

Preservation Parks of Delaware County



This issue includes:

- From the Director*
- Nature Hikes/ Programs*
- Look About the Lodge*
- Litter and Lunch (Volunteers)*
- Corn Harvest*
- Wheat Planting*
- Hound Hikes*
- Golden Marathon*
- Railroad Fun*
- Trick or Treat Trail*
- Boogie Woogie Aphids*

Programs & Events *September - November 2014*

Autumn ...

There is something in the autumn that is native to my blood—
Touch of manner, hint of mood;
And my heart is like a rhyme,
With the yellow and the purple and the crimson keeping time.

— Bliss Carman

From the Director ...

Fall has materialized from the new growth of spring and green days of summer. Our third season of the year has specific words of wisdom to share with us. Fall reminds us that the only side to be on is the outside, to put ourselves out there, let our true colors shine, to be cool in a warm way, and even though daylight is diminishing, we have more time to enjoy the night sky.

Save the date of October 7-8, mark it on your calendar right now, and enjoy the **night's total lunar eclipse. Plan a neighborhood full moon eclipse party with moon pies** - chocolate of course, star cookies, moon juice (skim milk), crescent rolls filled with your choice of cheese - green or otherwise. The sky is the limit regarding extraterrestrial culinary offerings.

The unofficial kick off to fall begins after Labor Day, and a week later the full harvest moon will shine upon us on September 8-9. As its bright presence runs its course and **wanes, the season's constellations will capture our attention. The autumnal equinox, September 22, is the formal beginning of the season which will last until the solstice on December 21.** From the day of equal light and dark, through the haunted times of late October and turkey time of November, to the date of shortest daylight, this is a dynamic time of year brimming with beauty that beckons us into the parks.

Tom Curtin, executive director





Programs marked with ❖ require advance registration; call 740-524-8600, ext. 3, or e-mail: register@preservationparks.com. Also, be aware that some hikes will be wet and muddy; wear appropriate footwear.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 6 — Wonders of Wetlands

Come explore the wetlands at Deer Haven Preserve, and see what interesting creatures lurk beneath the surface! Nets and collection containers will be provided. 1 - 4 p.m. *DHP* — *all ages*

Tuesday, September 16 — Preschool Park Pals: Magical Monarchs ❖

Flutter in to The Lodge at Deer Haven Preserve as we explore the wonderful and beautiful Monarch Butterfly. Register by Sept. 9 (mandatory for supply count). 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. *DHP* — *ages 4-5, accompanied by an adult*

Saturday, September 20 — Fishing Fun ❖

Learn some fishing basics, such as how to set up a rod and reel, and what bait to use. Meet some of our native fish up close, and try your hand at catching the "big one." Poles and bait are supplied but participants are welcome to bring their own gear. Children also will have the opportunity to take home a rod and reel supplied through a partnership with the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Register by Sept. 15. 9 a.m. *HRP* — *ages 16 and under, accompanied by an adult*

Saturday and Sunday, September 20 & 21 — Monarch Magic Weekend

Stop in to our third annual program, celebrating the world of the Monarch Butterfly! Play some games, watch a movie, make crafts and enjoy some refreshments, as we learn how to help these magnificent insects during their migration to Mexico. A silent auction will be set up both days to raise money to help save Monarchs. We also will be tagging and releasing live Monarchs at 2 p.m. each day. Noon - 5 p.m. *DHP* — *all ages*

Thursday, September 25 — Homeschool Adventures: Eight-Legged Wonders

This month, we'll jump into the fascinating world of spiders. We will spin tales of spider lore and learn the truth about what makes spiders so unique and beneficial. 10 a.m. *DHP* — *ages 7-12, accompanied by an adult*

Look About the Lodge Can you find the hidden, seasonal items that are scattered around the nature display in The Lodge at Deer Haven Preserve? Look up, look down, look all around — the items might be camouflaged! Use only your eyes to find as many as you can, tell us the number and you might win a prize! Here's what to look for:

September: Monarchs October: Bats November: Acorns

The Lodge is open Noon - 5 p.m. everyday.

Litter and Lunch — A Volunteer Opportunity

Get outside, meet new friends, clean up trash around the parks, and then ... go out to lunch at a nearby restaurant! Together, we make this task fun! Wear shoes that can get wet, bring clean clothes to change into, and pack some lunch money. All Litter and Lunch events are held on Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m., with lunch following. This program is for ages 18 and older; dates and locations are below:

October 1 Hoover Scenic Trail (carpool to the Trail parking lot, 8405 Plumb Rd.)
 October 8 Emily Traphagen Preserve
 October 15 Hogback Ridge Preserve

For information on other volunteer opportunities, contact Sandra McBrearty at 740-524-8600, ext. 6, or saudras@preservationparks.com.

Cover Photos

Left: Corn in shocks at Gallant Farm Preserve
 By Preservation Parks

Right: White-Tailed Deer at Char-Mar Ridge Preserve
 By Lori Taggart



OCTOBER

Saturday, October 4 — Fermentation Investigation

In the past, fermentation was a good way to preserve food. Sauerkraut, pickles, and relishes all were fairly easy to "put up" and would keep almost indefinitely. Join us at the farm to help us start a crock of kraut, and to learn how you can make your own countertop kraut at home.

1 p.m. *GF* — *adults, ages 18+*

Saturday, October 11 — Outdoor Cookin'

Want to learn how to cook a meal with a Dutch oven? Then this class is for you! There is a \$5 fee to pay for supplies, and lunch is provided. Register by Oct. 4. 10 a.m. *SHP* — *ages 7+*

Saturday and Sunday, October 18 & 19 — Woodcarving for Beginners ❖

Learn how to carve wood into works of art! This two-day workshop will cover basic woodcarving; participants will learn how to choose the wood, how to use and care for tools, and how to complete a project. The course is taught by accomplished volunteer woodcarvers. A \$45 fee covers tools and materials. Register by Oct. 6. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. *DHP* — *ages 16+*

Saturday, October 18 — Halloween in the Hollow

Come to the lodge and explore some of nature's S-P-O-O--K-Y animals. Go on a scavenger hunt, take a hike on the trail, or relax around the fire. Some snacks and refreshments will be provided. Participants should bring lawn chairs for seating. This program will be outdoors, weather permitting, so please dress accordingly. However, in the event of inclement weather, the program will be moved indoors. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. *SHP* — *ages 5+*

Tuesday, October 21 — Preschool Park Pals: Looking at Leaves ❖

Let's take a walk and look for beautiful fall leaves. We'll learn why leaves change colors and make a sensory craft. Register by Oct. 14 (mandatory for supply count). 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. *DHP* — *ages 4-5, accompanied by an adult*

Thursday, October 30 — Homeschool Adventures: Bats

This month, we'll look at a much maligned, but oh-so-beneficial creature: the bat! We will learn bat folklore, what makes bats worldwide so important to our ecosystems, and learn about their natural history and the threat to their populations. 10 a.m. *SHP* — *ages 7-12, accompanied by an adult*

Watch for these Gallant Farm programs

These programs are weather dependent. Please watch our Facebook page, Twitter feed and our web site for a date and time. You also may sign up to receive an email advising you when these programs are scheduled. Call 740-524-8600, ext. 3, or email: register@preservationparks.com.

Corn Harvest

In the 1930s, many farms still harvested corn by hand. Come out to Gallant Farm and help harvest corn as our ancestors did. Learn the uses for corn on the farm and see the process of taking the kernels from the ears and grinding them into feed.

Wheat Planting

Wheat is planted in the fall for summer harvest. Learn to sow wheat by hand, as some farmers still did in the 1930s, and see an antique grain drill from the 30s working in the field.

e-mail: contactparks@preservationparks.com



NOVEMBER

Saturday and Sunday, November 8 & 9 — The Humble Feed Sack
Drop in at Gallant Farm and see how the humble muslin bag became the fashion **statement of the past. You'll also leave with a few ideas on how to recycle today's** plastic bird seed and pet food bags.
12 - 5 p.m. *GF — all ages*

Saturday and Sunday, November 15 & 16 — Oh DEER!
Explore the life of the White-Tailed Deer, when you drop in at The Lodge for fun hands-on activities.
1 - 4 p.m. *DHP — all ages*

Tuesday, November 18 — Preschool Park Pals: Lizards vs. Salamanders ❖
Slimy versus not slimy. Teeth versus toothless. Reptile versus amphibian. Join us this month to learn more about what makes these two animals different from one another. Register by Nov. 11 (mandatory for supply count).
10 a.m. and 1 p.m. *DHP — ages 4-5, accompanied by an adult*

Thursday, November 20 — Homeschool Adventures: Teeth & Skulls
Dentition determines the diet. This month, we'll learn how to use mammal teeth and skulls to identify various mammal species, and then determine their diet by using these key features.
10 a.m. *DHP — ages 7-12, accompanied by an adult*

Sunday, November 23 — **Make It & Take It: Nature's Bounty Wreath** ❖
Join us as we give thanks for nature's bounty. Make a wreath out of natural items that you can take home and display for your Thanksgiving gathering. \$10 fee for materials. Register by Nov. 14.
2 p.m. *DHP — adults, ages 18+*

Hound Hikes

Bring your socialized canine for a walk with a naturalist. Your dog will receive a bandana at your first hike, and a paw print stamp for each hike completed. After 10 stamps, you'll receive a prize!
Special guests at the hikes will provide pet-related information, such as pet care and discipline, supplies, and services.
Dogs must be up to date on all shots and have county tags. Meet at the park kiosks and pick up one of our **Pets in the Parks** brochures for all you need to know about bringing you dogs out on the trails.
All fall hikes begin at 6:30 p.m. Guest hosts are listed next to the location.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Wednesday, September 10 | Shale Hollow Preserve (<i>Outdoor Source</i>) |
| Monday, September 22 | Hogback Ridge Preserve (<i>The Madisson Inn</i>) |
| Monday, October 6 | Deer Haven Preserve (<i>Simply Dog Photography</i>) |
| Wednesday, October 29 | Gallant Woods Preserve (<i>ACME Canine</i>) |
| Wednesday, November 12 | Emily Traphagen Preserve (<i>Delaware Pet Stuff</i>) |
| Monday, November 24 | Char-Mar Ridge Preserve (<i>ACME Canine</i>) |



Park Key

Big Walnut Community Trail (BWCT) 168 S. Vernon St., Sunbury	Gallant Farm (GF) 2150 Buttermilk Hill Road, Delaware
Blues Creek Preserve (BCP) 9627 Fontanelle Road, Ostrander	Gallant Woods Preserve (GWP) 2151 Buttermilk Hill Road, Delaware
Char-Mar Ridge Preserve (CMRP) 7741 Lewis Center Road, Westerville	Hogback Ridge Preserve (HRP) 2656 Hogback Road, Sunbury
Deer Haven Preserve (DHP) 4183 Liberty Road, Delaware	Hoover Scenic Trail (HST) 8405 Plumb Road, Galena
Emily Traphagen Preserve (ETP) 5094 Seldom Seen Road, Powell	Shale Hollow Preserve (SHP) 6320 Artesian Run, Lewis Center

Golden Marathon Hikes

The Golden Marathon, a partnership with the Council for Older Adults, meets nearly every Monday for a 1- to 2-mile walk in Preservation Parks preserves and other Central Ohio locations. Information, including addresses, is available by calling 740-524-8600, ext. 6, or at: www.preservationparks.com.

September walks begin at 9:30 a.m.; October & November walks begin at 1:30 p.m.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| September 8 | Highbanks Metropark |
| September 15 | Alum Creek State Park |
| September 22 | Char-Mar Ridge Preserve |
| September 29 | Hoover Reservoir |
| October 6 | Emily Traphagen Preserve |
| October 13 | Bus Trip to Haunted Granville ❖ |
| October 20 | Gallant Woods Preserve |
| October 27 | Oak Grove Cemetery |
| November 3 | Char-Mar Ridge Preserve |
| November 10 | Blendon Woods Metropark |
| November 17 | Hogback Ridge Preserve |
| November 24 | Camp Lazarus |



❖ Call the Council for Older Adults for details and registration: 740-363-6677.

All Aboard for Railroad Fun!

Come watch model trains while learning about model railroading and the development of the railroad industry in America. The model village is continuing to take shape, with tracks, scenery and buildings gradually being added — paralleling the gradual growth of tracks, buildings and towns throughout the United States.

Big Walnut Community Trail, 168 S. Vernon St., Sunbury

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Saturdays — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Sundays — Noon - 4 p.m. |
| Sept. 20, Oct. 18 and Nov. 15 | Sept. 21, Oct. 19 and Nov. 16 |

Trick or Treat Trail

Join us for a spooky walk along the Acorn Trail in search of treats! Kids, come in costume to gather candy from costumed characters, **decorate pumpkins, and enjoy a hayride. It's all free!** And before or after, take a walk across the street to see what is going on at Gallant Farm! (The farm is open Noon-5 p.m., Thursday through Sunday).

Sunday, October 26, 1-4 p.m.
Gallant Woods Preserve
2151 Buttermilk Hill Road





Parks Open 8 a.m. - Sunset Every Day

District Office
 Education Office
 Mary McCoy Nature Center
 2656 Hogback Road
 Sunbury, Ohio 43074
 740-524-8600
 Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon-Fri
 Noon-5 p.m. Sat/Sun *
 (*Mary McCoy Nature Center only)

The Lodge Nature Center at
 Deer Haven Preserve
 4183 Liberty Road
 Delaware, Ohio 43015
 740-362-0283
 Hours: Noon-5 p.m. daily

Gallant Farm
 2150 Buttermilk Hill Road
 Delaware, Ohio 43015
 740-595-3020
 Hours: Noon-5 p.m., Thur-Sun

Indicia



Or Current Resident

Preservation Parks of Delaware County
Calendar of Programs and Events
September-November 2014



In Focus: Let's Do the Boogie-Woogie!

While walking the trails in early fall, you may see white “fuzz” covering the leaves of beech trees. Upon closer inspection the fuzz looks alive, **and that's because it is! You are observing a fascinating insect called the beech blight aphid or the beech wooly aphid.** This insect, in the order Hemiptera, forms dense colonies — which look like snow — on small branches and the underside of leaves of American beech trees, usually starting in mid-July.

As you observe the insect, touch the branch or leaf and watch what happens. **The “snow” will appear to come alive as the aphids perform a defensive behavior by raising their posterior ends and swaying side to side. This action has led the insect to earn the nickname the “Boogie-Woogie Aphid.”** The aphids gather en masse on beech tree branches to feed, piercing the bark with their syringe-like mouthparts, called stylets, and sucking the sap out. They do not usually damage the trees, but some dieback may be seen on intensely colonized branches.

As you stand admiring the dancing aphids, you might also notice that **some of the leaves beneath them are covered in “soot.”** Growing on the honeydew, or scat, that the aphids secrete is a fungus called *Scorias spongiosa*, also known descriptively as the beech aphid poop eater.

This fungus is a sooty mold that grows in thin black layers on leaves, branches and the ground where the aphids have dripped their honeydew. The mold is not parasitic to the plant as it does not penetrate any part. It can potentially damage the plant by blocking photosynthesis, slowing growth and eventually hurting fruit or nut production, but the

damage is usually relatively light. Some recent studies have suggested that the mold may actually help the environment by removing more hydrocarbons and heavy metals from the air than do clean leaves, thus more efficiently cleaning polluted air.

This sooty mold, unlike other species, is restricted to the American beech and the beech wooly aphid. *Scorias spongiosa* starts growing as a thin layer of yellow-brown tufts on the leaves and ground beneath the aphids. As more honeydew is secreted and accumulates, the fungus grows larger until it begins to resemble a large yellow sponge hanging off the tree, sometimes as large as a football! It even feels spongy.

As the fungus grows thicker, it blackens and becomes harder. As you walk the trails this winter and into next spring, scan the woods and you will most likely spot the very durable black poop-eater fungus still hanging on the branches.

The relationship between the “Boogie Woogie Aphid” and the beech aphid poop-eater is one of those natural occurrences that goes unnoticed by many, but is an incredibly fascinating part of our natural world. So next time you are out on the trail take a moment to notice the little things and marvel in the wonders of nature.



By Rich Niccum, Education Services Manager



Printed on 80# Rolland Enviro 100 Satin Text, a 100% post-consumer recycled stock, using soy-based inks.