

Preservation Parks of Delaware County



Programs & Events *December 2014—February 2015*



- This issue includes:**
- From the Director
 - Nature Hikes/ Programs
 - Soup & Stroll
 - Gallant Farm Book Club
 - Railroad Fun
 - Look About the Lodge
 - Holiday Evening on the Farm
 - Golden Marathon
 - Build a Bluebird Box
 - A Snowflake is Born

Winter ...

[A] red squirrel ... came running down a slanting bough, and as he stopped twirling a nut, called out rather impudently, "Look here! just get a snug-fitting fur coat and a pair of fur gloves like mine, and you may laugh at a northeast storm."

— Henry David Thoreau

From the Director

Winterizing: It's Personal ... Turn up the thermostat, put another log on the fire and throw an extra blanket on the bed. Climate change occurs easily within the global environment of our homes, but what about when we emerge from the exoskeleton of our domiciles, and the arctic atmosphere takes our breath away? How do we maintain our personal R value and revel in the ambiance of the most underrated season?

The answer begins with solar-soaked grass quietly consumed in pastures populated by nature's fleece experts and converted into the wondrous woolen fibers that will be woven into the fashions that shield us from winter's bite. Wool's flexible spiral strands are natural heat traps that retain our body's warmth and have an elasticity that can withstand decades of active wear.

Spun into clothing that can form a wicking base layer to a tightly woven exterior garment, a wool wardrobe provides a timeless variety of ways to dress for winter success. Ensnare air between two soft, lightweight layers of wool – a shirt and sweater – add a wind-proof shell, wool hat and mittens, and saunter into the snow with a warm glow.

This season, raise your winter profile in Preservation Parks by embracing nature's gift of warmth. The trails, sledding hills and programs await your arrival.

Tom Curtin, Executive Director



www.preservationparks.com / 740-524-8600

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.

DECEMBER

Tuesday, December 9 — Preschool Park Pals: Preschool at the Farm ❖

Come meet our flock of Rhode Island Red chickens. We'll learn how chickens have long been an important part of farm life and we will complete a fun craft inspired by these wonderful birds. Register by Dec. 5 (mandatory for supply count).

10 a.m. and 1 p.m. **GF** — ages 4-5, accompanied by an adult

Saturday, December 13 — Terrarium Time ❖

Create a terrarium for yourself or as a holiday gift! All materials provided; \$15 materials fee. Register by Dec. 8.

1 p.m. **DHP** — ages 7+

Sunday, December 14 — Sausage Making

Traditionally, hog butchering was done in the early winter so meat would not spoil while being processed. Learn how to make fresh sausage using an antique sausage stuffer, and then get to eat what you've made with some fresh farm eggs.

2 p.m. **GF** — all ages

Thursday, December 18 — Homeschool Adventures on the Farm ❖

Check out the chickens! We will grind corn to feed them and gather eggs as we learn about the daily responsibilities of caring for animals on a farm. We will then use the eggs to bake something delicious in the wood-fired cook stove! Registration is required by Dec. 11.

10 a.m. **GF** — ages 7-12, accompanied by an adult

Soup & Stroll

Explore a few Preservation Parks preserves this season, while getting out in the fresh winter air! While the food is cooking, join a park naturalist on a nature hike around the park. A simple, warm lunch will be waiting when you return. *All hikes begin at 11 a.m., and registration for each hike is due two days in advance.* Donations gladly accepted.

- **Sunday, December 7: Hogback Ridge Preserve ❖**
- **Sunday, January 11: Shale Hollow Preserve ❖**
- **Sunday, February 8: Gallant Farm ❖**

Gallant Farm Book Club

Winter was the best time for busy farmers to catch up on their reading. Over the coming months, we'll explore some of the writings from the 1930s and 1940s, or concerning that era. Our first two books are *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck and *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan. You can reserve both books at any Delaware County District Library branch. Spend your cold winter days reading, and then join us for a book discussion and refreshments at Gallant Farm, 2150 Buttermilk Hill Road. This program is for ages 14 and older. The dates and times for the discussions are below:

Of Mice and Men

Wednesday, January 21, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

The Worst Hard Time

Wednesday, February 25, 6:30 - 8 p.m.



Cover Photos

Left: American tree sparrow in the snow

Right: Goldfinches and cardinals at a feeder

Both by Preservation Parks



JANUARY

Thursday, January 1 — New Year's Hike

A hike will be a great way to launch the New Year! Led by volunteer Len Fisher, we'll walk the trails at Gallant Woods Preserve, and end up at Gallant Farm, where we'll enjoy coffee, hot chocolate and more — prepared on the wood-burning stove. Meet at the Gallant Woods picnic shelter.

10 a.m. **GWP** — all ages

Friday, January 2 — Story Time on the Farm

Bring the youngsters to the farm for story time. Listen to a story book from the 1930s or 1940s, and then complete an easy craft or coloring page.

2 p.m. **GF** — ages 3+

Tuesday, January 6 — Preschool Park Pals: Stars ❖

Twinkle, twinkle, little star! Let's find out just what you are. Today, we'll explore the basics of astronomy through a story and craft. Register by Jan. 2 (mandatory for supply count).

10 a.m. and 1 p.m. **DHP** — ages 4-5, accompanied by an adult

Saturday, January 17 — Planting for Pollinators ❖

Interested in attracting bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects to your landscape? Learn about native plants that support and help our local pollinators. Breakfast provided. \$5 fee. Register by Jan. 15.

9 a.m. **DHP** — ages 18+

Saturday, January 24 — Waste Not, Want Not

On a 1930s farm, nothing was wasted. Come see what kinds of conveniences and tools can be made from old saw blades, tin cans, scraps of wood, and many other items that are often thrown away.

2 p.m. **GF** — all ages

Thursday, January 29 — Homeschool Adventures: Frozen Frogs

Frogs in winter? Come learn how our native frogs survive the cold weather.

10 a.m. **DHP** — ages 7-12, accompanied by an adult

Saturday, January 31 — Let's Prowl for Owls: Part I

Winter can be an excellent time to listen for owls in our local woods. Join us as we venture into the dark to scout for owls in our parks. Bring your best night time eyes and ears, and dress for the cold weather.

7 p.m. **GWP** — ages 6+



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 Trailhouse, 168 S. Vernon St., Sunbury

Saturdays — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dec. 13, Jan. 17 and Feb. 21

Sundays — Noon - 4 p.m.

Dec. 14, Jan. 18 and Feb. 22

e-mail: contactparks@preservationparks.com

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 1 — Knit for Victory!

During the Great Depression, hand-knitting of sweaters, scarves and mittens was an important way to provide loved ones with warm clothing. On the home front during World War II, knitting to help the war effort also kept American housewives busy. Join us for a friendly afternoon of needlecrafts. If you crochet or knit, bring whatever project you are working on. If not, join us and see what you can learn.

2 p.m. GF — ages 8+

Friday, February 6 — Story Time on the Farm

Bring the youngsters to the farm for story time. Listen to a story book from the 1930s or 1940s, and then complete an easy craft or coloring page.

2 p.m. GF — ages 3+

Saturday, February 7 — Planting Ahead for Spring

Let's enjoy some warm thoughts of spring during the cold of winter! Join Delaware County Master Gardeners for seed-starting and a garden-planning program at the farm. We'll talk about vegetables, herbs and flowers.

1 p.m. GF — ages 18+

Tuesday, February 10 — Preschool Park Pals: Little Stinkers ❖

What's black and white and can be stinky? A skunk, of course! Let's learn more about this misunderstood creature. Register by Feb. 5 (mandatory for supply count).

10 a.m. and 1 p.m. DHP — ages 4-5, accompanied by an adult

Friday, February 13 — Let's Prowl for Owls: Part II

Join us for our second hike into the woods to listen for native owls. Bring your best night time eyes and ears, and dress for the cold weather.

7 p.m. ETP — ages 6+

Thursday, February 19 — Homeschool Adventures: Secretive Salamanders

Weather permitting, we'll check out a vernal pool to see salamander egg masses. Indoors, we'll learn about the habits and life cycles of different native salamanders.

10 a.m. SHP — ages 7-12, accompanied by an adult

Saturday, February 21 — Doggie Day

Discover Ohio's wild canines, and explore different ways to enjoy nature with our domestic dogs. We'll learn using displays, games and crafts.

Noon - 5 p.m. DHP — all ages

Sunday, February 22 — Skunk Cabbage Hike

The first wildflower of spring is in bloom, and although it is beautiful, it doesn't smell great! Inside we will find out a few fascinating facts about this flower, and then we'll hike to the wet and muddy place where it grows. Wear appropriate footgear, as we'll be off-trail for this hike.

2 p.m. SHP — ages 7+

Saturday, February 28 — Maple Syrup Time on the Farm

During the Great Depression, some Ohio farms would tap maple trees to collect sap and make syrup in the late winter or early spring. Learn how sap is extracted from trees and cooked down into syrup. This program will be held if the weather is right for collecting sap. Watch the calendar listing on our web site for updates.

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. GF — all ages

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, down, 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:

December: Snowflakes January: Wood Frogs February: Ducks

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

Holiday Evening on the Farm

Celebrate the holiday spirit as families would have in the 1930s and '40s. Roast chestnuts over an open bonfire, enjoy hot wassail and cookies in the farm house, listen to music and make holiday decorations.



**Saturday, December 6
6-8 p.m.
Gallant Farm
2150 Buttermilk Hill Road**

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 on the program calendar.

Winter walks begin at 1:30 p.m.

December 1	Deer Haven Preserve
December 8	Shale Hollow Preserve
December 15	Hoover Reservoir (lunch at Mudflats after the hike)

January 5, 12, 19, 26 Deer Haven Preserve *

February 2, 9, 16, 23 Shale Hollow Preserve *

* If the predicted high for the day is below 40 degrees, these walks will take place at Polaris Fashion Place, 1500 Polaris Parkway. Meet at the Food Court.

Build a Bluebird Box ❖

Help promote wildlife in your own backyard by providing nesting boxes for Bluebirds! Register for either program in advance; the cost is \$5 for each box you (or your family) plan to build. **Workshops are February 18 & 25, 6:30-8 p.m., at Deer Haven Preserve.** Space is limited and registration is required by Feb. 12. Register by email to: saudras@preservationparks.com, or call 740-524-8600, ext. 6.



Park Hours
Winter Schedule
(Nov. 1—Feb. 28)
8 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily



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
December 2014 — February 2015



A Snowflake is Born

The cold of winter can be a harsh foe during the shorter, sun-deprived days and longer nights. Despite this, I think one of the most wonderful things about winter is snow.

Many don't like it because they have to drive in it or shovel it, but I encourage you to give snow a second chance. A snowflake or snow crystal begins its life when water molecules cling to a piece of dust or a frozen water droplet. As the crystal moves in the atmosphere, it encounters different temperatures which causes a wide variety of shapes to form. As the crystal gathers more water molecules, it grows larger and begins to fall through the atmosphere as it gets heavier. Because of the way water molecules stick together, most snow crystals or flakes are six-sided. As the crystals fall through the sky and into warmer temperatures, they begin to melt a little and form even more intricate patterns. Larger snowflakes form at this stage, as multiple crystals or flakes bond together. By the time the flakes make their way to the tips of our noses, they can be found in an amazing array of shapes. While it is mostly true that no two snowflakes

are exactly alike, many smaller flakes can be similar because of the lack of time to become more complex.

You can examine the variety of shapes with a simple activity. As the first snowfall of the year blankets the ground, take a black piece of felt or construction paper and go outside. Hold the snow catcher flat and watch the flakes as they fall onto the black background. You will be able to see many intricate formations. Make a game with your family to see who can rack up the largest variety of formations, with the winner getting a special prize — or just bragging rights. Enjoy the snow this winter while it lasts, as it is one of nature's truly amazing creations.

Rich Niccum, Education Services Manager



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