1 PM Unger Park**



Bring your own kite or purchase one at the event. All eyes will be on the skies as the biggest kite launch in Crawford County history occurs! It's a fun time, it's a family time. It's a time to learn about wind and this special force of nature. Unger Park is at 1303 Nevada Road on the west side of Bucyrus (past Aumiller Park Drive). Help create some fantastic kite tales!



## **Tan Your Hide!**

**Saturday, April 26, 9AM-2PM Nature Center**

So ya think you might have enough brains to your own hide? Stop by the Nature Center and see first hand how to tan deer hides by using their brains. Yep, that's right, brains! Utilized by Native Americans for centuries, brains provide a cheap tanning solution that will give you excellent results. Join Josh and guest Chris Rothhaar as they show you the various stages of taking a deer hide and transforming it into one of the most supple clothing materials ever. You'll be invited to try your hand at any stage, giving you the knowledge to ..... Tan Your Hide!

## **Tellin' Tales**

**Saturday, April 26, 2 PM, Nature Center**

This is a meeting for Seniors (or anyone) to share information about Crawford County's Natural History. Come and share your stories! Personal anecdotes make history come alive. Help us preserve our Natural History events. We've heard about whistling rats, giant mink and blizzard survival. Come and add your experiences! Moderated by Jim Croneis, former publisher of the Bucyrus Telegraph Forum and local history buff.

## **Field Trip to Hemlock Falls**

**Sunday, April 27, 1PM Meet at Nature Center**

Hemlocks in Ohio!?? That's right! Find out what makes Hemlock Falls unique to our state, geologically and historically. From great cliffs of Blackhand Sandstone, to the mature forest, and of course the falls themselves, experience the beauty of an ecosystem that is home to many diverse plants. The day will start at Lowe-Volk Nature Center. Car pool or drive yourself, just follow Bill and Josh to one of the most spectacular sites in our area.

## **Spring Bird Migration**

**Saturday, May 3, 9 AM Sears Woods**

Early May is the peak of migration for the Neotropical Migrants that move into and through Ohio in spring. Warblers, Vireos, Tanagers, Thrushes and more; it's the best time of the year to go bird watching. Learn about the birds that breed in Ohio as well as those that continue on to the Boreal Forests further north. Meet Warren Uxley at Sears Woods

Spring brings glorious change to our Crawford County Parks. What is your favorite season to visit?

## **Hide and Seek: The Game of Life**

**Saturday, May 3, 1PM Nature Center**

Hide and Seek is a very popular game, both for us and for wildlife. The animals have to play it every day just to see the next. Join Josh to find out what it takes for wildlife to conceal themselves, to adapt or perish. Camouflage helps wildlife hide, so wear yours to see if you will be the ultimate survivor in our own game of Hide and Seek! All ages welcome.

## **Pancakes in the Park**

**Saturday, May 10, 8 AM- 1 PM**

**Come and support your Parks while satisfying your appetite. See flier in this newsletter.**

## **Stream Quality Monitor Training**

**Tuesday, May 13, 6 PM- 9PM**

This class is a continuation of classes begun last fall. Class members are attempting to become certified as a qualified stream monitors. If you would just like to learn about stream quality indicators, then you are welcome too. This class will be held at Gillmor Science Hall at Heidelberg College in Tiffin. You will be developing your own identification set of preserved macro invertebrates. New class members are welcome, but they must be present at 6 PM sharp for their program introduction. The class is taught by Heidelberg College professor, Ken Krieger. Before the program, we will have directions posted on the website or you could pick them up at the Nature Center.

## **Stream Quality Monitor Training**

**Wednesday, May 14, 5:30-8:30 PM**

This is the final class on stream invertebrates. It will begin at Indian Mill and end at Gillmor Science Hall in Tiffin. Come, learn how do solid scientific data collection. Before the program, see the website for directions or stop out at the Nature Center.

## **Fly Fishing Seminar**

**Saturday, May 17, 1PM - 4PM**

**Lowe-Volk Nature Center**

Last year's fly fishing program was so popular we had to bring back Bucyrus physician, Dr. Michael Johnson, to present a second seminar on the basics of fly fishing. Included will be theory, equipment selection, techniques and application with time to practice casting techniques. According to Dr. Johnson, fly fishing provides the challenge and thrill that is hard to match in other fishing methods. Bring your own equipment if you want to practice or we may have an extra rod for you. What a super opportunity!



## **Prairie Restoration**

**Saturday, May 24, 2 PM**

**Salem Cemetery, Lower Leesville Rd.**

Warren Uxley has been working to restore a degraded prairie remnant east of Bucyrus for several years now. It is a long process but the effort is beginning to show results. Learn about the successes as well as the frustrations of prairie restoration. Ideal program for those wanting to start their own prairie. Meet Warren at the Salem Cemetery – Intersection of Lower Leesville and Parcher Rds.

## **CPD Wish List**

We are hoping that a Friends member might have either an air compressor or a paper cutter that they do not use and could donate to the Park. If so, call us at the Nature Center, (419) 683-9000.

## **Did You Know?**

The Eastern Garter snake is the most abundant snake in Ohio.

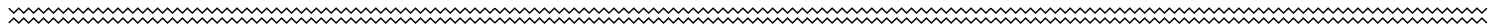
# Crawford Park District Business Partners

The businesses shown on this page have donated goods or services to the Crawford Park District within

the previous months. The size of the acknowledgment is an indication of the donation level.

As you do business with these merchants please tell them how much you appreciate them supporting the parks, these businesses are truly Friends of the Crawford Park District.

<b><u>Bucyrus Road Materials</u></b> <u>1707 Tiffin Rd.</u> <u>Bucyrus, Ohio 44820</u> <u>419-562-7896</u>		<b><u>West Side Feed Service Inc</u></b> <u>1115 W. Mansfield St.</u> <u>Bucyrus, 419-562-6806</u> <u>Farm Supplies &amp; Animal Feeds</u>	
<b><u>Bucyrus Tire</u></b> <u>3282 State Route 98</u> <u>Bucyrus, Ohio 44820</u> <u>419-563-9945</u>		<b><u>M.F. Brown</u></b> <u>2415 State Route 602</u> <u>North Robinson, Ohio 44856</u> <u>419-562-0109</u>	
<b><u>Chris Rothhaar</u></b> <b><u>(Display items)</u></b> <u>Bucyrus</u>	<b><u>Stan Eusey Builder</u></b> <u>Bucyrus</u>	<b><u>Bloomfield Taxidermy</u></b> <u>Chatfield</u>	<b><u>Fishy Business</u></b> <u>Bucyrus</u>



**FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP'S**

Kinglet (student/senior)

David Luidhardt

Amy Harris Fox

Eleanore Bittinger

Doris Bopp

Claudine Robertson

Summer Burrer

Daniel Schroeder

Carol Palenshus

Rebecca Farson

Mary J. & Thomas Garrett

June Cundiff

Charles & Mary E. Scott

Brad Sobers

Annabelle Frank

Clara Needles

Dick & Betty Vance

Victor Wimsett

Cardinal (individual)

Becky Teynor

Miriam Holtshouse

Juanita Young

Carol Rothhaar

Ruth Adams

Mary Kemery

Jim & Barb Pierce

Bob Runyon

John Haas

Lee Orewiler

Nancy Ankney

Elaine Hottenroth

Annabel Kehres

Lois Vance

Maureen Coleman

Flock (family)  
Allen & Sandy Stuckey  
George, Ann, Rich & Nicky Guins  
Roger & Janice Scott  
Mike & Linda Apger  
Don & Dawn Tudor  
Jeff & Becky Laipply  
Frederick Schill  
Robert & Shirley Snyder  
Bill Fisher  
Robert & Lucille Dunn  
Charles Huggins  
Gary Burrer  
Grant & Margaret Garverick  
Kaleigh & Logan Swalley  
Mike & Linda Apger  
Herbert & Virginia Krichbaum  
Richard Schmidt Family  
Richard Cope  
James Patterson Family  
Mr. & Mrs. James Frank  
Martha Flohr  
Barb & Ed Dolch  
Brad & Amy VanVoorhis  
John, Vicki & Michael Herman  
Mark & Pat Murphy  
Neva Shealy  
Gail & Joy Lauthers  
Hazel & Dean Hunter  
Donald & Carol Long  
Eric & Shelly Kocher  
Jim & Pat Miller  
Gene & Bettie Luidhardt  
Jean Ricksecker

Bur Oak Circle (supporting)  
Dr. Don & Peg Wenner  
Lon & Katie Leapley  
Charles & Jean Pratt

Steve & Nancy Pifher  
Dale & Margie Hoyles  
Russ & Dorothy Voss  
Dout & Sue Horsley  
Steven & Trudy Eckstein  
Arthur & Marjorie Beall  
Scott & Bonnie Donnenwirth  
Collette Shultz  
Marcus English  
Leonard & Katie Kocher  
Sis Love  
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Shadeded  
Robert & Nancy Pfahler  
Steve, Denise,  
    Jesse & Stephanie Smith  
Jim & Joan Gehrisch

Bald Eagle Club (sustaining)  
Richard & Maxine Ekleberry  
Clarence & Doris Smith  
James & Janet Pry  
Vera Imhoff  
Charles Kimerline  
Ed & Joan Wise  
Donna Daniel  
Jan Maddy  
Norma Larsen  
Janice Shuck -  
    In Memory of Jack Shuck

Tall Grass Prairie  
Club(sponsoring)  
Peoples Savings & Loan  
Mark Schneider  
Harold & Martha Eppley

Sycamore Club (promoting)  
Candace M. Jones

ANNUAL APPEAL  
Richard Michalek  
Bob & Faith Achtermann  
B.L. Wentz Concrete Flooring  
David & Janet Cory  
Sharon Fishpaw  
Lanny & Jane Brown

Donations of Goods & Services  
Mike Apger - winterize &  
repair lawn tractor  
John Herman -  
    bird feeder and thistle feed

Other Donations  
PPG Industries Foundation -  
    Crestline  
Ray Holland

NATURE CENTER  
Larsen Room  
Al & Jan Fulton -  
    In Memory of Mentor and in  
    honor of his friend - Bob  
    "Skipper" Hubble

Crestline Christmas Tree Sale  
Scotty's West  
VFW  
Stats Sports Bar  
Eagles #859  
Just Jokin'



THANK YOU!